

Ayana Mathis

Quotes

*Thinking, Writing, People, Book, Character, Black, Country, Believe, Art, Voice,
Gay, Reading, Children, Imagination, Identity, Worry, Prayer, Twists, Important,
Peaceful*

One thing I am learning is to slow down. Multitasking is great, but I when try to do everything at warp speed I just end up with typos and stress.

~Ayana Mathis

I try to find the beauty in things. On dark days, I sit in my armchair looking at clouds and I am awed at how rain is made.

~Ayana Mathis

I think that if you just write your characters you end up with something that people can access.

~Ayana Mathis

Half of what's wrong with people today is that they ain't got no place to go that makes them peaceful.

~Ayana Mathis

One of the things that writers worry about is finding a voice. I don't think it's a thing that you find so much as it is something that comes to you, or that presents itself.

~Ayana Mathis

Voice isn't fixed or unmalleable, it adapts to the characters you are creating and the story being told. I suppose in some way that's true in life - a little flexibility goes a long way.

~Ayana Mathis

Even if you don't feel like sitting down to write or working on that big proposal, or whatever it is, just show up anyhow and the rest will follow.

~Ayana Mathis

I've been writing all my life. Even though I didn't have sort of careerist aspirations as a writer, it was very much my identity.

~Ayana Mathis

Fiction writing is an act of imagination, lived experience is secondary in many ways, writing a novel really is all about inventing worlds and people.

~Ayana Mathis

All of us, writers and non-writers alike, have incredible well-springs of personal experience and history. And we also have imagination - which I think is a kind of human miracle.

~Ayana Mathis

The correlations between real life experience and the storylines in novels are never as direct or simple as they might seem.

~Ayana Mathis

The critics and the reviewers are more frightening than anything else!

~Ayana Mathis

I really, deeply believe in the primacy of character. I believe that my job as a writer is to put a believable human being on a page.

~Ayana Mathis

I'm wary of being put in boxes. But at the same time, it's important that I embrace my identity as a writer who happens to be gay, and in my own way I do that.

~Ayana Mathis

There's a stereotype that to be a strong black woman is to be strong about being black.

~Ayana Mathis

My book has a pre - civil rights setting with a post - civil rights sensibility. I believe less and less that there is something called "The

Black Experience," though undoubtedly there was one once.

~Ayana Mathis

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