

Hanif Kureishi

Quotes

*People, Desire, Thinking, Mean, Writing, Depression, Children, Husband, Jobs,
Love Is, World, Falling In Love, Understanding, Intimacy, Philosophical, Safety,
Fire, Betrayal, Grateful, Tonight*

Being in love means being at the mercy of someone's childhood.

~Hanif Kureishi

If you want something badly enough, you make arrangements. If you don't want it badly enough, you make excuses.

~Hanif Kureishi

And silence, like darkness, can be kind; it, too, is a language.

~Hanif Kureishi

You can't spend your life beating yourself up for something that happened yesterday. You die if you don't follow your desire.

~Hanif Kureishi

England has become a squalid, uncomfortable, ugly place ... an intolerant, racist, homophobic, narrow-minded, authoritarian, rat-hole run by vicious, suburban-minded, materialistic philistines.

~Hanif Kureishi

Without love, most of life remains concealed. Nothing is as fascinating as love, unfortunately.

~Hanif Kureishi

I don't want to be loved. I want to be desired. Love is safety, but desire is foul.

~Hanif Kureishi

Our lives can only be lived forward and understood backwards. Living a life and understanding it occupy different dimensions.

~Hanif Kureishi

The vocation of each writer is to describe the world as he or she sees it; anything more than that is advertising.

~Hanif Kureishi

How disturbing it is that our illusions are often our most important beliefs.

~Hanif Kureishi

These days everyone was insisting on their identity, coming out as a man, woman, gay, black, Jew - brandishing whichever features they could claim, as if without a tag they wouldn't be human.

~Hanif Kureishi

I guess writing is a kind of therapy in the sense that there are things you need to say and you say them, and better out than in.

~Hanif Kureishi

At the deepest level people are madder than they want to believe. You will find that they fear being eaten, and are alarmed by their desire to devour others.

~Hanif Kureishi

Soon we will be strangers. No, we can never be that. Hurting someone is an act of reluctant intimacy. We will be dangerous acquaintances with a history.

~Hanif Kureishi

Love cannot be measured by its duration.

~Hanif Kureishi

What a quality of innocence people have when they don't expect to be harmed.

~Hanif Kureishi

Please remove your watch,' he said. 'In my domain time isn't a factor.

~Hanif Kureishi

I've never had any desire to be good. I don't like goodness particularly.

~Hanif Kureishi

The cruellest thing you can do to Kerouac is reread him at thirty-eight.

~Hanif Kureishi

You don't stop loving someone just because you hate them.

~Hanif Kureishi

At the same time, you have to find the right distance between people. Too close, and they overwhelm you, too far and they abandon you. How to hold them in the right relation?

~Hanif Kureishi

Why do people who are good at families have to be smug and assume it is the only way to live. Why can't they be blamed for being bad at promiscuity?

~Hanif Kureishi

I can't sleep with you tonight, baby, my head's all messed up, you've no idea. It's somewhere else and it's full of voices and songs and bad things.

~Hanif Kureishi

My father was a civil servant, so having a regular job, being respectable is a big deal for me. Respectable in the sense that I support my family. That's what I mean by respectability.

~Hanif Kureishi

Falling in love was simple; one had only to yield. Digesting another person, however, and sustaining love, was bloody work, and not a soft job.

~Hanif Kureishi

Security and safety were the reward of dullness.

~Hanif Kureishi

I'm interested in philosophical psychology, people like Nietzsche, Freud, Alcan, Foucault, Derrida.

~Hanif Kureishi

Almost certainly I will not tell her my intentions this evening or tonight. I will put it off. Why? Because words are actions and they make things happen. Once they are out you cannot put them back.

~Hanif Kureishi

Children, who have yet to learn our ways, are notoriously promiscuous in their affection. They'll sit on anyone's knee.

~Hanif Kureishi

But in love each moment is magnified, and every gesture, word and syllable is examined like a speech by the President.

~Hanif Kureishi

No amount of promises can guarantee love

~Hanif Kureishi

Nothing can be repaired or advanced but only accepted

~Hanif Kureishi

...I love 'yes.' It's practically the most interesting word of all, don't you think?" Like a hinge opening a door outward. Yes, yes, yes.

~Hanif Kureishi

Like you, she will have been with other people, but I've got a feeling there's something between you.

~Hanif Kureishi

My guess is that she is uncomfortable in such an intransigent world but

is unable to live accordingly to her own desire.

~Hanif Kureishi

My pleasures disappeared with my vices.

~Hanif Kureishi

I am determined to live without illusions. I want to look at reality straight. Without hiding.

~Hanif Kureishi

If you get depressed, you can be stuck for months; if you have an analyst, you at least have a chance of getting out of it faster.

~Hanif Kureishi

If jealousy was the vindaloo of love, I'd imagined her tongue burning, and such a fire forcing her to spill her truth.

~Hanif Kureishi

I'm always writing. I'm an obsessive. It's not because I'm a disciplined person. It's because I'm crazy about it.

~Hanif Kureishi

One would hope, as well that intimacy would leave more of a mark, that more of it would remain. But it doesn't. You just end up thinking, who is this person?

~Hanif Kureishi

Dear God, teach me to be careless.

~Hanif Kureishi

Fundamentalism is dictatorship of the mind

~Hanif Kureishi

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