

Jeanette Winterson

Quotes

*Book, Thinking, People, Heart, Literature, Writing, Past, Lying, World, Art, Love,
Want, Believe, Stories, Children, Light, Home, Way, Reading, Love Is*

I like to look at how people work together when they are put into stressful situations, when life stops being cozy.

~Jeanette Winterson

Art can make a difference because it pulls people up short. It says, don't accept things for their face value; you don't have to go along with any of this; you can think for yourself.

~Jeanette Winterson

I don't know how to answer. I know what I think, but words in the head are like voices underwater. They are distorted.

~Jeanette Winterson

I felt like a seed in a pomegranate. Some say that the pomegranate was the real apple of Eve, fruit of the womb, I would eat my way into perdition to taste you.

~Jeanette Winterson

Happiness is a specific. Misery is a generalization. People usually know exactly why they are happy. They very rarely know why they are miserable.

~Jeanette Winterson

Quest is at the heart of what I do-the holy grail, and the terror that you'll never find it, seemed a perfect metaphor for life.

~Jeanette Winterson

I find pieces of myself everywhere, and I cut myself handling them.

~Jeanette Winterson

Do you fall in love often?" Yes often. With a view, with a book, with a dog, a cat, with numbers, with friends, with complete strangers, with nothing at all.

~Jeanette Winterson

I would eat my way into perdition to taste you.

~Jeanette Winterson

Life cannot be calculated. That's the big mistake our civilization made. We never accepted that randomness is not a mistake in the equation -- it is part of the equation.

~Jeanette Winterson

Everything in writing begins with language. Language begins with listening.

~Jeanette Winterson

The body can endure compromise and the mind can be seduced by it. Only the heart protests. The heart. Carbon-based primitive in a silicon world.

~Jeanette Winterson

I have a theory that every time you make an important choice, the part of you left behind continues the other life you could have had.

~Jeanette Winterson

Wherever love is, I want to be, I will follow it as surely as the land-locked salmon finds the sea.

~Jeanette Winterson

This hole in my heart is in the shape of you. No one else can fit it. Why would I want them to?

~Jeanette Winterson

To be ill adjusted to a deranged world is not a breakdown.

~Jeanette Winterson

The curious are always in some danger. If you are curious you might never come home.

~Jeanette Winterson

In the library I felt better, words you could trust and look at till you understood them, they couldn't change half way through a sentence like people, so it was easier to spot a lie.

~Jeanette Winterson

When I say 'I will be true to you' I am drawing a quiet space beyond the reach of other desires.

~Jeanette Winterson

The body shuts down when it has too much to bear; goes its own way quietly inside, waiting for a better time, leaving you numb and half alive.

~Jeanette Winterson

You don't get over it because 'it' is the person you loved.

~Jeanette Winterson

It is just as likely that as I invent what I want to say, you will invent what you want to hear.

~Jeanette Winterson

I didn't mind being unpopular at school, because everyone else was a heathen.

~Jeanette Winterson

I think heterosexuality and homosexuality are a kind of psychosis, and the truth is somewhere in the middle.

~Jeanette Winterson

One day, tens of millions of years from now, someone will find me rusted into the mud of a world they have never seen, and when they crumble me between their fingers, it will be you they find.

~Jeanette Winterson

Why is the measure of love loss?

~Jeanette Winterson

It's hard to remember that this day will never come again. That the time is now and the place is here and that there are no second chances at a single moment.

~Jeanette Winterson

If you continually write and read yourself as a fiction, you can change what's crushing you.

~Jeanette Winterson

Ordinary professionalism and 20 years' experience can accomplish a lot, but it can't access the hidden places.

~Jeanette Winterson

They say that every snowflake is different. If that were true, how could the world go on? How could we ever get up off our knees? How could we ever recover from the wonder of it?

~Jeanette Winterson

Confidence and superiority: It's the usual fundamentalist stuff: I've got the truth, and you haven't.

~Jeanette Winterson

Art saved me; it got me through my depression and self-loathing, back to a place of innocence.

~Jeanette Winterson

What you risk reveals what you value.

~Jeanette Winterson

He wrote on a piece of paper with his pencil. Psychosis: out of touch with reality. Since then, I have been trying to find out what reality is, so that I can touch it.

