

Anne Tyler

Quotes

*Writing, People, Literature, Thinking, Character, Book, Children, Trying, Real,
Mean, Mother, Views, Husband, Dream, Stories, Waiting, Differences, May,
Doe, Simple*

Ever consider what pets must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul - chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!

~Anne Tyler

I read so I can live more than one life in more than one place.

~Anne Tyler

But what I hope for from a book - either one that I write or one that I read - is transparency. I want the story to shine through. I don't want to think of the writer.

~Anne Tyler

It seems to me that since I've had children, I've grown richer and deeper. They may have slowed down my writing for a while, but when I did write, I had more of a self to speak from.

~Anne Tyler

It is not how much you love someone, but who you are when you are with him.

~Anne Tyler

The Amateur Marriage grew out of the reflection that of all the opportunities to show differences in character, surely an unhappy marriage must be the richest.

~Anne Tyler

Once upon a time, there was a woman who discovered she had turned into the wrong person.

~Anne Tyler

It is very difficult to live among people you love and hold back from offering them advice.

~Anne Tyler

People always call it luck when you've acted more sensibly than they have.

~Anne Tyler

The hardest novel to write was *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant*.

~Anne Tyler

While armchair travelers dream of going places, traveling armchairs dream of staying put.

~Anne Tyler

In real life I avoid all parties altogether, but on paper I can mingle with the best of them

~Anne Tyler

I'm beginning to think that maybe it's not just how much you love someone. Maybe what matters is who you are when you're with them.

~Anne Tyler

Odd how clear it suddenly became, once a person had died, that the body was the very least of him.

~Anne Tyler

There is no sound more peaceful than rain on the roof, if you're safe asleep in someone else's house.

~Anne Tyler

Once your mind is caught on the right snag, there's nothing so hard about the mechanics of writing.

~Anne Tyler

It's true that writing is a solitary occupation, but you would be surprised at how much companionship a group of imaginary characters can offer once you get to know them.

~Anne Tyler

Just because we're related doesn't mean we are any good at understanding each other.

~Anne Tyler

Reading any piece of writing aloud is an acid test, particularly when it comes to dialogue. There were writers I'd always admired who suddenly rang false when I spoke their words in our living room.

~Anne Tyler

The one ironclad rule is that I have to try. I have to walk into my writing room and pick up my pen every weekday morning

~Anne Tyler

I love to think about chance - about how one little overheard word, one pebble in a shoe, can change the universe.

~Anne Tyler

It seems to me that good novels celebrate the mystery in ordinary life, and summing it all up in psychological terms strips the mystery away

~Anne Tyler

...he thought of dying as a kind of adventure, something new that he hadn't yet experienced. Like an unusual vacation trip.

~Anne Tyler

One sad thing about this world is that the acts that take the most out of you are usually the ones that people will never know about. (from 'Celestial Navigation')

~Anne Tyler

Not until the final draft do I force myself to remember that I'm going to have to think about how it will affect other people.

~Anne Tyler

None of my own experiences ever finds its way into my work. However, the stages of my life - motherhood, middle age, etc. - often influence my subject matter.

~Anne Tyler

I've always enjoyed studying the small clues that indicate a particular class level.

~Anne Tyler

I'll write maybe one long paragraph describing the events, then a page or two breaking the events into chapters, and then reams of pages delving into my characters. After that, I'm ready to begin

~Anne Tyler

When you have children, you're obligated to live.

~Anne Tyler

My family can always tell when I'm well into a novel because the meals get very crummy.

~Anne Tyler

View your burden as a gift. It's the theme that has been given you to work with. Accept that and lean into it.

~Anne Tyler

Sooner or later, even the sharpest pain became flattened.

~Anne Tyler

If I waited till I felt like writing, I'd never write at all.

~Anne Tyler

I suspect that marriage is like parenthood: every last one of us is an

amateur at it.

~Anne Tyler

I was standing in the schoolyard waiting for a child when another mother came up to me. Have you found work yet? she asked. Or are you still just writing?

~Anne Tyler

But if you never did anything you couldn't undo you'd end up doing nothing at all.

~Anne Tyler

(About parenting:) ... all that tedium, broken up by little spurts of high drama.

~Anne Tyler

My decision to start a new one is just that, a decision, since I never get inspirations.

~Anne Tyler

I remember leaving the hospital - thinking, 'Wait, are they going to let me just walk off with him? I don't know beans about babies! I don't have a license to do this.' We're just amateurs.

~Anne Tyler

I just want to be told a story, and I want to believe I'm living that story, and I don't give a thought to influences or method or any other writerly concerns

~Anne Tyler

My stories are never quite good enough

~Anne Tyler

...it's closeness that does you in. Never get too close to people, son.

~Anne Tyler

Point of view is not something I consciously decide. Almost always, when I come up with a plot I find that the point of view has automatically arrived with it, part and parcel of the story.

~Anne Tyler

I've never quite believed that one chance is all I get

~Anne Tyler

There is no true life. Your true life is the one you end up with, whatever it may be. You just do the best you can with what you've got.

