

Etta James

Quotes

Song, People, Mother, Years, Country, Music, Real, Want, Feels, Singing, Forever, Play, Feelings, Men, Dance, Two, Weight, Artist, Worry, Records

My mother always told me, even if a song has been done a thousand times, you can still bring something of your own to it. I'd like to think I did that.

~Etta James

Long as I was riding in a big Cadillac and dressed nice and had plenty of food, that's all I cared about.

~Etta James

The two things you can't fake are good food and good music

~Etta James

All the things I used to like - cookies, ice cream, gumbo - I don't like anymore.

~Etta James

What happens is, when I perform, I'm somewhere else. I go back in time and get in touch with who I really am. I forget my troubles, my worries.

~Etta James

At last my love has come along. My lonely days are over and life is like a song.

~Etta James

I wanna show that gospel, country, blues, rhythm and blues, jazz, rock 'n' roll are all just really one thing. Those are the American music and that is the American culture.

~Etta James

A lot of people think the blues is depressing but that's not the blues I'm singing. When I'm singing blues, I singing life. People can't stand to listen to the blues, they've got to be phonies.

~Etta James

When I sing for myself, I probably sing for anyone who has any kind of hurt, any kind of bad feelings, good feelings, ups and downs, highs and lows, that kind of thing.

~Etta James

I want a Sunday kind of love A love to last past Saturday night And I'd like to know it's more than love at first sight

~Etta James

You can't fake this music. You might be a great singer or a great musician but, in the end, that's got nothing to do with it. It's how you connect to the songs and to the history behind them.

~Etta James

I've gone through so much in my life. I should have been dead a long time ago, but I am still here, and I'm the happiest I've ever been.

~Etta James

People that can't stand to listen to the blues, they've got to be phonies.

~Etta James

The only time that I am really truly happyâ€”when I feel at my bestâ€”is when I'm on the stage.

~Etta James

I'm not a braggart, but when I was a little girl people used to come from all over Hollywood to hear me sing.

~Etta James

See, I don't like places where people can't dance - don't like clubs or theatres where a bunch of bourgeois people sit around tip, tip, tipping their fingers.

~Etta James

The music was thunder and joy. Lightning bolts of happiness and praise, foot-stomping, dance-shouting, good-feeling singing from the soul.

~Etta James

It feels so good to be happy.

~Etta James

I've learned to live with rage. In some ways, it's my rage that keeps me going. Without it, I would have been whipped long ago. With it, I got a lot more songs to sing.

~Etta James

That's where it begins and ends for me and these songs were the ones that touched me the deepest. It was like I was laying hold of some part of me that I didn't even know was there until I let it out.

~Etta James

I'm not a bourgeois person, never will be.

~Etta James

When I'm singing the blues, I'm singing life.

~Etta James

Most of the songs I sing have that blues feeling in it. They have that sorry feeling. And I don't know what I'm sorry about. I don't.

~Etta James

When I look out at the people and they look at me and they're smiling, then I know that I'm loved. That is the time when I have no worries, no problems.

~Etta James

I sing the songs that people need to hear.

~Etta James

I am so happy that I am alive and can walk.

~Etta James

My mother was a jazz fanatic and she wanted me to play the piano so I could play jazz tunes. I wish I had learned but I was too busy getting into trouble!

~Etta James

My mother always wanted me to be glamorous. When I thought about that, it really fired me up, and once I lost all those pounds, I started to feel really good about myself.

~Etta James

I really turned into, you know, the real street kid. I was kind of like a runaway, but I had a mother, you know what I mean, and I had a place to stay.

~Etta James

It's not about battling the original artists when I record these songs, it's about paying tribute to them.

~Etta James

In some ways, it's my rage that keeps me going.

~Etta James

My mother always wanted me to be a jazz singer, but I always wanted to be raunchy.

~Etta James

I talked to the record company about what I had in mind. They said they wanted something lush. I figured the best thing to do was let them hear what I had in mind.

~Etta James

And as I started reaching deeper I realized that most of the blues of that day was done by men. Women just didn't have the nerve.

~Etta James

A few years ago, I thought, I'll never make it. I started to go to the doctor to help me lose weight.

~Etta James

I'm not starry eyed, and I'm not money crazy.

~Etta James

I was originally like a punker, know what I mean, like the punks are today, I'd spit in a minute.

~Etta James

I was a sloppy kid, wanted to be just wild.

~Etta James

It's the same thing now. When I go onstage the young people scream and holler as much as the older generation.

~Etta James

Even as a little child, I've always had that comedian kind of attitude.

~Etta James

When Malcolm X was assassinated I was working at the Apollo. They brought his body to the Unity Funeral Home, which was around the corner.

~Etta James

I figured I could do "It's A Man's, Man's, Man's World" because I believe it's the truth.

~Etta James

Country music has the great stories.

~Etta James

Now I can stand up on the stage again like I used to after five years of sitting down while I sang.

~Etta James

I like to shop, but I don't like to go out to dances.

~Etta James

To me, country music is like the blues, but it's something very hip and - I don't want to say commercial - but it's very worldly and good listening.

~Etta James

I don't care who's playing. Even if it's my favorite artist, I'm probably not gonna go and see him.

~Etta James

Once you lose the weight, you're really anxious to eat healthy.

~Etta James

Bobby Womack is always very real, both with his music and as a person.

~Etta James

My mother used to play nothing but Billie Holiday.

~Etta James

This is an album of songs that I've always loved, tunes that I heard. For the first time in 53 years of recording, I really had control over an entire album, start to finish.

~Etta James

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