

Elizabeth Strout

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Writing, Book, Children, Different, Years, Stories, Matter,
Love, New York, Life, Live Life, Believe, Mean, Coffee, Two, Kindness, Facts,
World*

I suspect the most we can hope for, and it's no small hope, is that we never give up, that we never stop giving ourselves permission to try to love and receive love.

~Elizabeth Strout

Traits don't change, states of mind do.

~Elizabeth Strout

I actually see myself in all my characters. In order to imagine what it feels like to be another person I have to use my own experiences and responses to the world.

~Elizabeth Strout

The facts didn't matter. Their stories mattered, and each of their stories belonged to each of them alone.

~Elizabeth Strout

Had they known at these moments to be quietly joyful? Most likely not. People mostly did not know enough when they were living life that they were living it.

~Elizabeth Strout

You surely know that in the course of a long marriage it is not unusual for a husband or a wife to develop a crush on someone else.

~Elizabeth Strout

I'm so interested in the fact that we really don't know anybody. We think we know the people close to us, but we don't, we really don't.

~Elizabeth Strout

In a way, I'm very interested in writing about Maine, because I think Maine represents its own kind of history. It's the oldest state, and it's the whitest state.

~Elizabeth Strout

People like to think the younger generation's job is to steer the world to hell. But it's never true, is it? They're hopeful and good - and that's how it should be.

~Elizabeth Strout

He wanted to put his arms around her, but she had a darkness that seemed to stand beside her like an acquaintance that would not go away.

~Elizabeth Strout

Or maybe, he thought, returning to the boxes, it was part of being Catholic--you were made to feel guilty about everything

~Elizabeth Strout

Each of his son's had been his favorite child.

~Elizabeth Strout

I have to pay attention to what I have felt and observed, then push these responses to an extreme while keeping the story within the realm of being psychologically and emotionally true.

~Elizabeth Strout

But after a certain point in a marriage, you stopped having a certain kind of fight, Olive thought, because when the years behind you were more than the years in front of you, things were different.

~Elizabeth Strout

If you get divorced in New York, you go into therapy and will talk to anybody you meet on the sidewalk about it.

~Elizabeth Strout

Without a doubt my mother was an inspiration for my writing. This is true in many ways, but mostly because she is a wonderful storyteller, without even knowing it.

~Elizabeth Strout

I don't think there was a particular book that made me want to write. They all did. I always wanted to write.

~Elizabeth Strout

The key to contentment was to never ask why; she had learned that long ago.

~Elizabeth Strout

Oh, gosh, Olive. I'm so embarrassed." "No need to be," Olive tells her. "We all want to kill someone at some point." (179)

~Elizabeth Strout

Oh, I wish I organized my books. But I don't. I'm not an organized person. The best I can do is put the books I really like in one sort of general area, and poetry in another.

~Elizabeth Strout

She didn't like to be alone. Even more, she didn't like being with people. (148)

~Elizabeth Strout

The appetites of the body were private battles.

~Elizabeth Strout

For years I did most of my reading on the F train between Brooklyn and Manhattan. I had long commutes, and I read tons of books on that train; I loved it.

~Elizabeth Strout

My first job was when I was about 12, cleaning houses in the afternoons for different elderly women in town. I hated it.

~Elizabeth Strout

And it was too late. No one wants to believe something is too late, but it is always becoming too late, and then it is.

~Elizabeth Strout

It's just that I'm the kind of person,' Rebecca continued, 'that thinks if you took a map of the whole world and put a pin in it for every person, there wouldn't be a pin for me.

~Elizabeth Strout

I do write by hand. I just think - I don't know, it's a physical thing for me. It's a bodily thing. It literally has to earn its way through my hand.

~Elizabeth Strout

I do reread, kind of obsessively, partly for the surprise of how the same book reads at a different point in life, and partly to have the sense of returning to an old friend.

~Elizabeth Strout

Bullies are just frightened people.

~Elizabeth Strout

All these lives," she said. "All the stories we never know." (125)

~Elizabeth Strout

I love theater. I love sitting in an audience and having the actors right there, playing out what it means to be a human being.

~Elizabeth Strout

No exchange rate for the confidence of youth.

~Elizabeth Strout

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