~Anne Tyler

How plotless real life was!

~Anne Tyler

... everyone must play his role.

~Anne Tyler

She worded it a bit strongly, but I do find myself more and more struck by the differences between the sexes. To put it another way: All marriages are mixed marriages.

~Anne Tyler

It struck her all at once that dealing with other human beings was an awful lot of work.

~Anne Tyler

The very thing that attracts you to someone can end up putting you off.

~Anne Tyler

I don't type [when I write] because . . . I often have the feeling that everything flows directly from my right hand.

~Anne Tyler

I think I was born with the impression that what happened in books was much more reasonable, and interesting, and real, in some ways, than what happened in life.

~Anne Tyler

My writing day has grown shorter as I've aged, although it seems to produce the same number of pages.

~Anne Tyler

I never think about the actual process of writing. I suppose I have a superstition about examining it too closely.

~Anne Tyler

Women were the ones that held the reins, it emerged.

~Anne Tyler

Now peculiar scraps of knowledge were stuck to him like lint from all his jobs.

~Anne Tyler

When I'm working on something, I proceed as if no one else will ever read it.

~Anne Tyler

Something was wrong with a world where people came and went so easily.

~Anne Tyler

And I am interested in the fact that class is very much a factor in America, even though it's not supposed to be.

~Anne Tyler

I didn't really choose to write; I more or less fell into it.

~Anne Tyler

Time, in general, has always been a central obsession of mine - what it does to people, how it can constitute a plot all on its own. So naturally, I am interested in old age.

~Anne Tyler

He was wondering if there was some cryptic, cultish mark on his door that told all the crazy people he'd have trouble saying no.

~Anne Tyler

She was good at talking with young people. She seemed to view them as interesting foreigners.

~Anne Tyler

They were like people who run to meet, holding out their arms, but their aim is wrong; they pass each other and keep running.

~Anne Tyler

For my own family, I would always choose the makeshift, surrogate family formed by various characters unrelated by blood.

~Anne Tyler

I spend about a year between novels

~Anne Tyler

When I read, I'm purely a reader

~Anne Tyler

But I don't think people take bad advice. They've got intuition too, you know. In fact I'd be surprised if they take any advice at all.

~Anne Tyler

I write because I want to have more than one life.

~Anne Tyler

You think we're a family,' Cody said, turning back. 'You think we're some jolly, situation-comedy family when we're in particles, torn apart, torn all over the place, and our mother was a witch.

~Anne Tyler

I hated childhood, and spent it sitting behind a book waiting for adulthood to arrive.

~Anne Tyler

I consciously try to end my novels at a point where I won't have to wonder about my characters ever again.

~Anne Tyler

And she thought what a clean, simple life she would have led if it weren't for love.

~Anne Tyler

He wished he had inhabited more of his life, used it better, filled it fuller.

~Anne Tyler

I write because I want more than one life; I insist on a wider selection. It's greed, plain and simple.

~Anne Tyler

Isn't a memorial service meant to comfort the living?

~Anne Tyler

People always talked about a mother's uncanny ability to read her children, but that was nothing compared to how children could read their mothers.

~Anne Tyler

Farmers are patient men. They got to be. Got to see those seeds come up week by week, fraction by fraction, and sweat it out for some days not knowing yet is it weeds or vegetables.

~Anne Tyler

Try Jesus, you won't regret it, a billboard read.

~Anne Tyler

I don't know what takes more courage: surviving a lifelong endurance test because you once made a promise or breaking free, disrupting all your world.

~Anne Tyler

Bravest thing about people is how they go on loving mortal beings after finding out there's such a thing as dying.

~Anne Tyler

...if you catalogue grudges, anything looks bad.

~Anne Tyler

Mostly it's lies, writing novels. You set out to tell an untrue story and you try to make it believable, even to yourself. Which calls for details; any good lie does.

~Anne Tyler

Some people are aware of everything that is going on everywhere at every moment in their lives.

~Anne Tyler

People who hadn't suffered a loss yet struck me as not quite grown up.

~Anne Tyler

I'm falling into disrepair

~Anne Tyler

No couple buying wedding rings wants to be reminded that someday one of them will have to accept the other one's ring from a nurse or an undertaker.

~Anne Tyler

I wonder how many times we dream that kind of dream-something strange and illogical-and fail to realize God is trying to tell us something.

~Anne Tyler

Smells could bring a person back clearer than pictures even could.

~Anne Tyler

I'm too shy for personal appearances, and I've found out that anytime I talk about my writing, I can't do any writing for many weeks afterward.

~Anne Tyler

I think it must be very hard to be one of the new young writers who are urged to put themselves forward when it may be the last thing on earth they'd be good at

~Anne Tyler

I save the best of myself for novels, and I believe it shows

~Anne Tyler

I forget a book as soon as I finish writing it, which is not always a good thing

~Anne Tyler

I expect that any day now, I will have said all I have to say; I'll have used up all my characters, and then I'll be free to get on with my real

life.

~Anne Tyler

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