

Helen Dunmore

Quotes

*Writing, Book, Stories, Trying, Powerful, Individual, Want, Past, Children, Stills,
Poet, Firsts, Reader, Alive, Language, Historical, Life, Adventure, Strong,
Literature*

Reread, rewrite, reread, rewrite. If it still doesn't work, throw it away.

~Helen Dunmore

A problem with a piece of writing often clarifies itself if you go for a long walk.

~Helen Dunmore

Finish the day's writing when you still want to continue.

~Helen Dunmore

The human longing for story is so powerful, so primitive, that it seems like something not learned, but locked into our genes.

~Helen Dunmore

It is a violation which has obsessed the tyrants of the twentieth century. They do not want simply to kill their opponents, but to liquidate them, to deny that they have ever existed.

~Helen Dunmore

However, I began to submit poems to British magazines, and some were accepted. It was a great moment to see my first poems published. It felt like entering a tradition.

~Helen Dunmore

However, the difficulties and pleasures of the writing itself are similar for a novel with a historical setting and a novel with a contemporary setting, as far as I'm concerned.

~Helen Dunmore

i wish i was away in Ingo far across the briny sea sailing over deepest waters where neither care nore worry trouble me

~Helen Dunmore

I enjoy research; in fact research is so engaging that it would be easy to

go on for years, and never write the novel at all.

~Helen Dunmore

I didn't choose Russia but Russia chose me. I had been fascinated from an early age by the culture, the language, the literature and the history to the place.

~Helen Dunmore

My first collection of poems was published by Bloodaxe Books, which was then a very new imprint.

~Helen Dunmore

Mourning Ruby is not a flat landscape: it is more like a box with pictures painted on every face. And each face is also a door which opens, I hope, to take the reader deep into the book.

~Helen Dunmore

As individuals, we are shaped by story from the time of birth; we are formed by what we are told by our parents, our teachers, our intimates.

~Helen Dunmore

The language has got to be fully alive - I can't bear dull, flaccid writing myself and I don't see why any reader should put up with it.

~Helen Dunmore

Poets go through a very tough apprenticeship in the use of words.

~Helen Dunmore

Writing poetry makes you intensely conscious of how words sound, both aloud and inside the head of the reader. You learn the weight of words and how they sound to the ear.

~Helen Dunmore

To try to expunge an individual's history is a terrible violation.

~Helen Dunmore

Count Dracula had directed me to go to the Golden Krone Hotel, which I found, to my great delight, to be thoroughly old-fashioned, for of course I wanted to see all I could of the ways of the country.

~Helen Dunmore

I hope that readers will tear through my books because they can't stop themselves - and then, maybe, read them again and find new things there.

~Helen Dunmore

Writing children's books gives a writer a very strong sense of narrative drive.

~Helen Dunmore

If we understand the past, we are more likely to recognise what is happening around us.

~Helen Dunmore

The poets whom I knew then were all men and all seemed dauntingly sure of themselves - although I am sure that really they were as uncertain as I was.

~Helen Dunmore

In a world without air all you breathe is adventure!

~Helen Dunmore

I was always influenced by language.

~Helen Dunmore

A novel, in the end, is a container, a shape which you are trying to pour your story into.

~Helen Dunmore

Those who try to obliterate the past are injuring the present.

~Helen Dunmore

For you where never my blood sister so no more shall I call you little sister

~Helen Dunmore

Once one habit peels away the others follow it. You have to hold on, or the next thing you'll find yourself parading down the street in your nightdress. Habit is everything.

~Helen Dunmore

We are creatures of story.

~Helen Dunmore

I would like people to come into my Dreamworld and then choose to stay.

~Helen Dunmore

When you are young you don't always realise how full of doubts everybody is.

~Helen Dunmore

I concentrate on the lives of individuals whom the reader comes to know and feel with intimately.

~Helen Dunmore

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