

Anne Michaels

Quotes

*Thinking, Rain, Past, Giving, Looks, Long, Love, Memories, Children, World,
Book, Blood, Depth, Distance, Psychological, Philosophy, Mistake, Needs,
Lonely, Moving*

Hold a book in your hand and you're a pilgrim at the gates of a new city.

~Anne Michaels

Long after you've forgotten someone's voice, you can still remember the sound of their happiness or their sadness. You can feel it in your body.

~Anne Michaels

The truth doesn't care what we think of it.

~Anne Michaels

No one is born just once. If you're lucky, you'll emerge again in someone's arms; or unlucky, wake when the long tail of terror brushes the inside of your skull.

~Anne Michaels

Important lessons: look carefully; record what you see. Find a way to make beauty necessary; find a way to make necessity beautiful.

~Anne Michaels

If love wants you; if you've been melted down to stars, you will love with lungs and gills; with feathers and scales; with warm blood and cold.

~Anne Michaels

Some stones are so heavy only silence helps you carry them!

~Anne Michaels

The best teacher lodges an intent not in the mind but in the heart.

~Anne Michaels

It is not a person's depth you must discover, but their ascent. Find their path from depth to ascent.

~Anne Michaels

I'm naive enough to think that love is always good no matter how long ago, no matter the circumstances.

~Anne Michaels

The dead leave us starving with mouths full of love.â€• from
â€œMemoriam

~Anne Michaels

Reading a poem in translation is like kissing a woman through a veil.

~Anne Michaels

The shadow past is shaped by everything that never happened.
Invisible, it melts the present like rain through karst.

~Anne Michaels

Any given moment - no matter how casual, how ordinary - is poised, full
of gaping life.

~Anne Michaels

To share a hiding place, physical or psychological, is as intimate as
love.

~Anne Michaels

Like other ghosts, she whispers; not for me to join her, but so that,
when I'm close enough, she can push me back into the world.

~Anne Michaels

History is the gradual instant

~Anne Michaels

...when we say we're looking for a spiritual adviser, we're really looking
for someone to tell us what to do with our bodies. Decisions of the
flesh. We forget to learn from pleasure as well as pain.

~Anne Michaels

I wanted a line in a poem to be the hollow ney of the dervish orchestra whose plaintive wail is a call to God. But all I achieved was awkward shrieking. Not even the pure shriek of a reed in the rain.

~Anne Michaels

Even as a child, even as my blood-past was drained from me, I understood that if I were strong enough to accept it, I was being offered a second history.

~Anne Michaels

Though the contradictions of war seem sudden and simultaneous, history stalks before it strikes. Something tolerated soon becomes something good.

~Anne Michaels

When a man dies, his secrets bond like crystals, like frost on a window. His last breath obscures the glass.

~Anne Michaels

I see that I must give what I most need.

~Anne Michaels

History and memory share events; that is, they share time and space. Every moment is two moments.

~Anne Michaels

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- Book Quotes
- Blood Quotes
- Depth Quotes
- Distance Quotes
- Psychological Quotes
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- Mistake Quotes
- Needs Quotes
- Lonely Quotes
- Moving Quotes