

# Carol Shields Quotes

*Thinking, Moving, Loneliness, People, Want, Long, Years, Childhood, Book,  
Light, Knowing, Mother, Memories, Another Year, Blessing, Hard Work,  
Concerned, Certain, Future, Said*

This is why I read novels: so I can escape my own unrelenting monologue.

~Carol Shields

Write the book you want to read, the one you cannot find.

~Carol Shields

Open a book this minute and start reading. Don't move until you've reached page fifty. Until you've buried your thoughts in print. Cover yourself with words. Wash yourself away. Dissolve.

~Carol Shields

Go for long walks, indulge in hot baths, Question your assumptions, be kind to yourself, live for the moment, loosen up, scream, curse the world, count your blessings, Just let go, Just be.

~Carol Shields

There are chapters in every life which are seldom read and certainly not aloud.

~Carol Shields

Bookish people, who are often maladroit people, persist in thinking they can master any subtlety so long as it's been shaped into acceptable expository prose.

~Carol Shields

nothing she did or said was quite what she meant but still her life could be called a monument shaped in a slant of available light and set to the movement of possible music

~Carol Shields

Anyone's childhood can be an act of disablement if rehearsed and replayed and squinted at in a certain light. . .

~Carol Shields

Words are our life. We are human because we use language. So I think we are less human when we use less language.

~Carol Shields

The scolding voice is her own, so abrasive and quick, yet so powerless to move her.

~Carol Shields

The recounting of a life is a cheat...even our own stories are obscenely distorted.

~Carol Shields

A woman's life isn't worth a plateful of cabbage if she hasn't felt life stir under her heart. Taking a little one to nurse, watching him grow to manhood, that's what love is.

~Carol Shields

Happiness is the lucky pane of glass you carry in your head. It takes all your cunning just to hang on to it, and once it's smashed you have to move into a different sort of life.

~Carol Shields

It occurs to her that she should record this flash of insight in her journal - otherwise she is sure to forget, for she is someone who is always learning and forgetting and obliged to learn again.

~Carol Shields

I don't think I would have been a writer if I hadn't been a mother. I wanted to construct something that contained some of these feelings that I had, some of these discoveries or revelations.

~Carol Shields

A childhood is what anyone wants to remember of it. It leaves behind no fossils, except perhaps in fiction.

~Carol Shields

We are too kind, too willing--too unwilling too--reaching out blindly with a grasping hand but not knowing how to ask for what we don't even know we want.

~Carol Shields

It's hard work being a person, you have to do it every single day.

~Carol Shields

Why should men be allowed to strut under the privilege of their life adventures, wearing them like a breast full of medals, while women went all gray and silent beneath the weight of theirs?

~Carol Shields

He dares not concern himself with the future for fear of disturbing the present.

~Carol Shields

Eventually, everything gets stuck between a pair of parentheses or buried in the bottom of a trunk.

~Carol Shields

These are frightening times...when she feels herself annointed by loneliness.

~Carol Shields

Our friendship is made up of these brief frenzied exchanges, but the quality of our conversation, for all its feverish outpouring, is genuine.

~Carol Shields

I'm concerned about the unknowability of other people.

~Carol Shields

Here's to another year and let's hope it's above ground.

~Carol Shields

The silence is perfect, and yet a torment.

~Carol Shields

So this is where the years of maturity deliver us - to this needy, selfish, unwieldy wish to be somebody else's first and primal other.

~Carol Shields

In a long and healthy life, which is what most of us have, there is plenty of time.

~Carol Shields

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