

Etgar Keret Quotes

*Writing, Stories, Thinking, People, War, Mean, Character, Giving, Army, Israel,
Believe, Sometimes, Want, Unique, Art, Wish, Son, Mother, Country, Block*

Translators are like ninjas. If you notice them, they're no good.

~Etgar Keret

My father - I once asked him what was his greatest achievement. He said his greatest achievement was that he fought in five wars in the infantry, always on the front line, and never hurt anybody.

~Etgar Keret

According to Gur's theory of boredom, everything that happens in the world today is because of boredom: love, war, inventions, fake fireplaces - ninety-five percent of all that is pure boredom.

~Etgar Keret

It's kind of a reflex for me to ignore my own wishes and think about other people first.

~Etgar Keret

If you want to learn how to be happy, you have to know what is sadness first.

~Etgar Keret

Rabbits are played. Nowadays it's all about the turtles. Tell them it's a ninja, they'll freak.

~Etgar Keret

The one who swallows cactuses with spines should not complain about hemorrhoids.

~Etgar Keret

Being ambivalent doesn't mean that you're a relativist, that anything goes; it just means that you show the complexity of life. Life is always complex.

~Etgar Keret

Writing a story is kind of like surfing, as opposed to the novel, where you use a GPS to get somewhere. With surfing, you kind of jump.

~Etgar Keret

For three months, a person sits and looks at you, imagining a kiss.

~Etgar Keret

Most of the Jewish writer friends I have are American, and I feel closer to them because they're always obsessed with one issue - identity: what does it mean to be an American Jew?

~Etgar Keret

My stories are very compact. I want them to say the most complex things in the simplest way.

~Etgar Keret

Being published in Arabic is a strong and consistent wish I have. I live in the Middle East and want to be in some sort of an unpragmatic dialogue with my neighbors.

~Etgar Keret

I don't need art to tell me people are assholes. I can just go into the streets.

~Etgar Keret

As the son of Holocaust survivors, this is life - you're put in a corner, and you have to get out. I believe that you can always get out.

~Etgar Keret

Maybe in the general scheme of things he couldn't find any meaning in life, but on a smaller scale it was okay. Not always, but a lot of the time.

~Etgar Keret

I think there are some artists whose works are misanthropic.

~Etgar Keret

I write in a slangy colloquial speech that has not been common in the Israeli tradition of writing, and that is one of the things that gets lost a little in translation.

~Etgar Keret

If you scare somebody enough, they stop being rational.

~Etgar Keret

You'll never know what's happening inside the heads of other people.

~Etgar Keret

Before I started to make films, I didn't give much thought to the way the characters were physically positioned in the story world.

~Etgar Keret

I was first introduced to Kafka's writing during my compulsory army-service basic training. During that period, Kafka's fiction felt hyperrealistic.

~Etgar Keret

When I started writing my stories, I thought that not only nobody outside my language, but nobody outside my neighbourhood would get them.

~Etgar Keret

In the army you feel violated - there's no private space. Writing was a life-saver, a way of recovering private territory.

~Etgar Keret

I always have a story in my head that needs to be written, or at least I think I do. But I usually can't find the time to write it.

~Etgar Keret

The reason I write is that I'm not in dialogue with my emotions; writing puts me in touch with myself.

~Etgar Keret

When I say a spoken Hebrew sentence, half of it is like the King James Bible and half of it is a hip-hop lyric. It has a roller-coaster effect.

~Etgar Keret

In Israel, the role of the writer is dictated by the language in which you write. Writers see themselves as cultural prophets.

~Etgar Keret

I rarely return to characters. My characters, at least most of them, are much more a part of that superorganism that is the story than separate and independent creatures.

~Etgar Keret

I was born at six months, and I weighed 900 grams [less than two pounds]. I have a very heroic birth story.

~Etgar Keret

Etgar means "challenge." And my family name is Keret, which means "urban." So my name is "urban challenge." My joke is, it's a good description of a birth but a strange name for a human being.

~Etgar Keret

Often in writing programs, articulation and clarity are more important than what you actually say.

~Etgar Keret

As a child, I never wanted my parents to be unhappy, which meant that I would always contemplate what would make them happy.

~Etgar Keret

In my stories I can kiss the girls I want to kiss and punch the girls I want to punch. Nobody pays a price for it.

~Etgar Keret

Life is one heck of an invention. It is better than the iPhone 4S and Coke Zero combined.

