

Janet Frame Quotes

*Writing, Land, Thinking, Dream, Light, World, Character, Memories, Fall, Men,
Discovery, Mean, Giving, Past, Journey, People, Freedom, Morning, Needs,
Oneself*

I have discovered that my freedom is within me, and nothing can destroy it.

~Janet Frame

Writing a novel is not merely going on a shopping expedition across the border to an unreal land: it is hours and years spent in the factories, the streets, the cathedrals of the imagination.

~Janet Frame

For in spite of the snapdragons and the duty millers and the cherry blossoms, it was always winter.

~Janet Frame

I am not really a writer. I am just someone who is haunted, and I will write the hauntings down.

~Janet Frame

For your own good is a persuasive argument that will eventually make a man agree to his own destruction.

~Janet Frame

Very often the law of extremity demands an attention to irrelevance.

~Janet Frame

It would be nice to travel if you knew where you were going and where you would live at the end or do we ever know, do we ever live where we live, we're always in other places, lost, like sheep.

~Janet Frame

There is no past or future. Using tenses to divide time is like making chalk marks on water.

~Janet Frame

Life is hell, but at least there are prizes. Or so one thought.

~Janet Frame

So we went to bed, assaulted by sleep that fumed at us from medicine glasses, or was wielded from small sweet-coated tablets -- dainty bricks of dream wrapped in the silk stockings of oblivion.

~Janet Frame

I like to see life with its teeth out.

~Janet Frame

I don't wish to inhabit the human world under false pretences.

~Janet Frame

...there must be an inviolate place where the choices and decisions, however imperfect, are the writer's own, where the decision must be as individual and solitary as birth or death.

~Janet Frame

Electricity, the peril the wind sings to in the wires on a gray day.

~Janet Frame

Everything is always a story, but the loveliest ones are those that get written and are not torn up and are taken to a friend as payment for listening, for putting a wise keyhole to the ear of my mind

~Janet Frame

I must go down to the seas again to find where I buried the hatchet with Yesterday.

~Janet Frame

Divisions of the kind were fashionable at that time, and it was so easy to stifle one's need to help by deciding that help could neither be accepted nor understood.

~Janet Frame

They think I'm going to be a schoolteacher but I'm going to be a poet.

~Janet Frame

Death is a dramatic accomplishment of absence; language may be almost as effective.

~Janet Frame

It is always hard to believe that the will to change something does not produce an immediate change.

~Janet Frame

when I first began this diary I said I would give a record of my inner life. I begin to wonder if I have said anything about my inner life. What if I have no inner life?

~Janet Frame

Writing an autobiography, usually thought of as a looking back, can just as well be a looking across or through, with the passing of time giving an X-ray quality to the eye.

~Janet Frame

Timmy, who made a daring escape, also made a mistake of paying the taxi driver with a check made out of toilet paper.

~Janet Frame

Much of living is an attempt to preserve oneself by annexing and occupying others.

~Janet Frame

All writers are exiles wherever they live and their work is a lifelong journey towards the lost land.

~Janet Frame

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