

Barbara Kingsolver

Quotes

People, Thinking, Writing, Children, Animal, Running, Book, Believe, Heart, Men, World, Life, Vegetables, Eye, Moving, Dream, Way, Mother, Hands, Trying

Hope is a renewable option: If you run out of it at the end of the day, you get to start over in the morning.

~Barbara Kingsolver

If you want sweet dreams, you've got to live a sweet life.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Few people know so clearly what they want. Most people can't even think what to hope for when they throw a penny in a fountain.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Finally, cooking is good citizenship. It's the only way to get serious about putting locally raised foods into your diet, which keeps farmlands healthy and grocery money in the neighborhood.

~Barbara Kingsolver

We came from Bethlehem, Georgia bearing Betty Crocker cake mixes into the jungle.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Maybe life doesn't get any better than this, or any worse, and what we get is just what we're willing to find: small wonders, where they grow.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Don't try to figure out what other people want to hear from you; figure out what you have to say.

~Barbara Kingsolver

The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof.

~Barbara Kingsolver

It's what you do that makes your soul.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Pain reaches the heart with electrical speed, but truth moves to the heart as slowly as a glacier.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Thanks for this day, for all birds safe in their nests, for whatever this is, for life.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Memory is a complicated thing, a relative to truth, but not its twin.

~Barbara Kingsolver

It's surprising how much memory is built around things unnoticed at the time.

~Barbara Kingsolver

I'm of a fearsome mind to throw my arms around every living librarian who crosses my path, on behalf of the souls they never knew they saved.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Recall that whatever lofty things you might accomplish today, you will do them only because you first ate something that grew out of the dirt.

~Barbara Kingsolver

It's terrible to lose somebody, but it's also true that some people never have anybody to lose, and I think that's got to be so much worse.

~Barbara Kingsolver

From the fallen tree everybody makes firewood.

~Barbara Kingsolver

You don't think you'll live past it and you don't really. The person you

were is gone. But the half of you that's still alive wakes up one day and takes over again.

~Barbara Kingsolver

It kills you to see them grow up. But I guess it would kill you quicker if they didn't.

~Barbara Kingsolver

The truth needs so little rehearsal.

~Barbara Kingsolver

The most important thing about a person is always the thing you don't know.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Terms like that, 'Humane Society,' are devised with people like me in mind, who don't care to dwell on what happens to the innocent.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Will you explain to me why people encourage delusional behaviour in children, and medicate it in adults?

~Barbara Kingsolver

What keeps you going isn't some fine destination but just the road you're on, and the fact that you know how to drive.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Friends, there is nothing like your own family to make you appreciate strangers!

~Barbara Kingsolver

No other continent has endured such an unspeakably bizarre combination of foreign thievery and foreign goodwill.

~Barbara Kingsolver

The way I see it, a person isn't nothing more than a scarecrow... The only difference between one that stands up good and one that blows over is what kind of a stick they're stuck up there on.

~Barbara Kingsolver

In a world as wrong as this one, all we can do is make things as right as we can.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Honk if you love Jesus, text while driving if you want to meet up.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Wars and elections are both too big and too small to matter in the long run. The daily work - that goes on, it adds up.

~Barbara Kingsolver

We're animals. We're born like every other mammal and we live our whole lives around disguised animal thoughts.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Root out all the "to be" verbs in your prose and bludgeon them until dead. No "It was" or "they are" or "I am." Don't let it be, make it happen.

~Barbara Kingsolver

A writer's occupational hazard: I think of eavesdropping as minding my business.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Sadness is more or less like a head cold - with patience, it passes. Depression is like cancer.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Cooking is 80 percent confidence, a skill best acquired starting from

when the apron strings wrap around you twice.

~Barbara Kingsolver

A flower is a plant's way of making love.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Memories do not always soften with time; some grow edges like knives.

~Barbara Kingsolver

When moral superiority combines with billowing ignorance, they fill up a hot-air balloon that's awfully hard not to poke.

~Barbara Kingsolver

I know I have to write about the things that keep me awake at night.

~Barbara Kingsolver

The friend who holds your hand and says the wrong thing is made of dearer stuff than the one who stays away.

~Barbara Kingsolver

I'm widest awake as a writer doing something new, engaged in a process I'm not sure I can finish, generating at the edge of my powers. Some people bungee jump; I write.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Empathy is really the opposite of spiritual meanness. It's the capacity to understand that every war is both won and lost. And that someone else's pain is as meaningful as your own.

~Barbara Kingsolver

...nothing momentous comes in this world unless it comes on the shoulders of kindness.

~Barbara Kingsolver

But kids don't stay with you if you do it right. It's the one job where, the better you are, the more surely you won't be needed in the long run.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Good fiction creates empathy. A novel takes you somewhere and asks you to look through the eyes of another person, to live another life.

~Barbara Kingsolver

I'm never going to tell the reader what to believe; I'm going to examine these characters that believe different ways, and examine their motives.

~Barbara Kingsolver

I've about decided that's the main thing that separates happy people from the other people: the feeling that you're a practical item, with a use, like a sweater or a socket wrench.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Now I'm starting to think he wasn't supposed to be my whole life, he was just this doorway to me.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Sometimes the strength of motherhood is greater than natural laws.

