

# Heidi Julavits

## Quotes

*Thinking, People, Writing, Psychics, Challenges, Pain, Want, Memories,  
Believe, Clothes, Desire, What If, Smart, World, Suffering, Doctors, Girl, Fiction,  
Two, School*

Every once in a while when I get a migraine, I like to think, "Who hates me today?"

~Heidi Julavits

You know you're screwed when a Western doctor recommends acupuncture.

~Heidi Julavits

I think what can be most shameful or embarrassing is when our bodies broadcast a secret we'd prefer no one to know. This is why I hate rashes, in particular face rashes.

~Heidi Julavits

We want to believe we couldn't be replaced, and that the people we love are irreplaceable.

~Heidi Julavits

No matter what you wear, not everyone is going to understand what you're saying.

~Heidi Julavits

I surround myself with women who inspire me to be more ambitious, and who constantly astonish me with their magnetism, style, and smarts.

~Heidi Julavits

I wouldn't be myself if I weren't always trying to be someone else. I only have so much time on this earth and I want to be as many people as possible.

~Heidi Julavits

I spend far too much time on eBay buying lamps and upholstery remnants.

~Heidi Julavits

I've subsequently become conscious of MAKING MEMORIES. Which makes me sound like a scrapbooker.

~Heidi Julavits

It's fascinating to imagine two successful writers in one house. But when you think about it, it isn't very unusual. In fact, so many writers have writer spouses.

~Heidi Julavits

I calmed myself by walking into my nearby bookstore and marveling at all the books other people had written. So many people had finished and published novels; it couldn't be so hard, right?

~Heidi Julavits

I am simply looking for a companion with whom to spend my days, a companion who will cherish as much as I the stupidity of living in the moment, and spend every dull, amazing second with me.

~Heidi Julavits

Home is the place where, when you go there, they have to take you in. In other words: Home has exceedingly low standards.

~Heidi Julavits

If I'd done the discovery before I wrote the book, then there would be nothing to discover. It would feel dutiful instead of exciting.

~Heidi Julavits

I obviously read and adore traditional fiction. I teach traditional fiction; I also teach all kinds of not-so-traditional fiction.

~Heidi Julavits

I don't usually read my reviews. I've noticed older reviewers are much more bothered by the plot complications. Younger reviews don't seem to be bothered by the complications at all.

~Heidi Julavits

You should never read online comments if you want to keep thoughts above the belt.

~Heidi Julavits

As a writer, you want to go somewhere else sometimes. You want to vary the terrain that you're exploring.

~Heidi Julavits

There are some writers who are done when they finish a draft because they've thought it through beforehand. Whereas I'll finish a first draft and I'm nowhere near done.

~Heidi Julavits

Some people just make me feel mentally endangered. Whatever dark stuff is going on in their head, it's coming at me and I need to escape.

~Heidi Julavits

The belief that one's suffering has a greater cosmic purpose, and is thus more exciting and more noble, well, it made a lot of sense to me.

~Heidi Julavits

I guess what I find so interesting about memory, and its role in a person's identity, is how the attempt to achieve accuracy requires you to remove yourself from your life in an authorial manner.

~Heidi Julavits

I used to have a really sharp memory. And its loss has proven destabilizing from an identity perspective.

~Heidi Julavits

When you are expending much energy on someone else's demise, it's like you weaken your psychic immune system.

~Heidi Julavits

The dreamed outcome of launching a psychic attack can make you feel small and petty. I think for that reason I'm going to refrain from launching any.

~Heidi Julavits

I don't think women are, by definition, toxic to one another. I think women are simultaneously competitive toward and idolatrous of each other. I thrive on that challenge and that desire.

~Heidi Julavits

I developed a crazy face rash after I got engaged to a guy I must have known somewhere I should not marry. I hadn't articulated this to myself, so my face told the world instead.

~Heidi Julavits

Maybe the body is taking responsibility where the mind is not. It's scrapbooking for us.

~Heidi Julavits

I like playing with a popular cliché and making it my own by half-embracing it, half-disemboweling it.

~Heidi Julavits

I love this idea of the body as a trauma archive!

~Heidi Julavits

I always think it's useful to get an outside opinion.

~Heidi Julavits

If I can just stop being so stressed out, maybe my cancer will get better! This is far less scary than treating a disease of unknown etiology.

~Heidi Julavits

If, at some future point, my face collapses around my eyes, I'd probably do something about it. My eyes are where I live, and if people couldn't see them, no one would know me.

~Heidi Julavits

Whether I'm writing about plumbers or psychics or psychic plumbers, I want to find a creative space that imprisons me usefully, so I can deviate with purpose.

~Heidi Julavits

As such, anything is always possible, even if your protagonist is a plumber. But it's the possibility, the limitless possibilities, of any fake life, that make writing about it so challenging.

~Heidi Julavits

Structure is, for me, the most fun challenge about writing novels.

~Heidi Julavits

When my husband first read a draft, he said, "You spend too much time describing the characters' outfits." He was right. I removed much of the clothes talk, but quite a bit remained.

~Heidi Julavits

I wish somebody knew whether or not I'm Jewish.

~Heidi Julavits

I needed to understand this random bad bit of luck as part of a bigger design. Otherwise I was suffering meaninglessly. This made the suffering a lot worse.

~Heidi Julavits

I really did for a few weeks think, I'm in pain because the world needs me to save it. Which is so ridiculous and egotistical.

~Heidi Julavits

Sometimes it can be useful to read your bad reviews.

~Heidi Julavits

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