

Emma Donoghue

Quotes

*Book, Thinking, Writing, People, Way, Stories, World, Real, Years, Kids,
Children, Men, Different, Want, Motherhood, Rooms, Magic, Numbers, Jobs,
Feminism*

The great thing about a short story is that it doesn't have to trawl through someone's whole life; it can come in glancingly from the side.

~Emma Donoghue

The world is always changing brightness and hotness and soundness, I never know how it's going to be the next minute.

~Emma Donoghue

I look back one more time. It's like a crater, a hole where something happened.

~Emma Donoghue

Scared is what you're feeling. Brave is what you're doing.

~Emma Donoghue

Ma's still nodding. "You're the one who matters, though. Just you." I shake my head till it's wobbling because there's no just me.

~Emma Donoghue

It's called mind over matter. If we don't mind, it doesn't matter. • When a bit of me hurts, I always mind.

~Emma Donoghue

Books are the air I breathe, so I don't notice the seasons.

~Emma Donoghue

When I tell her what I'm thinking and she tells me what she's thinking, our each ideas jumping into the other's head, like colouring blue crayon on top of yellow that makes green.

~Emma Donoghue

I remember manners, that's when people are scared to make other persons mad.

~Emma Donoghue

If I was made of cake I'd eat myself before somebody else could.

~Emma Donoghue

Vitamins are medicine for not getting sick and going back to Heaven yet.

~Emma Donoghue

When I was a little kid I thought like a little kid, but now I'm five I know everything

~Emma Donoghue

Stories are a different kind of true.

~Emma Donoghue

...real loneliness is having no one to miss. Think yourself lucky you've known something worth missing.

~Emma Donoghue

...sentences swallowed and sung back and swallowed all over again. She was made entirely out of words.

~Emma Donoghue

It's painful to consider anything but writing.

~Emma Donoghue

Writing is nearly always a matter of finding whatever your brain needs to trick it into being creative, and in my case, a tiny little bit of fact just seems to work.

~Emma Donoghue

The way to my heart is through Belgian milk chocolate.

~Emma Donoghue

I watch his hands, they're lumpy but clever. "Is there a word for adults

when they aren't parents?" Steppa laughs. "Folks with other things to do?"

~Emma Donoghue

Everybody's damaged by something.

~Emma Donoghue

Maybe I'm a human, but I'm a me-and-Ma as well.

~Emma Donoghue

He [Ma's Tooth] was part of her a minute ago but now he's not. Just a thing.

~Emma Donoghue

I really like to keep my palette small but to be very intense, very myopic.

~Emma Donoghue

Me and Ma have a deal, we're going to try everything one time so we know what we like.

~Emma Donoghue

I got in the habit of giving away a book as soon as I've finished it because I lived in a housing co-op at Cambridge and had no space to keep books.

~Emma Donoghue

...Sometimes I suspect that what had really happened was that we became more resigned, more cynical, raised our pain thresholds as we lowered our expectations. All in all, settled for less.

~Emma Donoghue

We used to call it her Cinderella complex, because often when she had agreed to go out in the evening she would be seized by panic and

announce that she had nothing to wear.

~Emma Donoghue

You know who you belong to Jack? - Yeah. Yourself. - He's wrong, actually, I belong to Ma. p. 261 Room by E Donoghue

~Emma Donoghue

People are locked up in all sorts of ways.

~Emma Donoghue

You're meant to have an unhappy childhood to be a writer, but there's a lot to be said for a very happy one that just let's you get on with it.

~Emma Donoghue

Sometimes when persons say definitely it sounds actually less true.

~Emma Donoghue

I read three books a week.

~Emma Donoghue

She leaped into space, high, higher than she'd ever been in her life. She came down with a clean snap, and the crowd scattered like birds from the swing of her feet.

~Emma Donoghue

I've been writing full-time since I was 23.

~Emma Donoghue

So much as I enjoy big novels of epic sweep, I often find, say, if they follow several generations, by the third generation, I'm not caring about the people anymore.

~Emma Donoghue

There are so many examples today of how the kind of wonderful

zealousness and unquestioning loyalty of young people can be harnessed by all sorts of insidious powers.

~Emma Donoghue

I think there are few films out there that take motherhood seriously.

~Emma Donoghue

I guess the feminism in "Room" springs to mind most.

~Emma Donoghue

I think sometimes the way to preserve the magic of a book is to throw it away - meaning, not to cling to the way a book does its magic but to find a cinematic equivalent.

~Emma Donoghue

Seriously, I think what all the puzzling over parenthood I had to do to write [a novel] ROOM taught me is that children can thrive in a remarkable range of situations.

~Emma Donoghue

I was anticipating that some readers might misread [the book] ROOM itself as a hymn to homeschooling.

~Emma Donoghue

This is a bad story.â€• â€œSorry. I'm really sorry. I shouldn't have told you.â€• â€œNo, you should,â€• I say. â€œButâ€”â€• â€œI don't want there to be bad stories and me not know them.

~Emma Donoghue

I am clumsy, a late and nervous driver, and despise all sports except a little gentle dancing or yoga.

