

# Anne Enright Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, People, Book, Children, Kids, Needs, Nice, Character, Fiction,  
Two, Fall, Believe, Dream, Hate, Real, Talking, Feelings, Stories, Years*

People do not change, they are merely revealed.

~Anne Enright

Only bad writers think that their work is really good.

~Anne Enright

Write whatever way you like. Fiction is made of words on a page; reality is made of something else. It doesn't matter how "real" your story is, or how "made up": what matters is its necessity.

~Anne Enright

God, I hate my family, these people I never chose to love, but love all the same.

~Anne Enright

We do not always like the people we love- we do not always have that choice.

~Anne Enright

I have no place left to live but in my own heart.

~Anne Enright

The way to write a book is to actually write a book. A pen is useful, typing is also good. Keep putting words on the page.

~Anne Enright

I'm really lucky with the people around me. They know me, so they don't confuse the issues really. They know what a book is and they know who I am and they know the difference between the two.

~Anne Enright

There are men who would do anything, asleep, and I'm not sure what stops them when they wake. I do not know how they draw the line.

~Anne Enright

Description is hard. Remember that all description is an opinion about the world. Find a place to stand.

~Anne Enright

Try to be accurate about stuff.

~Anne Enright

In more static societies, like Ireland, you can tell where a person is from by their surname, or where their grandparents are from.

~Anne Enright

I am interested in silences

~Anne Enright

It is very hard to trace the effect of words on a life.

~Anne Enright

When you find yourself alone, or in a transition, you dream more. These are also the times when you read books.

~Anne Enright

I think you know everything at eight. But it is hidden from you, sealed up, in a way you have to cut yourself open to find.

~Anne Enright

A drinker does not exist. Whatever they say, it is just the drink talking.

~Anne Enright

There are about as many ways to be dead as there are to be alive. People linger in different ways, both publicly and privately.

~Anne Enright

I do not think we remember our family in any real sense. We live in them instead

~Anne Enright

Cats, I always think, only jump into your lap to check if you are cold enough, yet, to eat.

~Anne Enright

Writing is not my problem, it is my solution.

~Anne Enright

Naming is nice. It took me days before I was able to speak a name for my first child (what if people did not like it?), and I suspect we gave her a secret, second name as well, to keep her safe.

~Anne Enright

I do not believe in evil- I believe that we are human and fallible, that we things and spoil them in an ordinary way.

~Anne Enright

When I'm working, I'm not so much disciplined as obsessive. I have this feeling that I need to clear everything away and get this down.

~Anne Enright

I find being Irish quite a wearing thing. It takes so much work because it is a social construction. People think you are going to be this, this, and this.

~Anne Enright

One of the reasons I write is I like being surprised

~Anne Enright

The only way to write a book, I'm fond of telling people, is to actually write a book. That's how you write a book.

~Anne Enright

I'm starting to think my narrators' sentences are getting too big for them, and they are getting to sound a bit samey and, more disturbingly, a bit too much like me.

~Anne Enright

There is nothing as tentative as an old woman's touch; as loving or as horrible.

~Anne Enright

I'm very keenly aware that there aren't very many women writing literary fiction in Ireland and so that gives me a sense that what I say matters, in some small way.

~Anne Enright

The truth. The dead want nothing else. It is the only thing that they require.

~Anne Enright

I have a small room to write in. One wall is completely covered in books. And I face the window with the curtain closed to stop the light hitting the computer.

~Anne Enright

For 10 or 11 years, I had my kids, I wrote four or five books, and I was working all the damn time.

~Anne Enright

I write anywhere - when I have an idea it's hard not to write. I used to be kind of precious about where I wrote. Everything had to be quiet and I couldn't be disturbed, it really filled my day.

~Anne Enright

My kids are supposed to live till they are one hundred. You don't have to have a perfect house or a perfect relationship with your child or a

perfect child, and you yourself do not have to be perfect.

~Anne Enright

No woman that I know is capable of leaving her child down for thirty seconds. She can't walk away without making sure that everything is absolutely as secure and safe for her child as can be.

~Anne Enright

If your life just falls apart early on, you can put it together again. Its the people who are always on the brink of crisis who dont hit bottom who are in trouble.

~Anne Enright

People whose lives are upside down often read fiction. When you're not sure where you'll end up or how you are going to be, and you're looking for some way forward, fiction is a great friend.

~Anne Enright

Belief needs something terrible to make it work, I find--blood, nails, a bit of anguish.

~Anne Enright

I can't think of anything you might say about Irish people that is absolutely true.

~Anne Enright

A novel is written not to be judged, but experienced.

~Anne Enright

I think young children in the Western middle classes are objects of incredible anxiety.

~Anne Enright

I think writers worry that you might not exist in some strange way if

you're not writing.

~Anne Enright

I work at the sentences. Many of the things people find distinctive about my writing, I think of as natural.

~Anne Enright

Having kids is very difficult to do on your own, and it's really crazy difficult to think you're doing it as a team and to find out that you're not actually part of a team.

~Anne Enright

To be able to have the space to sit down and write has always been my central policy.

~Anne Enright

Resistless change, when powerless to improve, Can only mar.

~Anne Enright

The writing day can be, in some ways, too short, but it's actually a long series of hours, for months at a time, and there is a stillness there.

~Anne Enright

Nothing had happened yet in my life except the need to get out of it.

~Anne Enright

We have lost the art of public tenderness, these small gestures of wiping and washing; we have forgotten how abjectly the body welcomes a formal touch.

~Anne Enright

I became a full-time writer in 1993 and have been very happy, insofar as anybody is, since.

~Anne Enright

I love the characters not knowing everything and the reader knowing more than them. There's more mischief in that and more room for seriousness, too.

~Anne Enright

I never wanted to be mainstream as a writer, but look at what's happened.

~Anne Enright

I think it's very important to write a demythologized woman character. My characters are flawed. They are no better than they should be.

~Anne Enright

I was raised in a very old fashioned Ireland where women were reared to be lovely.

~Anne Enright

I'm quite interested in the absolute roots of narrative, why we tell stories at all: where the monsters come from.

~Anne Enright

If you can just actually let the character be for a bit, then you get the right sense.

~Anne Enright



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