

Elena Ferrante

Quotes

*Writing, Book, Needs, Pain, Anonymity, Expression, People, Ladders, Feelings,
Class, Memories, May, Boss, Conflict, Guilt, Special, Necks, Let Me, Hero,
Obstacles*

The rules say that to tell a story you need first of all a measuring stick, a calendar, you have to calculate how much time has passed between you and the facts, the emotions to be narrated.

~Elena Ferrante

The circle of an empty day is brutal and at night it tightens around your neck like a noose

~Elena Ferrante

It's the people who love us or hate us - or both - who hold together the thousands of fragments we are made of.

~Elena Ferrante

I believe that books, once they are written, have no need of their authors.

~Elena Ferrante

Existence is this, I thought, a stab of joy, a stab of pain, an intense pleasure, veins that pulse under the skin, there is no other truth to tell.

~Elena Ferrante

I didn't choose anonymity. Instead, I chose absence.

~Elena Ferrante

I think our sexuality is all yet to be recounted and that the rich male literary tradition constitutes a huge obstacle.

~Elena Ferrante

I don't have any special passion for politics, it being a never-ending merry-go-round of bosses big and small, all generally mediocre. I actually find it boring.

~Elena Ferrante

In order not to cut out a large part of one's private life, the creative work

should not swallow up every other form of self-expression. But that is the most complicated thing.

~Elena Ferrante

I have always paid careful attention to social and economic conflicts, to the dialectic - if we can call it that - between high and low. Maybe it's because I was not born or brought up in affluence.

~Elena Ferrante

I am the queen of spades, I am the wasp that stings, I am the dark serpent. I am the invulnerable animal who passes through fire and is not burned.

~Elena Ferrante

Is it possible that even happy moments of pleasure never stand up to a rigorous examination? Possible.

~Elena Ferrante

We lie in order to tolerate our existence and, most of all, we lie to ourselves.

~Elena Ferrante

My work stops at publication. If the books don't contain in themselves their reasons for being - questions and answers - it means I was wrong to have them published.

~Elena Ferrante

Anonymity lets me concentrate exclusively on writing.

~Elena Ferrante

The fictional treatment of biographical material - a treatment that for me is essential - is full of traps.

~Elena Ferrante

Writing for me is a dragnet that carries everything away with it: expressions and figures of speech, postures, feelings, thoughts, troubles. In short, the lives of others.

~Elena Ferrante

As a girl - twelve, thirteen years old - I was absolutely certain that a good book had to have a man as its hero, and that depressed me.

~Elena Ferrante

Climbing the economic ladder has been very hard for me; I still feel a great deal of guilt towards those I left behind.

~Elena Ferrante

He was going through one of those moments that you read about in books, when a character reacts in an unexpectedly extreme way to the normal discontents of living.

~Elena Ferrante

I had to discover very quickly that class origins cannot be erased, regardless of whether we climb up or down the sociocultural ladder.

~Elena Ferrante

Those who write need that "willing suspension of disbelief ", as Coleridge called it.

~Elena Ferrante

At most, I may write when I am disturbed by something. I have recently discovered the pleasure of finding written answers to written questions.

~Elena Ferrante

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