

# Elif Batuman

## Quotes

*Thinking, Writing, Book, Reading, Ideas, People, Years, Feelings, Powerful,  
Fall, Past, Character, Country, Important, Kids, Mean, Littles, Care, Beautiful,  
Trying*

There are ideas it will be easy to say in the future that we just don't have the language for now.

~Elif Batuman

If I could start over today, I would choose literature again. If the answers exist in the world or in the universe, I still think that's where we're going to find them.

~Elif Batuman

Poetry is another space, like love, where we extend that extra credit to the writer.

~Elif Batuman

The novel form is about the protagonist's struggle to transform his arbitrary, fragmented, given experience into a narrative as meaningful as his favorite books.

~Elif Batuman

When you invent something, you're drawing on reservoirs of knowledge that you already have. It's only when you're faithful to the truth that something can come to you from the outside.

~Elif Batuman

I try really hard to cultivate the pure love of reading, to make time for it, because it would be really sad to still be a writer without remembering why, on some visceral, emotional level.

~Elif Batuman

I didn't care about truth; I cared about beauty. It took me many years--it took the experience of lived time--to realize that they really are the same thing.

~Elif Batuman

I am a great admirer of Henry Jeffreys and have been eagerly awaiting

his booze and empire book for many years!

~Elif Batuman

In a lot of ways, being a writer is a lousy job - grueling, emotionally taxing, terrible hours, no health care - so if it wasn't about love, what would be the point?

~Elif Batuman

People are shaped by friendship as much as by romance.

~Elif Batuman

At any given time, there are ideas and images that can only be communicated indirectly.

~Elif Batuman

Humor is really important to me. All my favorite writers are writers I consider to be funny, including Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, even though that's not necessarily their rap.

~Elif Batuman

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