

Edwidge Danticat Quotes

*People, Writing, Thinking, Book, Country, Children, Haiti, Reading, Daughter,
Trying, School, Art, Years, Hair, Sky, Beautiful, Real, United States, Believe,
Heart*

All anyone can hope for is just a tiny bit of love, like a drop in a cup if you can get it, or a waterfall, a flood, if you can get that too.

~Edwidge Danticat

Love is like the rain. It comes in a drizzle sometimes. Then it starts pouring and if you're not careful it will drown you.

~Edwidge Danticat

Create dangerously, for people who read dangerously. ... Writing, knowing in part that no matter how trivial your words may seem, someday, somewhere, someone may risk his or her life to read them.

~Edwidge Danticat

There is a frustration too, that at moments when there's not a coup, when there are not people in the streets, that the country disappears from people's consciousness.

~Edwidge Danticat

When you write ,it's like braiding your hair. Taking a handful of coarse unruly strands and attempting to bring them unity.

~Edwidge Danticat

It's not easy to start over in a new place,' he said. 'Exile is not for everyone. Someone has to stay behind, to receive the letters and greet family members when they come back.

~Edwidge Danticat

People are just too hopeful, and sometimes hope is the biggest weapon of all to use against us. People will believe anything.

~Edwidge Danticat

I think Haiti is a place that suffers so much from neglect that people only want to hear about it when it's at its extreme. And that's what they end up knowing about it.

~Edwidge Danticat

Toni Cade Bambara said: "Writing is the way I participate in the struggle."

~Edwidge Danticat

Misery won't touch you gentle. It always leaves its thumbprints on you; sometimes it leaves them for others to see, sometimes for nobody but you to know of.

~Edwidge Danticat

I also know there are timeless waters, endless seas, and lots of people in this world whose names don't matter to anyone but themselves. I look up at the sky and I see you there.

~Edwidge Danticat

When you are working on something, you have to believe that people will still be reading when you're done!

~Edwidge Danticat

Pretend that this is a time of miracles and we believe in them.

~Edwidge Danticat

These were our bedtime stories. Tales that haunted our parents and made them laugh at the same time. We never understood them until we were fully grown and they became our sole inheritance.

~Edwidge Danticat

I think it's hard for an outsider to capture the flavor of a community and all its nuances, so ultimately Haitian-Americans need to start sharing intimate accounts of their stories.

~Edwidge Danticat

It's hard to tell what people will do with the word and how they'll be

circulating it but I think the storytellers and the stories themselves will always be there.

~Edwidge Danticat

Life's hard in Haiti right now. And the hardest thing is that the future does not lie with one person.

~Edwidge Danticat

We've had fiction from the time of cave drawings. I think fiction, storytelling, and narrative in general will always exist in some form.

~Edwidge Danticat

We need literature because we wouldn't fully know ourselves without it. We need good literature to be fully human.

~Edwidge Danticat

I think novels just really show us the deepest parts of people's hearts, and you cannot walk away anymore and say, "I don't know."

~Edwidge Danticat

People think that there is a country there that these people are only around when they are on CNN. I don't think that's limited to Haiti.

~Edwidge Danticat

In Haiti you had the Duvaliers for 29 years and they were very well supported by the United States.

~Edwidge Danticat

People who want alternative information have to try so hard to find it.

~Edwidge Danticat

The Attorney General made another astonishing claim, that there were Pakistani terrorists possibly coming on these boats from Haiti. No one has ever seen a Pakistani coming on a boat from Haiti yet.

~Edwidge Danticat

And the fact that Haiti was occupied for 19 years by the United States, from 1915 to 1934.

~Edwidge Danticat

Someone has said that nations have interests, they don't have friends, and you see that over and over in U.S. policy.

~Edwidge Danticat

I would hate for people to generalize about every Haitian from something that one Haitian did, or a group of Haitians did.

~Edwidge Danticat

I hope to be a good role model for my daughters.

~Edwidge Danticat

Wonderful thing about novels is that sometimes we read a novel and we know the person in the novel more than we know people in our own lives.

~Edwidge Danticat

Being a shy child, I always longed for a mask. Even in my adult life, I have glasses, they are my mask.

~Edwidge Danticat

Art is a luxury but also a necessity.

~Edwidge Danticat

To be able to create you have to have peace of mind on some level.

~Edwidge Danticat

To start with, for example this year, 2004, is the bicentennial of Haitian independence.

~Edwidge Danticat

The more practice you have, the less stressful writing is.

~Edwidge Danticat

I think it is important to reach people through arts and literature, because then you establish a connection that's not an instant crisis.

