

Chris Abani

Quotes

*Thinking, Book, Writing, War, Character, Mean, Simple, Real, Men, People,
World, Historical, Country, Night, Fashion, Reading, Fiction, Hate, Darkness,
Ordinary*

What I've come to learn is that the world is never saved in grand messianic gestures, but in the simple accumulation of gentle, soft, almost invisible acts of compassion.

~Chris Abani

You know, you can steel your heart against any kind of trouble, any kind of horror. But the simple act of kindness from a complete stranger will unstitch you.

~Chris Abani

In this time of the Internet and nonfiction, to be on an actual bookshelf in an actual bookstore is exciting in itself.

~Chris Abani

What we know about who we are comes from stories. It's the agents of our imagination who really shape who we are.

~Chris Abani

The privilege of being a writer is that you have this opportunity to slow down and to consider things.

~Chris Abani

People think that writing is writing, but actually writing is editing. Otherwise, you're just taking notes

~Chris Abani

You can count on Scandinavian literature for a certain kind of darkness, a modern mythic style.

~Chris Abani

Before you speak, my friend, remember, a spiritual man contain his anger. Angry words are like slap in de face.

~Chris Abani

Time was the only variable in every equation of power and oppression--how long before the pot boiled over.

~Chris Abani

My friend Ronald Gottesman says...that the cause of all our trouble is the belief in an essential, pure identity: religious, ethnic, historical, ideological.

~Chris Abani

Men do communicate, often very directly, but women sometimes cannot accept how simple what we have to say is. We seldom play games--we aren't that sophisticated.

~Chris Abani

Fiction and poetry are my first loves, but the really beautiful lyrical essay can do so much that other forms cannot.

~Chris Abani

I read everywhere. It's like a bodily function. I don't need quiet. I write and read with the TV on. I follow the TV show while I read. TV doesn't require a lot of brainpower.

~Chris Abani

Something that had the quality of a dimly lit stage set just before the curtains rise on opening night. There was a rhythm to it, a beckoning, and a bittersweet tear in time.

~Chris Abani

Here's the thing: You rescue us every day in small, quiet ways, so why not in this way? Let us into your mystery, tell us how you would like to be loved, show us how to see you, really see you.

~Chris Abani

If you want to know about Africa, read our literature - and not just

'Things Fall Apart,' because that would be like saying, 'I've read 'Gone with the Wind' and so I know everything about America.'

~Chris Abani

Anything a man can do, I can fix.

~Chris Abani

Every successful artist comes from a family - parents or siblings or both - who, although equally gifted, chose not to pursue the treacherous and difficult path of the artist.

~Chris Abani

Your anatomy is a mystery that nobody bothers explaining to us. Even when we think we have mastered one woman's body, every body is different.

~Chris Abani

As with much of the world's problems, they become public--or much more of interest--the moment they begin to impact the West.

~Chris Abani

I didn't leave Africa, I left Nigeria, and for political reasons. But ... I've never, never left Africa, and I certainly never left what it means to be Ibo. That is something you carry with you.

~Chris Abani

Elvis, stop dat! You know it is taboo to whistle at night. You will attract a spirit.

~Chris Abani

I think a book that is over 400 pages should be split in two. I don't know that there's anything that interesting that can go on for 700 pages. I think that is a little bit indulgent.

~Chris Abani

Fiction is risky for writers also in that the process of making certain books, of shaping certain narratives, leaves scars and marks on your inner life.

~Chris Abani

If I dont get at least one e-mail every ten minutes, I feel unloved. Even junk mail makes me feel seen. Sad, I know. Sigh.

~Chris Abani

There was a positive side to not trying at something: you could always pretend that your life would have been different if you had.

~Chris Abani

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