~Etgar Keret

People usually don't allow you to cut off their tongue.

~Etgar Keret

I usually start writing stories from tone and not from content - kind of like people who create music and invent the lyrics later on.

~Etgar Keret

You don't need to use the language of God to ask where the restrooms are.

~Etgar Keret

When you work on a graphic novel or a film with people you've been together through a lot and you've exposed your secrets and weaker sides to each other.

~Etgar Keret

I think that, in Israel, the greatest fear that people have, and I have it, too, is fear of genocide.

~Etgar Keret

Apparently, I'm very, very popular in jails. They often ask me to come and speak.

~Etgar Keret

In the last war, people became vocal from the right-wing point of view: if you're liberal, then you're a traitor.

~Etgar Keret

If we're a family and your brother wishes you death, it's not a very happy family.

~Etgar Keret

What connects me so strongly to Israel is the fact that I'm second generation.

~Etgar Keret

This idea where, in this safe haven for Jews, Jews will threaten to kill other Jews, it wasn't in the brochure.

~Etgar Keret

When my books were translated, it was always about the characters, because the unique language aspect was lost in translation.

~Etgar Keret

I think that, in Hebrew, it's like the language creates a more unique and specific universe even before the story.

~Etgar Keret

I don't like the expression "writer's block" because I think it presupposes that you have a problem with your plumbing. I really think it's the other way around.

~Etgar Keret

I think tone gives birth to the story.

~Etgar Keret

I never know the endings when I write. It's a turnoff when you know the ending. You lose much of your incentive to write when you already know. It's like seeing a movie a second time.

~Etgar Keret

I think living in Israel and wanting to change reality is the best prescription for never-ending writer's block.

~Etgar Keret

I remember a point in [writing] the story where I said, "This isn't working, I should go and buy something at the supermarket or my wife will kill me." Then I said, "No, I'll go on."

~Etgar Keret

My first and biggest love was always fiction writing. But it is a very lonely pastime.

~Etgar Keret

As a monogamous creature, I feel sometimes that it fills up a function that affairs have in married people's life.

~Etgar Keret

I like smoking pot, but I'm not the kind of guy who smokes every day.

~Etgar Keret

I think that before my son was born, I didn't have a strong sensation for future. I was living in this kind of never-ending present.

~Etgar Keret

Often, the stories are very much like trust falls. You fall, and you hope the story's going to catch you.

~Etgar Keret

Making up characters and places and plots, unlike fixing your plumbing or doing dishes, is anything but practical or rational. I write what needs to be written the way that seems genuinely right.

~Etgar Keret

Life keeps being a beautiful and frustrating experience.

~Etgar Keret

For me taking a pragmatic decision when it comes to art is almost an oxymoron. The reason I first picked up a pen and wrote a story had nothing pragmatic in it.

~Etgar Keret

The best stories you usually hear are stories that people feel some type of urgency about.

~Etgar Keret

Hebrew was frozen, like frozen peas, fresh out of the Bible.

~Etgar Keret

Hebrew is this unique thing that you cannot translate to any other language. It has to do with its history.

~Etgar Keret

I'm not saying that I don't experience people in life as evil, but writing is not a place of alienation; writing is the place where we can try to be human.

~Etgar Keret

There are two kinds of people, those who like to sleep next to the wall, and those who like to sleep next to the people who push them off the bed.

~Etgar Keret

Sometimes the stories are smarter than me, and suddenly these things start to make sense.

~Etgar Keret

The amazing thing about an artistic collaboration is that it is as intense and intimate as a romantic one. Sometimes even more so.

~Etgar Keret

It's funny, but I think my stories - the good ones - they're much smarter than I am.

~Etgar Keret

I think that becoming a parent kind of made me try to be more responsible. And it made me much more stressful.

~Etgar Keret

I really believe hatred is not a primal emotion, in that you can't find it in nature. It's basically some kind of distortion of fear.

~Etgar Keret

Writing is very castrating in the moment. Fiction in general, it has no function, nobody asks for it.

~Etgar Keret

I think when you write, you should call it a "writing spree." I don't write every day, and I don't write regularly.

~Etgar Keret

Related Links:

- Writing Quotes
- Stories Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- People Quotes
- War Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Character Quotes
- Giving Quotes
- Army Quotes
- Israel Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- Sometimes Quotes
- Want Quotes
- Unique Quotes
- Art Quotes
- Wish Quotes
- Son Quotes
- Mother Quotes
- Country Quotes
- Block Quotes