

Ben Marcus Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, Fiction, Kids, Book, Parent, Feelings, Care, Long, Way,
Technology, Hands, Passion, Teaching, Love, Grief, Children, Rain, Done, Art*

Spelling is a way to make words safe, at least for now, until another technology appears to soften attacks launched from the mouth.

~Ben Marcus

Being with him was like being alone underwater - everything was slow; nothing counted; I could not be harmed; I would feel dry and cold when I resurfaced.

~Ben Marcus

It amazes me that parents are allowed to raise kids. There's so much power and often very little accountability.

~Ben Marcus

It's lonely to listen to the pleasure of others, not that I've made a habit of that kind of eavesdropping. There's joy and passion in the next room, in the next bed, but it's not yours.

~Ben Marcus

In some sense, prose fiction is just a way of unlocking a space. If I can unlock the space, it comes out and it's vivid, I find that I care about it, and it's part of me.

~Ben Marcus

Eventually you stop paying attention to your own feelings when there's nothing to be done about them.

~Ben Marcus

I'm attracted to how fraught the parent-child relationship is, swerving so easily between love and hostility, with almost no plausible way to end, unless someone dies.

~Ben Marcus

To refrain from storytelling is perhaps one of the highest forms of respect we can pay. Those people, with no stories to circle them, can

die without being misunderstood.

~Ben Marcus

Teaching is all armchair. I learn about writing by writing and thinking about what I've written and throwing it away.

~Ben Marcus

Rain is used as white noise when God is disgusted by too much prayer, when the sky is stuffed to bursting with the noise of what people need.

~Ben Marcus

Without sound, celebration and grief look nearly the same.

~Ben Marcus

I'm interested in the hope we invest in science, and the disappointment we can feel when science flattens, or 'explains,' the larger mysteries of religion.

~Ben Marcus

My parents showed me by example that they could balance their work and family lives.

~Ben Marcus

I work a lot in the summers. My family goes to Maine, where we have a little house. My wife's a writer, too, and we can write for six hours a day and then play with the kids.

~Ben Marcus

To me one of the amazing technologies of writing is the way it can listen in on thoughts. I don't feel that that's natural to other art forms in the same way.

~Ben Marcus

My goal, with whatever I'm working on, is to lose track of time.

~Ben Marcus

My first book, 'The Age of Wire and String,' came out in 1995, and it was hardly reviewed at all.

~Ben Marcus

Suspense left my life a long time ago, now it has returned. I do not care for it.

~Ben Marcus

A misspelled word is probably an alias for some desperate call for aid, which is bound to fail.

~Ben Marcus

A self needed to spill out sometimes, a body should show evidence of what the hell went on inside it.

~Ben Marcus

Judaism to me, as badly as I practiced it, what I've always loved about it was its total embrace of complexity, its admission of unknowability.

~Ben Marcus

I love the way dates in a text make us think that truth will follow.

~Ben Marcus

I like big doses of grief when I read: Richard Yates, Flannery O'Connor, Kenzabaro Oe, Thomas Bernhard.

~Ben Marcus

Fiction becomes a place where I face certain fears such as losing language or losing my children.

~Ben Marcus

Among other things, autoimmune disorders are an induction into a

world of unstable information and no reliable expertise.

~Ben Marcus

When I started writing at 18 or 19, I had a fear of anything autobiographical, but I've come to realise that my writing is very autobiographical at the emotional level.

~Ben Marcus

Fiction is too complicated and too elusive to break down into a set of tricks.

~Ben Marcus

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