~Edwidge Danticat

I'm just melancholy by nature, and a lot of that gets into my writing.

~Edwidge Danticat

We try to keep the beautiful memories, but other things from the past creep up on us.

~Edwidge Danticat

For the majority of the people it is a difficult place to live. That's a reality that we can't ignore. But there is also great beauty to it.

~Edwidge Danticat

The way the media cycle works, the way the news works, and the way people's attention span works, is that we only learn that people exist when there is crisis.

~Edwidge Danticat

They say behind mountains are more mountains.

~Edwidge Danticat

It is the calm and silent waters that drown you.

~Edwidge Danticat

Anger is a wasted emotion.

~Edwidge Danticat

Or even the state of Florida, where they are prepared to execute children. Umm, well, you hope that at least that there is something there to be claimed.

~Edwidge Danticat

I was neither doing these people nor myself a favor by showing up when my heart wasn't in it. There were not getting the real me, the whole me, the true me.

~Edwidge Danticat

More and more people are able to access information - thank goodness we have the Internet and if you are interested you can find things. Which is different than even 20 years ago.

~Edwidge Danticat

Especially moments when things are very difficult and complicated for me and I am still trying to grasp what is happening and I am still trying to understand and to reach family back home.

~Edwidge Danticat

That's whatever news topic, whatever political process any country is going through - whenever they are in the news, that's when they exist. If you don't see them they don't exist.

~Edwidge Danticat

Here, though, there is nothing. Nothing at all. The sky seems empty even when I am looking at the moon and stars.

~Edwidge Danticat

Vodou is one of the religions practiced in Haiti, a rich religion for the people.

~Edwidge Danticat

We live now in a global culture where anything that happens in a place

that's 90 minutes from your shores really affects you.

~Edwidge Danticat

After writing fiction for so long, I like the discovery element of nonfiction, in the sense that when you find the right information, it feels like gold.

~Edwidge Danticat

I think it's hard to write a book about happiness because fiction requires tension and complication.

~Edwidge Danticat

The greatest gift anyone can give to a writer is time.

~Edwidge Danticat

This was a "bad" example for U.S. slaves. Haiti was subjected to an embargo from the United States, which, along with many other countries, refused to recognize this new republic.

~Edwidge Danticat

I love the process of cracking the spine for the first time and slowly sinking into a book. That will soon seem old-fashioned, I'm sure, like the time of illuminated manuscripts.

~Edwidge Danticat

America's relationship with Haiti has always been very complicated. I often say to people, "Before we came to America, America came to us in the form of the American occupation from 1915 to 1934."

~Edwidge Danticat

It's interesting to see people overcome things. Because if you didn't overcome, you wouldn't be writing it.

~Edwidge Danticat

The past is like the hair on our head. I moved to New York when I was

twelve, but you always have this feeling that wherever you come from, you physically leave it, but it doesn't leave you.

~Edwidge Danticat

Whole interaction between the storyteller and the listeners had a very powerful influence on me.

~Edwidge Danticat

You learned in school that you have pencils and paper only because the trees gave themselves in unconditional sacrifice.

~Edwidge Danticat

People aren't really aware of what's happening in other places.

~Edwidge Danticat

Sometimes family members will ask to be kept out of certain things that I'm writing, and I try to respect that. I'd much rather have relatives than a book.

~Edwidge Danticat

There is something human about the way people react to and identify with suffering. There's a lot more empathy in the world than we perhaps realize.

~Edwidge Danticat

There [Haiti] were also leaders like Jean-Jacques Dessalines, whose motto was, "Cut their heads off, burn their houses."

~Edwidge Danticat

I'm not saying Cubans don't deserve asylum, but if it is a national security issue, there are people who are coming from Cuba on hijacked airplanes. Why isn't that a national security issue?

~Edwidge Danticat

People often think of Haiti as a place where you're not supposed to have any joy. I wanted to show that this is a place with joy.

~Edwidge Danticat

When I meet people for the first time, I always put on my glasses because I feel like that's a little something extra between me and them. It's like the Laurence Dunbar poem "We Wear the Mask."

~Edwidge Danticat

Once you're involved in the work, it's really just you and the characters and the words.

~Edwidge Danticat

I'm happy to be part of this chorus of people who are trying to tell more complex stories about Haiti.

~Edwidge Danticat

I was able to not fold and go in a corner because I had my writing as therapy, but also as my tool for struggle.

~Edwidge Danticat

No one will love you more than you love your pain.

~Edwidge Danticat

If a woman is worth remembering,' said my grandmother, 'there is no need to have her name carved in letters.

~Edwidge Danticat

...women, brave as stars at dawn

~Edwidge Danticat

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