

Ian Mcewan

Quotes

Thinking, People, Writing, Self, Believe, Simple, Children, Reading, Littles, Years, Men, Novelists, Views, World, Mean, Imagination, Fall, Stories, Lying, Art

...falling in love could be achieved in a single wordâ€”a glance.

~Ian Mcewan

come back, come back to me

~Ian Mcewan

Imagining what it is like to be someone other than yourself is at the core of our humanity. It is the essence of compassion, and it is the beginning of morality.

~Ian Mcewan

I've never had a moment's doubt. I love you. I believe in you completely. You are my dearest one. My reason for life.

~Ian Mcewan

A person is, among all else, a material thing, easily torn and not easily mended.

~Ian Mcewan

True intelligence requires fabulous imagination.

~Ian Mcewan

I believe the novella is the perfect form of prose fiction. It is the beautiful daughter of a rambling, bloated ill-shaven giant (but a giant who's a genius on his best days).

~Ian Mcewan

When its gone, you'll know what a gift love was. you'll suffer like this. So go back and fight to keep it.

~Ian Mcewan

I'm holding back, delaying the information. I'm lingering in the prior moment because it was a time when other outcomes were still possible.

~Ian Mcewan

What idiocy, to racing into this story and its labyrinths, sprinting away from our happiness among the fresh spring grasses by the oak.

~Ian Mcewan

Observing human variety can give pleasure, but so too can human sameness.

~Ian Mcewan

one could drown in irrelevance.

~Ian Mcewan

Finally, you had to measure yourself by other people - there really was nothing else. every now and then, quite unintentionally, someone taught you something about yourself.

~Ian Mcewan

The cost of oblivious daydreaming was always this moment of return, the realignment with what had been before and now seemed a little worse.

~Ian Mcewan

The moment you lose curiosity in the world, you might as well be dead.

~Ian Mcewan

What is lawful is not always identical to what is right.

~Ian Mcewan

A story lives transformed by a gesture not made or a word not spoken

~Ian Mcewan

Reading groups, readings, breakdowns of book sales all tell the same story: when women stop reading, the novel will be dead.

~Ian Mcewan

Writing a novel resembles a journey with only the sketchiest of maps.

~Ian Mcewan

When there are no consequences, being wrong is simply a diversion.

~Ian Mcewan

Let his name be cleared and everyone else adjust their thinking. He had put in time, now they must do the work. His business was simple. Find Cecilia and love her, marry her and live without shame.

~Ian Mcewan

Screenwriting is an opportunity to fly first class, be treated like a celebrity, sit around the pool and be betrayed.

~Ian Mcewan

Not being boring is quite a challenge.

~Ian Mcewan

Wasn't writing a kind of soaring, an achievable form of flight, of fancy, of the imagination?

~Ian Mcewan

In the first half of the 20th Century, we lived through human disasters on a scale unimaginable. The Holocaust was once suggested would be the end of not only civilization, but art, too.

~Ian Mcewan

Twenty years ago I might have hired a professional listener, but somewhere along the way I had lost faith in the talking cure. A genteel fraud in my view.

~Ian Mcewan

You can tell a lot from a person's nails. When a life starts to unravel, they're among the first to go.

~Ian Mcewan

Self-consciousness is the destroyer of erotic joy.

~Ian Mcewan

It wasn't only wickedness and scheming that made people unhappy, it was confusion and misunderstanding; above all, it was the failure to grasp the simple truth that other people are as real as you.

~Ian Mcewan

And though you think the world is at your feet, it can rise up and tread on you.

~Ian Mcewan

Nothing that can be, can come between me and the full prospect of my hopes.

~Ian Mcewan

These were everyday sounds magnified by darkness. And darkness was nothing - it was not a substance, it was not a presence, it was no more than an absence of light.

~Ian Mcewan

I wouldn't mind being the lead guitarist in an incredibly successful rock band. However, I don't play the guitar.