~Barbara Kingsolver

I look at my four boys, who are the colors of silt, loam, dust, and clay, an infinite palette for children of their own, and I understand that time erases whiteness altogether.

~Barbara Kingsolver

You can't replace people you love with other peopleâ€”But you can trust that you're not going to run out of people to love.

~Barbara Kingsolver

I prefer to remain anomalous.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Every betrayal contains a perfect moment, a coin stamped heads or tails with salvation on the other side.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Stop a minute, right where you are. Relax your shoulders, shake your head and spine like a dog shaking off cold water. Tell that imperious voice in your head to be still.

~Barbara Kingsolver

(on asparagus) Europeans of the Renaissance swore by it as an aphrodisiac, and the church banned it from nunneries.

~Barbara Kingsolver

It's frightening when things you love appear suddenly changed from what you have always known.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Nothing to do with nature, unless you count human nature.

~Barbara Kingsolver

A good title holds magic, some cognitive dissonance, a little grit between the teeth, but above all it is the jumping-off place into wonder.

~Barbara Kingsolver

What you lose in blindness is the space around you, the place where you are, and without that you might not exist. You could be nowhere at all.

~Barbara Kingsolver

To think is not always to see.

~Barbara Kingsolver

The happiest people are the ones with the most community.

~Barbara Kingsolver

The average food item on a U.S. grocery shelf has traveled farther than most families go on their annual vacations.

~Barbara Kingsolver

I thought: this is how life is, ridiculous beyond comprehension.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Because I write fiction that is based in the real world, it's going to lead people into some of the modern dilemmas and concerns and even catastrophes that they will think about in a new way.

~Barbara Kingsolver

A choir of seedlings arching their necks out of rotted tree stumps, sucking life out of death. I am the forest's conscience, but remember, the forest eats itself and lives forever.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Everything you're sure is right can be wrong in another place.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Mr. Shepherd, ye cannot stop a bad thought from coming into your head. But ye need not pull up a chair and bide it sit down." - Mrs. Brown

~Barbara Kingsolver

The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for!

~Barbara Kingsolver

The most important part of a story is the piece of it you don't know.

~Barbara Kingsolver

In the long run, most of us spend about fifteen minutes total in the entanglements of passion, and the rest of our days looking back on it, humming the tune.

~Barbara Kingsolver

It's the one thing we never quite get over: that we contain our own future.

~Barbara Kingsolver

What I want is so simple I almost can't say it: elementary kindness.

~Barbara Kingsolver

If you can't dress expensive, dress memorable.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Your dreams, what you hope for and all that, it's not separate from your life. It grows right up out of it.

~Barbara Kingsolver

There is no perfect time to write. There is only now.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Culture is a slingshot moved by the force of its past

~Barbara Kingsolver

People's dreams are made out of what they do all day. The same way a dog that runs after rabbits will dream of rabbits. It's what you do that makes your soul, not the other way around.

~Barbara Kingsolver

If you never stepped on anybody's toes, you never been for a walk.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Fiction and essays can create empathy for the theoretical stranger.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Literature sucks you into another psyche. So the creation of empathy necessarily influences how you'll behave to other people.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Value is not made of money, but a tender balance of expectation and longing.

~Barbara Kingsolver

A person could spend most of a lifetime in retrospective terror, thinking of all the things one nearly didn't do.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Tall and straight I may appear, but I will always be Ada inside. A crooked little person trying to tell the truth. The power is in the balance: we are our injuries, as much as we are our successes

~Barbara Kingsolver

The changes we dread most may contain our salvation.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Every time I step onto an airplane, I turn to the right and take a good, hard stare into the maw of the engine. I don't know what I'm looking for. I just do it.

~Barbara Kingsolver

The loudest sound on earth, she thought, is a man with nothing to do.

~Barbara Kingsolver

It occurs to her that there is one thing about people you can never understand well enough: how entirely inside themselves they are.

~Barbara Kingsolver

There are some who'd hardly lift a finger for kindness, but they would haul up a load of rock to dump on some soul they think's been too lucky.

~Barbara Kingsolver

This is how Americans think. You believe that if something terrible happens to someone, they must have deserved it.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Time cures you first, and then it kills you.

~Barbara Kingsolver

The daily work - that goes on, it adds up.

~Barbara Kingsolver

To be hopeful, to embrace one possibility after another that is surely the basic instinct - crying out: High tide! Time to move out into the glorious debris. Time to take this life for what it is!

~Barbara Kingsolver

Like kids who only ever get socks for Christmas, but still believe with all their hearts in Santa.

~Barbara Kingsolver

I have seen women looking at jewelry ads with a misty eye and one hand resting on the heart, and I only know what they're feeling because that's how I read the seed catalogs in January.

~Barbara Kingsolver

a meaningless phrase repeated again and again begins to resemble truth.

~Barbara Kingsolver

Libraries are the one American institution you shouldn't rip off.

~Barbara Kingsolver

The important thing isn't the house. It's the ability to make it. You carry that in your brain and in your hands, wherever you go.

~Barbara Kingsolver

The march of human progress seemed mainly a matter of getting over that initial shock of being here.

~Barbara Kingsolver

it's the thing you fear most that walks beside you all the time.

~Barbara Kingsolver

I could never work out whether we were to view religion as a life-insurance policy or a life sentence.

~Barbara Kingsolver

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