

Curtis Sittenfeld

Quotes

Thinking, People, Writing, Book, Character, Men, Reading, Trying, Believe, Boys, Mean, Pride, School, Fun, Real, Doors, Mistake, Way, Needs, Taken

Perhaps this is how you know you're doing the thing you're intended to: No matter how slow or how slight your progress, you never feel that it's a waste of time.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

Probably I, like a lot of people, became a writer in imitation of or in homage to the books I enjoyed. When you're so captivated by something, you think, could I do that? Hmm, let me try

~Curtis Sittenfeld

We all make mistakes, don't we? But if you can't forgive yourself, you'll always be an exile in your own life.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

People who think my books are autobiographical, which they're not, credit me with having a much better memory than I do. I do, however, have a powerful imagination

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I don't really have special rituals, but I don't try to write fiction unless I have a minimum of a few hours. For me, it takes a while to settle into a mode where I'm truly concentrating

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I have this theory that the likeability question comes up so much more with female characters created by female authors than it does with male characters and male authors

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I don't think it's shameful to admit that some days your time can be better spent reading than writing.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

We have to make mistakes, its how we learn compassion for others

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I always worried someone would notice me, and then when no one did, I felt lonely.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

It's never that hard for me to imagine what it must feel like to be someone else, whether it's an American teenage girl or a Japanese octogenarian man

~Curtis Sittenfeld

Obviously the bar is much higher now for a behavior to be scandalous. Social media has really changed the way people live. It's not a new impulse; it's just being enacted in a new way.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I just think that people are complicated, both men and women. It happens that I write more about women.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

My boarding school experience was the only thing I had strong enough feelings to write about for hundreds and hundreds of pages. I can still smell the formaldehyde of the fetal pigs in biology.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

Anyone who's really interested in anything spends time alone.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

You know, the point of a novel - or to me, the point of a novel, the gift of a novel is to go really deeply inside people's lives and inside their personal experiences.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

... it struck me as so hard to believe I was really getting what I wanted;

it was always easier to feel the lack of something than the thing itself.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I wanted my life to start - but in those rare moments when it seemed like something might actually change, panic shot through me.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

Personally, I have never wished I were a male novelist.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

Of course a magazine is usually more interesting than a conversation, because so much more time and preparation has gone into it.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

Well, I think in my first two novels, both the characters are pretty neurotic, which I would say that I am.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

To be a person who sees a political ad on television and takes the statements in it as fact, how can you exist in this world? How is it you're not robbed daily by charlatans who knock at your door?

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I'm able to separate fiction and reality. I guess it remains to be seen if other people are.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I guess I consider myself at times to have intuition.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

The fact is that in this day and age I don't think any novelist can assume that a book will get attention.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

She nodded, jotting something in her notebook. You're writing that down? Has the interview started?â€• Lee, whenever you're talking to a reporter, you're being interviewed.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I think that there's some confusion in my own mind about what I believe.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I do think I was trying to entertain the reader more than I was trying to purge myself.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I guess in life I find people who, at first glance, appear to be very typical or average, whatever that means, and then turn out to have hidden qualities.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

What greater happiness is there than the privilege of being bored together?

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I wanted to hold happiness in reserve, like a bottle of champagne. I postponed it because I was afraid, because I overvalued it, and then I didn't want to use it up, because what do you wish for then?

~Curtis Sittenfeld

To remain alone did not seem to me a terrible fate, no worse than being falsely joined to another person.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I'm not afraid of writing about sensitive subjects, but I want to be careful how I do so and I know not all readers will think I have been, of course.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I actually liked the disolation of winter; it was the season when it was okay to be unhappy. If I were to ever kill myself, I thought it would be in the summer.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I thought, if I write a book that is not a retelling of *Pride and Prejudice*, it's not going to mean that I will not get any criticism. I might as well write the book that I want to write.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I think there is still pressure to marry. I think there is still pressure to have children. If you're middle or upper class, those pressures exist at a later age now.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I don't think that I would ever, while writing, think to myself, "I need a little more psychological realism."

~Curtis Sittenfeld

Ironically, writing a novel is not a way to sort out your confusion.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

In some ways I think it would be very dignified if I went away for twenty years and then wrote my fourth book.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

And I am pretty sure that's the point of reading fiction -- so someone else can say in a way you never would have something you recognize immediately.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

Perhaps fiction has, for me, served a similar purpose--what is a narrative arc if not the imposition of order on disparate events?--and perhaps it is my avid reading that has been my faith all along.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

... nothing broke my heart like the slow death of a shared joke that had once seemed genuinely funny.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I just write the books that I think I would want to read.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

High school is very intense for everyone. But at a boarding school, because you're there 24 hours a day, everything gets magnified.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

There are a lot of things in the world that are a lot weirder than psychic abilities, that we accept as true.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I think in general, novels by men tend to be taken more seriously than novels by women.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

But I never thought of who he wasn't, I never had to explain or defend him to myself, I didn't even care what we talked about.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

Of course, I didn't imagine then that I could have had a real relationship with any guy. I thought that by virtue of being me I was disqualified.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

She has always been a bystander in family destruction, never realizing she herself possessed the capacity to inflict it.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I had the fleeting thought then that we are each of us pathetic in one

way or another, and the trick is to marry a person whose patheticness you can tolerate.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I gave people the benefit of the doubt, thinking, so many people that appear very calm and even boring must have all these wild emotions and crazy ideas.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I feel like a lot of life is distasteful and embarrassing. And you just push through it. You fix what you can, and you let time pass.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

She really does like him, she likes lying next to him, she wants to be around him; when you get down to it, can you say that about many people?

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I feel like as I've gotten older I've unfortunately come to the decision that a lot of people who seem normal and boring maybe are normal and boring.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I feel like if you read something, and it makes you so curious about a topic that you then go read something else, that's exciting.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

When you are a high school girl, there is nothing more miraculous than a high school boy.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I think I write what's interesting to me, and so if I'm reading I like to have a very thorough idea of a character in a book that's by someone else.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

The better you learn to take care of yourself, the less you settle for being around people who can't or won't treat you as well as you're accustomed.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

If a man wants to be romantically involved with you, he tries to kiss you. That's the entire story, and if he doesn't kiss you, there is never a reason to wait around for him.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

When I was writing my first two books I was also freelancing and teaching and doing other odd jobs.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

There are people we treat wrong and later, we're prepared to treat other people right.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

There are so many people who are so much better qualified to write about politics than I am.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I think I would have liked to have been a twin... Sometimes my sisters and I get mistaken for twins, and I always take it as a compliment.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

If I'm at somebody's house and they have magazines on the table and people are chatting, I feel almost a physical urge to start reading the magazines instead of talking to people.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

There's a lot that's not explained about the universe. And psychic-ness

is not stranger than that.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I just like to inhabit a character really deeply.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

Foolish names and foolish faces often appear in public places.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

In life we're most hell-bent on proving things that we're not really sure are true.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

I'm SO trying to give up meat.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

It is not a camera, or a reporter that makes something real and genuine; more often a camera or a reporter does the opposite.

~Curtis Sittenfeld

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