~Ian Mcewan

The world should take note: not everything is getting worse.

~Ian Mcewan

I don't hold grudges.

~Ian Mcewan

One has to have the courage of one's pessimism.

~Ian Mcewan

Find you, love you, marry you, and live without shame.

~Ian Mcewan

It is shaming sometimes how the body will not, or cannot, lie about emotions. Who, for decorum's sake, has ever slowed his heart, or muted a blush?

~Ian Mcewan

That love which does not build a foundation on good sense is doomed.

~Ian Mcewan

From this new and intimate perspective, she learned a simple, obvious thing she had always known, and everyone knew; that a person is, among all else, a material thing, easily torn, not easily mended.

~Ian Mcewan

At that moment, the urge to be writing was stronger than any notion she had of what she might write.

~Ian Mcewan

He knew these last lines by heart and mouthed them now in the darkness. My reason for life. Not living, but life. That was the touch. And she was his reason for life, and why he must survive.

~Ian Mcewan

Let the guilty bury the innocent, and let no one change the evidence

~Ian Mcewan

How guilt refined the methods of self-torture, threading the beads of detail into an eternal loop, a rosary to be fingered for a lifetime.

~Ian Mcewan

When they kissed she immediately felt his tongue, tensed and strong, pushing past her teeth, like some bully shouldering his way into a room. Entering her.

~Ian Mcewan

He who hesitates is not only lost, but miles from the next exit.

~Ian Mcewan

We go on our hands and knees and crawl our way towards the truth

~Ian Mcewan

She would simply wait on the bridge, calm and obstinate, until events, real events, not her own fantasies, rose to her challenge, and dispelled her insignificance.

~Ian Mcewan

I think the novel, its business is the investigation of human nature.

~Ian Mcewan

When anything can happen, everything matters.

~Ian Mcewan

How can a novelist achieve atonement when, with her absolute power of deciding outcomes, she is also God?

~Ian Mcewan

Writers are said to have superstitions and little rituals. Readers have them too.

~Ian Mcewan

In Leon's account of his life, no-one was mean-spirited, no-one schemed or lied or betrayed; everyone was celebrated at least in some degree... Leon turned out to be a spineless, grinning idiot.

~Ian Mcewan

Is there any meaning in my life that the inevitable death awaiting me does not destroy?

~Ian Mcewan

Someone once asked me "If your life could be extended to 150 and you could start another career, would you?" And I said "No, thanks, I think I'll stick at this."

~Ian Mcewan

I'm going mad, I told myself. Let me not be mad.

~Ian Mcewan

I was an intimate sort of child who never spoke up in groups. I preferred close friends.

~Ian Mcewan

I want to live in a place where strangers rush to help someone in distress.

~Ian Mcewan

We know so little about each other. We lie mostly submerged, like ice floes, with our visible social selves projecting only cool and white.

~Ian Mcewan

This is the pain-pleasure of having newly adult children; they're innocent and ruthless in forgetting their sweet old dependence.

~Ian Mcewan

...beauty, she had discovered occupied a narrow band. Ugliness, on the hand, had infinite variation.

~Ian Mcewan

But it was too interesting, too new, too flattering, too deeply comforting to resist, it was a liberation to be in love and say so, and she could only

let herself go deeper.

~Ian Mcewan

You can spin stories out of the ways people understand and misunderstand each other.

~Ian Mcewan

Love doesn't grow at a steady rate, but advances in surges, bolts, wild leaps, and this was one of those.

~Ian Mcewan

Narrative tension is primarily about withholding information.

~Ian Mcewan

A twenty-one-year-old writer is likely to be inhibited by a lack of usable experience. Childhood and adolescence were something I knew.

~Ian Mcewan

She loved him, though not at this particular moment.

~Ian Mcewan

Nothing was to be lost by beginning at the beginning.

