

Elliott Smith

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Song, Records, Chaos, Portland, Writing, Band, Depressing,
Drug, Devil, New York, Kind, Trying, Leaving, Sound, Problem, Two, Way, Right
Now*

Playing things too safe is the most popular way to fail.

~Elliott Smith

I don't really like New York better than Portland. It's just a different place.

~Elliott Smith

But I was also doing odd jobs around Portland, like spreading gravel and transplanting bamboo trees.

~Elliott Smith

Theres a bunch of Elvis Costello records that made all the difference between feeling like a total freak and feeling like ... only a freak. A freak among other freaks

~Elliott Smith

I didn't have a hard time making it. I had a hard time letting it go.

~Elliott Smith

Everything means nothing to me

~Elliott Smith

I truly hope the future will bring me something to feel nostalgic about, because there's really nothing much so far I can remember fondly.

~Elliott Smith

Somewhere where people aren't so mad would be nice, but I don't know if there is anywhere like that.

~Elliott Smith

Music is worth doing just because. It doesn't have to be justified by some political point of view, and it's kind of insulting to the music to make it a tool for something else.

~Elliott Smith

Haven't laughed this hard in a long time. I better stop now before I start crying. Go off to sleep in the sunshine...I don't want to see the day when its dying.

~Elliott Smith

There's always that argument to make - that you're in better company historically if people don't understand what you're doing.

~Elliott Smith

I'm happy some of the time, and some of the time I'm not. But like when I see a movie, for example, that I really like, that moves me or whatever, it's usually happy and sad at the same time.

~Elliott Smith

A lot of people are kind of depressed. I'm happy some of the time, and some of the time I'm not.

~Elliott Smith

I mean people just have a way of - y'know they'll review your record in two sentences and put you in this little stupid box that you don't want to be in

~Elliott Smith

You can't get better at things you never play.

~Elliott Smith

The devil's script sells you the heart of a blackbird.

~Elliott Smith

If you play acoustic guitar you're the depressed, sensitive guy.

~Elliott Smith

He made his life a lie so he might never have to know anyone.

~Elliott Smith

I think the music business will eventually crush me, but I [smiles]... I'm ready.

~Elliott Smith

People can be chaos but it's hard to fit it into some creative piece that you made. It's hard.

~Elliott Smith

It's just that a lot of songs that are popular right now, they don't have any meaning

~Elliott Smith

It was kind of ridiculous to carry it up to a certain point and then drop the ball or the bomb, like quitting the band right after we had signed to Virgin.

~Elliott Smith

It's a lot easier to tell the truth usually.

~Elliott Smith

There are lots of things I like about playing in a band, the things I cant do by myself you know.

~Elliott Smith

They say that God makes problems just to see what you can stand, before you do as the devil pleases.

~Elliott Smith

I wondered if I would talk about drug use. But I guess, why hide it?

~Elliott Smith

The band's filter, but playing live is a lot of fun.

~Elliott Smith

Doing battle with themselves that way, every day, all the time and sometimes it sucks, but other times it results in people making sort of a dream comprehensible to someone else.

~Elliott Smith

All your secret wishes could right now be coming true.

~Elliott Smith

People think they know all these things about other people, and if you ask them why they think they know that, it'd be hard for them to be convincing.

~Elliott Smith

I watched myself put my paw in the bear trap on that one because there was this clause about leaving members

~Elliott Smith

People are so... seem so chaotic internally, but being filtered through some form, like making a record, sort of filters it down into something that can be understood.

~Elliott Smith

I can't think of anything off the top of my head that seems more important than something designed to raise money to keep something going that keeps IV drug users from dying.

~Elliott Smith

Burning every bridge that I cross to find some beautiful place to get lost.

~Elliott Smith

I don't really think of time off as writing blocks. I think that's a western notion of demonizing inactivity. When your imagination decides it needs to take a nap. maybe that's what it needs to do.

~Elliott Smith

It's hard to represent chaos, or like an absence of something. It's much easier to represent the presence of something or a situation.

~Elliott Smith

I just wanted to move out of Portland to do something.

~Elliott Smith

My girlfriend at the time convinced me to send these songs to Cavity Search. When they wanted to put out my record I was totally shocked.

~Elliott Smith

It touches on drug use. I got caught up in that for almost two years.

~Elliott Smith

I rode on a float in one of the parades in Mississippi. It's an experience.

~Elliott Smith

So if somebody writes a song that appears to have some meaning then everybody thinks that it's a really heavy song.

~Elliott Smith

Certain songs just feel a way that's hard to put into words and it's not happy and it's also not really sad but I couldn't say what it is

~Elliott Smith

I see you're leaving me and taking up with the enemy, the cold comfort of the in-between, a little less than a human being.

~Elliott Smith

Fights problems with bigger problems.

~Elliott Smith

If I seem to be reckless with myself, It's the fault of no one. All things have a place Under the moon as well as the sun.

~Elliott Smith

I walked out and Jack Nicholson was sitting about six feet away, so I avoided that area and I looked up at the balcony in the back and sang the song.

~Elliott Smith

I didn't know how many people knew who Ferdinand was.

~Elliott Smith

I'm the wrong kind of person to be really big and famous.

~Elliott Smith

I'm just writing songs about how I feel or about how people I know feel.

~Elliott Smith

Static in my head, the reflected sound of everything, tried to go to where it led, but it didn't lead to anything.

~Elliott Smith

Well, I try not to think about the general public since I have no idea what the general public is and I don't think anybody does.

~Elliott Smith

I went walking around the city some more, people watching with a cold, blank stare. And I saw your face in everyone, I swear.

~Elliott Smith

I don't think it's important who I am. I really like playing music, but I don't really want to be anything in particular.

~Elliott Smith

There's lots of ways people can be dependent, on another person, or drugs.

~Elliott Smith

I want to keep making records as long as I can and that's the beginning and end of my concern about selling records.

~Elliott Smith

I was trying to do the same thing that I always do which is make an interesting record

~Elliott Smith

I actually don't think that I'm gonna sell a lot of records.

~Elliott Smith

I didn't think I was gonna be playing on the Oscars or anything.

~Elliott Smith

It was hard to sing like how I wanted to because playing live I had to just be at the top of my lungs all the time, and it made me sound like I had a really bad cold or something.

~Elliott Smith

Nothing's gonna drag me down to a death that's not worth cheating.

~Elliott Smith

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