~Emma Donoghue

Any parent knows how to be the ideal parent.

~Emma Donoghue

Nowadays, 'invisibility' was supposed to be the big problem, but the way I saw it was, all that mattered was to be visible to yourself.

~Emma Donoghue

I've always been religiously inclined, but it doesn't come up in most of my books.

~Emma Donoghue

Identity politics are wearisome; you don't want to go on speaking for any one group as a writer.

~Emma Donoghue

Writers should be applauded for their ability to make things up.

~Emma Donoghue

I tend to be so lost in the work that I don't notice the weather. My partner will come home and say, 'Beautiful day, wasn't it?' and I'll say, 'Was it?' as I won't have noticed the real world at all.

~Emma Donoghue

Some writers can produce marvelous plots without planning it out, but I can't. In particular I need to know the structure of a novel: what's going to happen in each chapter and each scene.

~Emma Donoghue

People don't always want to be with people. It gets tiring.

~Emma Donoghue

I'm finding that success is way more time-consuming than failure ever was.

~Emma Donoghue

I'm very interested in how idealistic young people can get caught up in all sorts of systems of extreme belief, you know, whether it's cults or whether it's suicide bombers.

~Emma Donoghue

It turns up the heat under a narrative when you limit the characters in their movements or their freedoms.

~Emma Donoghue

I hate desks; they make me feel like a child doing homework.

~Emma Donoghue

I'm really not one of these procrastinators who cleans the house in order to put off writing, but life gets in the way.

~Emma Donoghue

Every parent has those moments where they look at their child and think, 'There's a demon in those eyes and no one can see it but me!

~Emma Donoghue

I've certainly seen stats that if you have a woman director or a woman screenwriter, the number of female characters goes way up.

~Emma Donoghue

I'm really aware that in fiction, women are pretty much equal. There's a lot of very successful women novelists. Not so much [for women writers working] in film.

~Emma Donoghue

What writing ROOM taught me was that I know exactly how to be the perfect mother, but I'm not willing to do it for more than ten minutes at a time.

~Emma Donoghue

I found motherhood a crash course in existentialism (what is my purpose in life, am I mistress or slave of my destiny, when the hell do I get some sleep?) and [the book] ROOM was the result.

~Emma Donoghue

The paradox of publicity is that even as we do it, we know it's killing off the chance of another reader happening across our book in the ideal state of innocence.

~Emma Donoghue

The sound of the pages turning was the sound of magic. The dry liquid feel of paper under fingertips was what magic felt like.

~Emma Donoghue

You cannot predict literary success; the only way you can possibly aim for it is to do your thing and do it well.

~Emma Donoghue

I think ultimately the film 'Room' is a kind of hymn to motherhood and to the everyday heroism of parents who find their smiles in terrible times.

~Emma Donoghue

I wrote the novel [Room], and then I thought, "This could work on film, and I want to be the one to do it." So I went ahead and drafted it.

~Emma Donoghue

What's crucial about being an executive producer is that you stay in the loop, information-wise. They have to share all their major decisions with you.

~Emma Donoghue

If you have written something that the film people want, like a book, it does give you a way in.

~Emma Donoghue

There's not a thing wrong with you, you're right the whole way through.

~Emma Donoghue

I've been in a long and happy relationship for 22 years and it's never inspired me to write anything. It's too good - nothing to say. Problems, conflict, that's what makes for good stories.

~Emma Donoghue

Everyone's got a different story.

~Emma Donoghue

People move around so much in the world, things get lost.

~Emma Donoghue

For all that being a parent is normal statistically, it's not normal psychologically. It produces some of the most extreme emotions you'll ever have...

~Emma Donoghue

Feminism is still one of those taboo words, so hardly anybody talks about it. People usually go gender-neutral and say the book and film [Room] are about "the triumph of the human spirit.

~Emma Donoghue

Sometimes you must shed your skin to save it.

~Emma Donoghue

For all the books in his possession, he still failed to read the stories written plain as day in the faces of the people around him.

~Emma Donoghue

Change for your own sake, if you must, not for what you imagine another will ask of you.

~Emma Donoghue

A memoir is always the most authentic telling of a situation, but a novel gets to different places.

~Emma Donoghue

I'm named after Jane Austen's Emma, and I've always been able to relate to her. She's strong, confident but quite tactless.

~Emma Donoghue

When people write to me with stories, they are never ones that work for me. There's something mysterious about which ones catch you.

~Emma Donoghue

I must say, in the case of "Room," both the book and the film, I don't think being a lesbian author held me back at all.

~Emma Donoghue

There may be certain genres that men dominate, but fiction not so much. The question of prizes is tricky because there are so many prizes.

~Emma Donoghue

I think I know what it's like to have a family that the outside world sees as peculiar or lacking.

~Emma Donoghue

I'm a huge planner, more and more so as the years go by.

~Emma Donoghue

I think it would be a shame for any writer to let their publishers in any way corral them into a single genre.

~Emma Donoghue

In the publishing world, most editors are probably women. So I don't see the publishing world as a male-dominated one, especially within

fiction.

~Emma Donoghue

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