~Ian Mcewan

He's never quite got the trick of conversation, tending to hear in dissenting views, however mild, a kind of affront, an invitation to mortal combat.

~Ian Mcewan

There are ways in which art can have a longer reach than politics.

~Ian Mcewan

No one knows anything, really. It's all rented, or borrowed.

~Ian Mcewan

What was it with men, that they found elementary logic so difficult?

~Ian Mcewan

She returned his gaze, struck by the sense of her own transformation, and overwhelmed by the beauty which a lifetime habit had taught her to ignore.

~Ian Mcewan

Novels help us to resist the temptation to think of the past as deficient.

~Ian Mcewan

Now, I'm an atheist. I really don't believe for a moment that our moral sense comes from a god.

~Ian Mcewan

He had never before felt so self-consciously young, nor experienced such appetite, such impatience for the story to begin.

~Ian Mcewan

In that shrinking moment he discovered that he had never hated anyone until now. It was a feeling as pure as love, but dispassionate and icily rational.

~Ian Mcewan

How easily this unthinking family love was forgotten.

~Ian Mcewan

...the world she ran through loved her and would give her what she wanted and would let it happen.

~Ian Mcewan

I'm quite good at not writing.

~Ian Mcewan

I don't believe there's any inherent darkness at the center of religion at all. I think religion actually is a morally neutral force.

~Ian Mcewan

She sleepwalked from moment to moment, and whole months slipped by without memory, without bearing the faintest imprint of her conscious will.

~Ian Mcewan

No emergency was ever dealt with effectively by democratic process.

~Ian Mcewan

The evasions of her little novel were exactly those of her life. Everything she did not wish to confront was also missing from her novella--and was necessary to it.

~Ian Mcewan

No one knew about the squirrel's skull beneath Briony bed, but no one wanted to know.

~Ian Mcewan

I'm sorry to say that far worse things have happened and the literature of the Holocaust is a witness to the capacity of the novel as a form.

~Ian Mcewan

When people ask, "Is there any advice you'd give a young writer?," I say write short stories. They afford lots of failure. Pastiche is a great way to start.

~Ian Mcewan

Could it ever be explained, how matter becomes conscious?

~Ian Mcewan

Oblivion seemed the only reasonable option.

~Ian Mcewan

When people have supernatural beliefs I think they should be respected but there is no reason why they need to impose them on others.

~Ian Mcewan

Dying in unfamiliar surroundings miles away from home, it cannot possibly be good. There is a great sadness about that I think.

~Ian Mcewan

What is it precisely, that feeling of 'returning' from a poem? Something is lighter, softer, larger - then it fades, but never completely.

~Ian Mcewan

Shall there be womanly times? Or shall we die?

~Ian Mcewan

I like to think that each book I start is a completely new departure But I've learned that whatever you do, readers will have no difficulty assimilating it into what you've done before.

~Ian Mcewan

It troubles him to consider the powerful currents and fine-tuning that alter fate, the close and distant influences, the accidents of character and circumstance.

~Ian Mcewan

He would work through the night and sleep until lunch. There wasn't really much else to do. Make something, and die.

~Ian Mcewan

Especially difficult when the first and best unconscious move of a dedicated liar is to persuade himself he's sincere. And once he's sincere, all deception vanishes.

~Ian Mcewan

I was the basest of readers. All I wanted was my own world, and myself in it, given back to me in artful shapes and accessible form.

~Ian Mcewan

Briony began to understand the chasm that lay between an idea and its execution.

~Ian Mcewan

Above all, she wanted to look as though she had not given the matter a moment's thought, and that would take time.

~Ian Mcewan

Related Links:

- Thinking Quotes
- People Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- Self Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- Simple Quotes
- Children Quotes
- Reading Quotes
- Littles Quotes
- Years Quotes
- Men Quotes
- Novelists Quotes
- Views Quotes
- World Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Imagination Quotes
- Fall Quotes
- Stories Quotes
- Lying Quotes
- Art Quotes