

Denis Johnson

Quotes

Writing, Heart, Beautiful, Jesus, People, Mother, Thinking, Lying, Doctors, World, Want, Mean, Rain, Voice, Two, Husband, Hurt, Play, Childhood, Might

I knew every raindrop by its name.

~Denis Johnson

All these weirdos, and me getting a little better every day right in the midst of them. I had never known, never even imagined for a heartbeat, that there might be a place for people like us.

~Denis Johnson

The first kiss plummeted him down a hole and popped him out into a world he thought he could get along inâ€”as if he'd been pulling hard the wrong way and was now turned around headed downstream.

~Denis Johnson

Sometimes what I wouldn't give to have us sitting in a bar again at 9:00 a.m. telling lies to one another, far from God.

~Denis Johnson

I didnt finish the stories until we went to the Philippines and I got malaria. I couldnt work and I didnt have any money, but I had seven stories. So I wrote three or four more.

~Denis Johnson

I make the road. I draw the map. Nothing just happens to me...I'm the one happening.

~Denis Johnson

This life is but the childhood of our immortality.

~Denis Johnson

I really enjoy writing novels. Its like the ocean. You can just build a boat and take off.

~Denis Johnson

We'd torn open our chests and shown our cowardly hearts, and you

can never stay friends after something like that

~Denis Johnson

After the film it was raining, a light steady rain. Ruthless neon on the wet streets like busted candy.

~Denis Johnson

English words are like prisms. Empty, nothing inside, and still they make rainbows.

~Denis Johnson

That world! These days it's all been erased and they've rolled it up like a scroll and put it away somewhere. Yes, I can touch it with my fingers. But where is it?

~Denis Johnson

Its always been my tendency to lie to doctors, as if good health consisted only of the ability to fool them.

~Denis Johnson

We in Purgatory sing fondly of Hell.

~Denis Johnson

We can't always tell the whole story about ourselves.

~Denis Johnson

There was a part of her she hadn't yet allowed to be born because it was too beautiful for this place

~Denis Johnson

Everybody's got a mean side. Just don't feed it till it grows.

~Denis Johnson

There's so much goop inside of us, man," he said, "and it all just wants

to get out.

~Denis Johnson

Death is the mother of beauty.

~Denis Johnson

She had nothing in this world but her two hands and her crazy love for Jesus, who seemed, for his part, never to have heard of her.

~Denis Johnson

And you, you ridiculous people, you expect me to help you.

~Denis Johnson

You're under pressure when you produce facts. You're working with facts in journalism, but you're under all kinds of formal constraints; there are expectations.

~Denis Johnson

The movie's not over till everybody's dead.

~Denis Johnson

What could be lonelier than trying to communicate?

~Denis Johnson

Write the unpublishable.. .and then publish it.

~Denis Johnson

All the modern verse plays, they're terrible; they're mostly about the poetry. It's more important that the play is first.

~Denis Johnson

They needed to share one secret after another with a beautiful woman, to peel away layer after layer, mask after mask, and still find themselves worshiped.

~Denis Johnson

With each step my heart broke for the person I would never find, the person who'd love me.

~Denis Johnson

Talk into my bullet hole. Tell me I'm fine.

~Denis Johnson

The abyss is full of reality, the abyss experiences itself, the abyss is alive.

~Denis Johnson

She wanted to eat my heart and be lost in the desert with what she'd done, she wanted to fall on her knees and give birth from it, she wanted to hurt me as only a child can be hurt by its mother.

~Denis Johnson

I hate two kinds of sentences you hear in workshops, the ones beginning "I really like ..." and the ones beginning "My problem with this poem is ..."

~Denis Johnson

Before this moment I'd lived as a mind. Body, heart, soul, intellect, so we care ourselves into parts. But the whole of us, what can it be?

~Denis Johnson

It was only when you left it alone that a tree might treat you as a friend. After the blade bit in, you had yourself a war.

~Denis Johnson

I have the belief in boldness. What I generally lack is the boldness itself. Because boldness doesn't feel bold. It feels scared not brave.

~Denis Johnson

I was probably 35 when I wrote the first story. The voice is kind of a mix in that it has a young voice, but it's also someone who's looking back. I like that kind of double vision.

~Denis Johnson

I'll never forget you. Your husband will beat you with an extension cord and the bus will pull away leaving you standing there in tears, but you were my mother.

~Denis Johnson

Love and violence-not to conquer one with the other but to live with both, that's what I've learned. Each pulling me a different way. If I relax my struggles they don't tear me in two, but lift me up.

~Denis Johnson

In my writing, I want to be laid bare as a human being.

~Denis Johnson

What's funny about Jesus' Son is that I never even wrote that book, I just wrote it down. I would tell these stories and people would say, You should write these things down.

~Denis Johnson

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