

# Annie Proulx

## Quotes

*Writing, Reading, Men, Years, Heart, Handle, Hands, Knows, Ifs, Ordinary,  
Sweet, Brokeback Mountain, Hair, Space, May, Believe, Teacher, Real,  
Thinking, Pain*

You know, one of the tragedies of real life is that there is no background music.

~Annie Proulx

You should write because you love the shape of stories and sentences and the creation of different words on a page. Writing comes from reading, and reading is the finest teacher of how to write.

~Annie Proulx

I wish I knew how to quit you.

~Annie Proulx

Writing comes from reading, and reading is the finest teacher of how to write.

~Annie Proulx

Anyway, there's something wrong with everybody and it's up to you to know what you can handle.

~Annie Proulx

If you get the landscape right, the characters will step out of it, and they'll be in the right place.

~Annie Proulx

We're all strange inside. We learn how to disguise our differences as we grow up.

~Annie Proulx

I think it's important to leave spaces in a story for readers to fill in from their own experience.

~Annie Proulx

Develop craftsmanship through years of wide reading.

~Annie Proulx

What we fear we often rage against.

~Annie Proulx

Their silence comfortable. Something unfolding. But what? Not love, which wrenched and wounded. Not love, which came only once.

~Annie Proulx

If you are looking for smart judging based on merit, skip the Academy Awards next year and pay attention to the Independent Spirit Awards.

~Annie Proulx

Ordinary parties, he thought, were subtle games of sexual and social badminton.

~Annie Proulx

It is my feeling that a story is not finished until it is read, and that the reader finishes it through his or her life experience, prejudices, worldview and thoughts.

~Annie Proulx

It takes a year, nephew... a full turn of the calendar, to get over losing someone.

~Annie Proulx

And I think that's important, to know how the water's gone over the dam before you start to describe it. It helps to have been over the dam yourself.

~Annie Proulx

I find it satisfying and intellectually stimulating to work with the intensity, brevity, balance and word play of the short story.

~Annie Proulx

... there are four women in every man's heart. The Maid in the Meadow,

the Demon Lover, the Stouthearted Woman, the Tall and Quiet Woman.

~Annie Proulx

And it may be that love sometimes occurs without pain or misery.

~Annie Proulx

All the travelin I ever done is going around the coffeepot looking for the handle.

~Annie Proulx

In a rough way the short story writer is to the novelist as a cabinetmaker is to a house carpenter.

~Annie Proulx

No wonder, he thought, that the panhandle people were a godly lot, for they lived in sudden, violent atmospheres. Weather kept them humble.

~Annie Proulx

Wonderful ... I was up all night reading it, laughing and crying out in horror.

~Annie Proulx

...all them things I don't know could get you killed if I come to know them

~Annie Proulx

If you can't fix it, you have to stand it.

~Annie Proulx

A spinning coin, still balanced on its rim, may fall in either direction.

~Annie Proulx

There was some open space between what he knew and what he tried

to believe, but nothing could be done about it, and if you can't fix it you've got to stand it.

~Annie Proulx

I am influenced by words and the chewiness of language

~Annie Proulx

If a piece of knotted string can unleash the wind, and if a drowned man can awaken, then I believe a broken man can heal.

~Annie Proulx

Everybody that went away suffered a broken heart. "I'm coming back some day," they all wrote. But never did. The old life was too small to fit anymore.

~Annie Proulx

Change itself is what fascinates me. I am drawn, as a moth to the flame, by edge situations, by situations of metamorphosis.

~Annie Proulx

I would rather be dead than not read

~Annie Proulx

It's easier to die if others around you are dying.

~Annie Proulx

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