

# Erica Jong Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, People, Sex, Men, Book, Believe, Mother, Inspirational, Love,  
Women, Art, Daughter, Mean, Way, Self, Heart, Soul, Home, Life*

You see a lot of smart guys with dumb women, but you hardly ever see a smart woman with a dumb guy.

~Erica Jong

Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't.

~Erica Jong

And the trouble is, if you don't risk anything, you risk even more.

~Erica Jong

I have accepted fear as a part of life - specifically the fear of change... I have gone ahead despite the pounding in the heart that says: turn back.

~Erica Jong

Everyone has talent. What is rare is the courage to follow the talent to the dark place where it leads.

~Erica Jong

The stones themselves are thick with history, and those cats that dash through the alleyways must surely be the ghosts of the famous dead in feline disguise.

~Erica Jong

Ambivalence is a wonderful tune to dance to. It has a rhythm all its own.

~Erica Jong

Take your life in your own hands, and what happens? A terrible thing: no one to blame.

~Erica Jong

How wonderful to have someone to blame! How wonderful to live with

one's nemesis! You may be miserable, but you feel forever in the right.

~Erica Jong

My generation was not only maligned in book reviews and attacked in graduate school but we lived to see our adored and adorable daughters wonder why feminism had become a dirty word.

~Erica Jong

Jealousy is all the fun you think they had.

~Erica Jong

Love is everything it's cracked up to be. It really is worth fighting for, being brave for, risking everything for.

~Erica Jong

Always do the things you fear the most. Courage is an acquired taste, like caviar.

~Erica Jong

My mother wanted me to be her wings, to fly as she never quite had the courage to do. I love her for that. I love the fact that she wanted to give birth to her own wings.

~Erica Jong

I am old enough to know that laughter, not anger, is the true revelation.

~Erica Jong

The trick is not how much pain you feel - but how much joy you feel

~Erica Jong

We are so scared of being judged that we look for every excuse to procrastinate.

~Erica Jong

Anger is really disappointed hope.

~Erica Jong

Conflict is the soul of literature.

~Erica Jong

Humor is one of the most serious tools we have for dealing with impossible situations.

~Erica Jong

Gossip is the opiate of the oppressed.

~Erica Jong

I have not ceased being fearful, but I have ceased to let fear control me.

~Erica Jong

Betrayal betrays the betrayer.

~Erica Jong

I stand in the mist and cry, thinking of myself standing in the mist and crying, and wondering if I will ever be able to use this experience in a book.

~Erica Jong

Where is Hollywood located? Chiefly between the ears. In that part of the American brain lately vacated by God.

~Erica Jong

I can live without it all - love with its blood pump, sex with its messy hungers, men with their peacock strutting, their silly sexual baggage, their wet tongues in my ear.

~Erica Jong

If you imagine the world listening, you'll never write a line. That's why privacy is so important. You should write first drafts as if they will never be shown to anyone.

~Erica Jong

In any triangle, who is the betrayer, who the unseen rival, and who the humiliated lover? Oneself, oneself, and no one but oneself!

~Erica Jong

Driving me away is easier than saying goodbye.

~Erica Jong

Images are ... a kind of emotional shorthand.

~Erica Jong

Sadly, because of the enormous gap between rich and poor, some mothers can afford helpers, but many can't. Those who can would be kinder to refrain from criticizing other women.

~Erica Jong

To name oneself is the first act of both the poet and the revolutionary.

~Erica Jong

The soul is awakened through service.

~Erica Jong

At fifty the madwoman in the attic breaks loose, stomps down the stairs, and sets fire to the house. She won't be imprisoned anymore.

~Erica Jong

We are finally driven to monogamy not by morality but by exhaustion.

~Erica Jong

Fame means millions of people have the wrong idea of who you are.

~Erica Jong

Sex and creativity are often seen by dictators as subversive activities.

~Erica Jong

The trick is not how much pain you feel--but how much joy you feel. Any idiot can feel pain. Life is full of excuses to feel pain, excuses not to live, excuses, excuses, excuses.

~Erica Jong

The sexuality doesn't end. It really doesn't. You're sexual your whole life, if you're a sexual person.

~Erica Jong

Singularity shows something wrong in the mind.

~Erica Jong

Every country gets the circus it deserves. Spain gets bullfights. Italy the Church. America Hollywood.

~Erica Jong

If we can be sufficient unto ourselves, we need fear no entangling webs.

~Erica Jong

It is the city of mirrors, the city of mirages, at once solid and liquid, at once air and stone.

~Erica Jong

Someday every woman will have orgasms- like every family has color TV- and we can all get on with the business of life.

~Erica Jong

As a reader, I want a book to kidnap me into its world. Its world must

make my so-called real world seem flimsy. Its world must lure me to return. When I close the book, I should feel bereft.

~Erica Jong

What I would like to give my daughter is freedom. And this is something that must be given by example, not by exhortation.

~Erica Jong

Divorce is my generation's coming of age ceremony - a ritual scarring that makes anything that happens afterward seem bearable.

~Erica Jong

A book is a box brimming with incendiary material. The reader strikes the match.

~Erica Jong

Women are their own worst enemies. And guilt is the main weapon of self-torture . . . Show me a woman who doesn't feel guilty and I'll show you a man.

~Erica Jong

The hardest part is believing in yourself at the notebook stage. It is like believing in dreams in the morning.

~Erica Jong

Hate generalizes; love is particular.

~Erica Jong

At times it is strangely sedative to know the extent of your own powerlessness.

