

Dorothy Allison Quotes

*Writing, People, Heart, Believe, World, Two, Lying, Girl, Three, Stories,
Thinking, Needs, Class, Children, Character, Mean, Fiction, Pain, Book, Giving*

Two or three things I know for sure, and one is that I'd rather go naked than wear the coat the world has made for me.

~Dorothy Allison

Two or three things I know for sure, and one of them is that if we are not beautiful to each other, we cannot know beauty in any form.

~Dorothy Allison

Change, when it comes, cracks everything open.

~Dorothy Allison

Fiction is a piece of truth that turns lies to meaning.

~Dorothy Allison

Things come apart so easily when they have been held together with lies.

~Dorothy Allison

Two or three things I know for sure, and one of them is the way you can both hate and love something you are not sure you understand.

~Dorothy Allison

One of the strengths I derive from my class background is that I am accustomed to contempt.

~Dorothy Allison

Class, race, sexuality, gender and all other categories by which we categorize and dismiss each other need to be excavated from the inside.

~Dorothy Allison

I did not begin with craft, I began with strong feelings and worked toward craft.

~Dorothy Allison

Write the story that you were always afraid to tell. I swear to you that there is magic in it, and if you show yourself naked for me, I'll be naked for you. It will be our covenant.

~Dorothy Allison

The only magic we have is what we make in ourselves, the muscles we build up on the inside, the sense of belief we create from nothing.

~Dorothy Allison

I have wanted everything as a writer and a woman, but most of all a world changed utterly by my revelations.

~Dorothy Allison

Babies change things, open doors you thought were shut, close others. Make you into something you never been.

~Dorothy Allison

When I was growing up, I always read horror books, while my sister read romance novels.

~Dorothy Allison

I am the only one who can tell the story of my life and say what it means.

~Dorothy Allison

I think I would have died if there hadn't been the women's movement.

~Dorothy Allison

I need you to do more than survive. As writers, as revolutionaries, tell the truth, your truth in your own way.

~Dorothy Allison

my life has been saved over and over again by picking up a book in which someone captured the whole experience of being despised and

not dying.

~Dorothy Allison

Teenagers are free verse walking around on two legs.

~Dorothy Allison

What's the best thing you can do for your writing? Construct a boring life.

~Dorothy Allison

Delia picked at the raw sores of her conscience...Drunk or sober, Delia lived in the small town in her heart, ignoring the world in which all her love had turned to grief.

~Dorothy Allison

I don't believe that there is any true friendship without a bond of honor, and the honor in friendship is the respect you give the other that she also gives you.

~Dorothy Allison

Writing is the only way I know to demand justice from an uncaring universe.

~Dorothy Allison

I was born trash in a land where the people all believe themselves natural aristocrats.

~Dorothy Allison

Behind the story I tell is the one I don't...Behind the story you hear is the one I wish I could make you hear.

~Dorothy Allison

And while it is true that I got the best woman in the world, I don't think love saves you.

~Dorothy Allison

That was what gospel was meant to do - make you hate and love yourself at the same time, make you ashamed and glorified.

~Dorothy Allison

I can't write what I don't believe in.

~Dorothy Allison

People don't do right because of the fear of God or love of him. You do right because the world doesn't make sense if you don't.

~Dorothy Allison

Don't go taking that gospel stuff seriously. It's nice to clean you out now and then, but it ain't for real. It's like bad whiskey. Run through you fast and leave you with pain.

~Dorothy Allison

... survival is the least of my desires.

~Dorothy Allison

It's important to set challenges that you're not sure you're equal to.

~Dorothy Allison

I'm still very blunt: If you want to be a writer, get a day job. The fact that I have actually been able to make a living at it is astonishing.

~Dorothy Allison

I have a terrible memory.

~Dorothy Allison

Mama learned to laugh with them, before they could laugh at her, and to do it so well no one could be sure what she really thought or felt.

~Dorothy Allison

fiction is the great lie that tells the truth

~Dorothy Allison

Every kid I meet who's a reader has got something like that, their fantasy world. And science fiction is the best, especially for girls because it's the one place where you can do the forbidden.

~Dorothy Allison

I claimed myself and remade my life.

~Dorothy Allison

People begin to write in order to create what they have not found and, a little bit, to give something back.

~Dorothy Allison

...I have come to make distinctions between what I call the academy and literature, the moral equivalents of church and God. The academy may lie, but literature tries to tell the truth.

~Dorothy Allison

Twenty years after we had left so fierce and proud, we were all right back where we had started, yoked to each other and the same old drama.

~Dorothy Allison

I do not write about nice people. I am not nice people.

~Dorothy Allison

The worst thing in the world was the way I felt when I wanted us to be like the families in the books in the library, when I just wanted Daddy Glen to love me like the father in Robinson Crusoe. (209)

~Dorothy Allison

I wanted her to go on talking and understand without me saying

anything. I wanted her to love me enough to leave him, to pack us up and take us away from him, to kill him if need be. (107)

~Dorothy Allison

Life ain't the movies.

~Dorothy Allison

stories are the one sure way I know to touch the heart and change the world.

~Dorothy Allison

she got a reputation for an easy smile and a sharp tongue, and using one to balance the other, she seemed friendly but distant

~Dorothy Allison

Women lose their lives not knowing they can do something different..."
from Two or Three Things i Know For Sure

~Dorothy Allison

Why write stories? To join the conversation.

~Dorothy Allison

The bottom line is I'm writing to save the dead. I'm writing to save the people I have lost, some of whose bodies are still walking around.

~Dorothy Allison

Piece by piece, my mother is being stolen from me.

~Dorothy Allison

Beauty, my first girlfriend said to me, is that inner quality often associated with great amounts of leisure time.

~Dorothy Allison

It's fun to tease people about where fiction and life intersect.

~Dorothy Allison

I fell into shame like a suicide throws herself into a river. (253)

~Dorothy Allison

He never said "Don't tell your mama." He never had to say it. I did not know how to tell anyone what I felt, what scared me and shamed me... (109)

~Dorothy Allison

I'll tell you the secret. When you begin with a character, you want to begin by creating a villain.

~Dorothy Allison

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