

# Dani Shapiro

## Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, Book, Pain, Trying, Moving, Way, Mind, Practice, World,  
Mother, Running, Moments, Feelings, Spiritual, Want, Heartache, Jobs,  
Country, Husband*

I try to remember that the job - as well as the plight, and the unexpected joy - of the artist is to embrace uncertainty, to be sharpened and honed by it.

~Dani Shapiro

It is in the thousands of days of trying, failing, sitting, thinking, resisting, dreaming, raveling, unraveling that we are at our most engaged, alert, and alive.

~Dani Shapiro

Writing has been my window-flung wide open to this magnificent, chaotic existence-my way of interpreting everything within my grasp.

~Dani Shapiro

Everything you need to know about life can be learned from a genuine and ongoing attempt to write

~Dani Shapiro

If I dismiss the ordinaryâ€”waiting for the special, the extreme, the extraordinary to happen - I may just miss my life.

~Dani Shapiro

I do whatever is necessary in order to maintain the equanimity we all need to withstand the disappointment and rejection that are the lot of every writer, no matter where we are in our careers.

~Dani Shapiro

The only graceful thing to do is recognize and embrace what is actually happening, rather than fight against it.

~Dani Shapiro

My desk is covered with talismans: pieces of rose quartz, wishing stones from a favorite beach.

~Dani Shapiro

How do we live the writer's life? There's only one simple answer: 'we write.'

~Dani Shapiro

Open your hearts. Deep inside ourselves, we are all one and the same.

~Dani Shapiro

If you are a writer or any kind of artist, if you change something as fundamental as where you live - the way you live - then I think you change the very instrument that is trying to make the art

~Dani Shapiro

In every generation there is a vault-keeper, one who guards the links fiercely and knows they are more precious than rubies.

~Dani Shapiro

I did want to feel like life's all of one piece.

~Dani Shapiro

It is only with distance that we are able to turn our powers of observation on ourselves, thus fashioning stories in which we are characters.

~Dani Shapiro

Recognize the possibility of the divine in any given moment.

~Dani Shapiro

As writers, it is our job not only to imagine, but to witness.

~Dani Shapiro

Our pain is a part of who we authentically are.

~Dani Shapiro

We don't choose what's going to wake us up.

~Dani Shapiro

You can start your day over anytime.

~Dani Shapiro

Those memories that are engraved within me become teaching tools, ways of connecting with others, of creating an empathic bridge, of reaching out a hand and saying, I've been there, too.

~Dani Shapiro

I'm very disciplined, but the one thing that I have addictive behavior about is the Internet.

~Dani Shapiro

Courage is more important than confidence

~Dani Shapiro

I've always felt like my nose is pressed to glass. I always feel a little bit like an outsider.

~Dani Shapiro

All there is to do, right at this very moment, is to breathe in, breathe out, and kiss the joy as it flies.

~Dani Shapiro

It's essential to have sacred time for writing. All successful authors have some daily commitment to keep on-track and moving forward.

~Dani Shapiro

It's easier in an urban world to cast the blame outward. So I've learned a lot about my own process in that way.

~Dani Shapiro

I'm most connected to myself when I'm alone in a room, moving my hand across a page. That's when I feel most like me.

~Dani Shapiro

We can't protect ourselves from pain and heartache. In fact, to love - fully, madly, deeply - is to ensure heartache some day.

~Dani Shapiro

Part of my spiritual work is learning to live with the knowledge that we can't protect our loved ones from pain and heartache.

~Dani Shapiro

When I near the end of a book, it feels as if the entire universe meets me more than halfway and supports me. The whole world seems to shimmer when I find the words. My mind quiets.

~Dani Shapiro

I never feel so alive as when I'm writing and the work is going well.

~Dani Shapiro

My journals were a clearing house - a garbage can. Once I was writing seriously, I understood that this was the stuff that didn't belong in my work.

~Dani Shapiro

You have to believe in yourself before the world has given you any indication that you should believe in yourself as a writer.

~Dani Shapiro

Moving to the country has been incredibly good for my work, for my sense of perspective.

~Dani Shapiro

It's not gender-specific, but I do think it's women who tend to start

having that sort of little whispering voice of "I want more here" and "I want more for my family."

~Dani Shapiro

What's more important than spiritual life? It seems to me it's the bedrock of everything essential about being human.

~Dani Shapiro

From spiritual connection springs kindness, connection, social activism, and love.

~Dani Shapiro

There are books that a writer undertakes because she wants to go on a journey, and there are journeys a writer undertakes because she wants to write a book.

~Dani Shapiro

I could spend two years cross-legged on my floor and feel like I was working.