~Erica Jong

Writers are doubters, compulsives, self-flagellants. The torture only stops for brief moments.

~Erica Jong

My reaction to porno films is as follows: After the first ten minutes, I want to go home and screw. After the first twenty minutes, I never want to screw again as long as I live.

~Erica Jong

Art is always an energy exchange.

~Erica Jong

Women are the only exploited group in history to have been idealized into powerlessness.

~Erica Jong

It is not surprising that Venice is known above all for mirrors and glass since Venice is the most narcissistic city in the world, the city that celebrates self-mirroring.

~Erica Jong

Love is serene and calm

~Erica Jong

You are always naked when you start writing; you are always as if you had never written anything before; you are always a beginner.

Shakespeare wrote without knowing he would become Shakespeare

~Erica Jong

Solitude is un-American.

~Erica Jong

Life has no plot. It is by far more interesting than anything you can say about it.

~Erica Jong



They keep saying the right person will come along. I think mine got hit by a truck.

~Erica Jong

Is a currency worth anything if no one wants it? We used to buy shoes in Italy. Remember?

~Erica Jong

No one ever found wisdom without also being a fool.

~Erica Jong

Men have always detested women's gossip because they suspect the truth: their measurements are being taken and compared.

~Erica Jong

A wet dream in the mind of New York.

~Erica Jong

Perhaps it is because Venice is both liquid and solid, both air and stone, that it somehow combines all the elements crucial to make our imaginations ignite and turn fantasies into realities.

~Erica Jong

Sometimes it was worth all the disadvantages of marriage just to have that: one friend in an indifferent world.

~Erica Jong

In a bad marriage, friends are the invisible glue. If we have enough friends, we may go on for years, intending to leave, talking about leaving -instead of actually getting up and leaving.

~Erica Jong

I have forgotten my rave reviews and memorized my vicious ones - like most writers.

~Erica Jong

I see that the greatest thing about getting older is how your judgment changes and how you come to understand the cycles of life. And you keep having these amazing flashes of understanding.

~Erica Jong

Memory is the most transient of all possessions. And when it goes, it leaves as few traces as stars that have disappeared.

~Erica Jong

It takes courage to lead a life. Any life.

~Erica Jong

Writers tend to be addicted to houses ... We work at home, indulging the agoraphobia endemic to our kind. We are immersed in our surroundings to an almost morbid degree.

~Erica Jong

Nothing quite has reality for me till I write it all down--revising and embellishing as I go. I'm always waiting for things to be over so I can get home and commit them to paper.

~Erica Jong

One writes not by will but by surrender.

~Erica Jong

All natural disasters are comforting because they reaffirm our impotence, in which, otherwise, we might stop believing. At times it is strangely sedative to know the extent of your own powerlessness.

~Erica Jong

Love is everything it's cracked up to be

~Erica Jong

Show me a woman who doesn't feel guilty and I'll show you a man.

~Erica Jong

I thought of the nameless inventor of the bathtub. I was somehow sure it was a woman. And was the inventor of the bathtub plug a man?

~Erica Jong

Each artist or writer who works in Venice comes to believe that the city yields its most special secret to him or her alone.

~Erica Jong

There is a rhythm to the ending of a marriage just like the rhythm of a courtship, only backward.

~Erica Jong

A new dog never replaces an old dog, it merely expands the heart.

~Erica Jong

Creativity demands nothing less than all you have. Talent alone is never enough.

~Erica Jong

Keeping a journal implies hope.

~Erica Jong

It's horrible getting older. I mean, it's wonderful because you see the circles of life get completed. But it's horrible losing your looks.

~Erica Jong

This is the sad bed of chosen chastity because you are miles and mountains away.

~Erica Jong

All authors know that any book is a casting of runes, a reading of cards,

a map of the palm and heart. We make up the ocean - then fall in. But we also write the life raft.

~Erica Jong

There were 117 psychoanalysts on the Pan Am flight to Vienna and I'd been treated by at least six of them. And married a seventh.

~Erica Jong

When I was a ten-year old bookworm and used to kiss the dust jacket pictures of authors as if they were icons, it used to amaze me that these remote people could provoke me to love.

~Erica Jong

... what is great poetry, after all, but the continuation of the human voice after death?

~Erica Jong

If there's anything the world disdains more than uppity young women, it's uppity old women. Dying young has always been a woman's best career move.

~Erica Jong

We find our calling or it finds us, and it's a sin against the fates not to use your talent when you have it.

~Erica Jong

My grandchildren are fabulous and funny.

~Erica Jong

I've kept journals at many times in my life starting from when I was about 13 or 14. But it's boring and contrived to keep a journal every day. Better to write as the mood strikes.

~Erica Jong

It's important to know what you're going to spend your life on, and the only way you're going to find that is by connecting with the force inside yourself.

~Erica Jong

I write lustily and humorously. It isn't calculated; it's the way I think. I've invented a writing style that expresses who I am.

~Erica Jong

We all parent the best we can. Being human, we're ambivalent. We want perfection for our babies, but we also need sleep.

~Erica Jong

Underneath it all, you longed to be annihilated by love.

~Erica Jong

Why do analysts always answer a question with a question?

~Erica Jong

**Related Links:**

- Writing Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- People Quotes
- Sex Quotes
- Men Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- Mother Quotes
- Inspirational Quotes
- Love Quotes
- Women Quotes
- Art Quotes
- Daughter Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Way Quotes
- Self Quotes
- Heart Quotes
- Soul Quotes
- Home Quotes
- Life Quotes