~Dani Shapiro

We can't protect ourselves from pain and heartache.

~Dani Shapiro

If we grew up with nothing, we're complicated with that. That's the thing I keep hearing from people.

~Dani Shapiro

I was doing a lot of yoga and learning to meditate, and I found that extremely helpful, and still do and hopefully always will.

~Dani Shapiro

As a fiction writer, that's been a preoccupation of mine: Can you really just close the door and leave the past back there behind you, or is the

door going to blow open at some point?

~Dani Shapiro

The truth is in the present moment.

~Dani Shapiro

I don't want to lean back into the past, or forward into the future. I don't want to wish the present moment away.

~Dani Shapiro

We don't ruminate during a fight. Maybe in a bath, or driving a car, or as we take a walk. But not right smack in the middle of a dramatic moment.

~Dani Shapiro

Our minds simply don't function in some sort of narrative chronology. I think that one of the great gifts of writing fiction is being able to think about that.

~Dani Shapiro

If you write memoir, it can't be about blame or hurt; it has to be creative.

~Dani Shapiro

My parents made the decision never to focus on my looks, and I had no sense of myself as beautiful.

~Dani Shapiro

Music inspires me and puts me in the right mood, but to actually listen to it when I write - I find it gets in the way.

~Dani Shapiro

We're all simultaneously separated and connected by our devices, staring into our little screens, and also hungry for experience and

community.

~Dani Shapiro

I'm an urban person who loves living in the country.

~Dani Shapiro

There is no end to the promotion. There is no end to the possibilities. You can continue to promote a book for years, literally.

~Dani Shapiro

I used to act in television commercials when I was a kid and a young adult.

~Dani Shapiro

Everything I know about life I learned from the daily practice of sitting down to write.

~Dani Shapiro

As a writer we are our own instruments; we need to protect our instrument, because no one will protect it if we don't.

~Dani Shapiro

This sadness wasn't a huge part of me--I wasn't remotely depressed--but still, it was like a stone I carried in my pocket. I always knew it was there. [p. 179]

~Dani Shapiro

Traces that live within us often lead us to our stories

~Dani Shapiro

I think there's something about a writer's disposition, that is, even if unaware, always slightly in a witness state.

~Dani Shapiro



Strange - I'm not much of a film person. I love watching films, but they don't stay with me the way books do. Stranger still, because my husband is a screenwriter!

~Dani Shapiro

Maggie Shipstead takes hold of the reader and doesn't let go. *Astonish Me* is a haunting, powerful novel.

~Dani Shapiro

Michael Lowenthal has written a big-hearted and wise book about familial love in all its richness and complexity.

~Dani Shapiro

In my life as a wife and mother, I'm always conscious of my desire to be present.

~Dani Shapiro

Our minds have a tendency to wander. To duck and feint and keep us at a slight remove from the moment at hand.

~Dani Shapiro

I started realising that the themes running through all of my novels were really haunting and obsessing me about my own life.

~Dani Shapiro

I've discovered that my best work comes from the uncomfortable but fruitful feeling of not having a clue - of being worried, secretly afraid, even convinced that I'm on the wrong track.

~Dani Shapiro

I do keep a tiny little journal in which I write passages that I read and want to hold on to. This practice is sort of the opposite of Twitter.

~Dani Shapiro

My son is now fourteen, and from the moment he was born, I understood that forevermore my heart would be walking around outside my body.

~Dani Shapiro

Logic and faith don't occupy the same side.

~Dani Shapiro

Everything changes. The more I try to hold on to the moment, the more it slips through my fingers.

~Dani Shapiro

What was going on inside of me became louder because everything around me became quieter.

~Dani Shapiro

We are tyrannized by our options.

~Dani Shapiro

If there's anything weirder than an introverted writer going to lots of social functions, it's an introverted writer being converted into an accidental guru.

~Dani Shapiro

In a creative journey, it is essential, no matter how far one runs, to examine that which is closest to home.

~Dani Shapiro

I do strongly identify with being Jewish. I was raised Orthodox and had a childhood complicated by the fact that my father was deeply religious and my mother was not.

~Dani Shapiro

When I sit down with my notebook, when I start scribbling words across

the page, I find out what I'm feeling.

~Dani Shapiro

I found myself doing so much public speaking, more and more and bigger and bigger.

~Dani Shapiro

Success is so fleeting, even if you get a good book deal or your book is a huge success, there's always the fear: What about the next one?

~Dani Shapiro

I think so much about how we read, about the nature of solitude, and of community, is changing in ways that none of us yet understand.

~Dani Shapiro

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