~Jeanette Winterson

We don't go to Shakespeare to find out about life in Elizabethan England; we go to Shakespeare to find out about ourselves now.

~Jeanette Winterson

I live alone, with cats, books, pictures, fresh vegetables to cook, the garden, the hens to feed.

~Jeanette Winterson

Book collecting is an obsession, an occupation, a disease, an addiction, a fascination, an absurdity, a fate. It is not a hobby. Those who do it must do it.

~Jeanette Winterson

I want someone who is fierce and will love me until death and knows that love is as strong as death, and be on my side forever and ever. I want someone who will destroy and be destroyed by me.

~Jeanette Winterson

Do it from the heart or not at all.

~Jeanette Winterson

Naked is the best disguise.

~Jeanette Winterson

Yes, the stories are dangerous, she was right. A book is a magic carpet that flies you off elsewhere. A book is a door. You open it. You step through. Do you come back?

~Jeanette Winterson

Life is so simple when you're just doing your job.

~Jeanette Winterson

..to change something you do not understand is the true nature of evil.

~Jeanette Winterson

Not much touches us, but we long to be touched. We lie awake at night willing the darkness to part and show us a vision.

~Jeanette Winterson

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. What then kills love? Only this: Neglect.

~Jeanette Winterson

But not all dark places need light, I have to remember that.

~Jeanette Winterson

After every "victory" you have more enemies.

~Jeanette Winterson

There is no discovery without risk and what you risk reveals what you value.

~Jeanette Winterson

I spin worlds where we could be together. I dream you. For me, imagination and desire are very close.

~Jeanette Winterson

I am a writer who happens to love women. I am not a lesbian who happens to write.

~Jeanette Winterson

I knew it like destiny, and at the same time, I knew it as choice.

~Jeanette Winterson

I don't understand why people talk of art as a luxury when it's a mind-altering possibility.

~Jeanette Winterson

It's the cliches that cause the trouble. A precise emotion seeks a precise expression.

~Jeanette Winterson

unhappy families are conspiracies of silence. The one who breaks the silence is never forgiven.

~Jeanette Winterson

I'm always nervous about going home, just as I am nervous about rereading books that have meant a lot to me.

~Jeanette Winterson

The mind will not believe in death, perhaps because, as far as the mind is concerned, death never happens.

~Jeanette Winterson

The continuous narrative of existence is a lie. There is no continuous narrative, there are lit-up moments, and the rest is dark.

~Jeanette Winterson

With animal behavior, they're all fine until you introduce some rogue element into the cage, and then they go crazy.

~Jeanette Winterson

You play, you win, you play, you lose. You play. It's the playing that's irresistible. Dicing from one year to the next with the things you love, what you risk reveals what you value.

~Jeanette Winterson

Somewhere between fear and sex passion is.

~Jeanette Winterson

I believe in communication; books communicate ideas and make bridges between people.

~Jeanette Winterson

Gambling is not a vice, it is an expression of our humanness. We gamble. Some do it at the gaming table, some do not. You play, you win, you play, you lose. You play.

~Jeanette Winterson

If people aren't educated, they can't question. If they can't question, they can't change anything, which is great for the status quo and all the people who can question them at their own level.

~Jeanette Winterson

When I look at my life I realise that the mistakes I have made, the things I really regret, were not errors of judgement but failures of feeling.

~Jeanette Winterson

The rebellion of art is a daily rebellion against the state of living death routinely called real life.

~Jeanette Winterson

One room is always enough for one person. Two rooms is not enough for two people. That is one of the conundrums in life.

~Jeanette Winterson

I hated historical novels with fluttering cloaks.

~Jeanette Winterson

Anything outside marriage seems like freedom and excitement.

~Jeanette Winterson

The work that lasts over time is the work which still speaks to us when all contemporary interest in that work is extinct.

~Jeanette Winterson

[Fiction and poetry] are medicines, they're doses, and they heal the rupture that reality makes on the imagination.

~Jeanette Winterson

She must find a boat and sail in it. No guarantee of shore. Only a conviction that what she wanted could exist, if she dared to find it.

~Jeanette Winterson

Writers have to have a knack for listening. I need to be able to hear what is being said to me by the voices I create.

~Jeanette Winterson

I think it would be very foolish not to take the irrational seriously.

~Jeanette Winterson

We are told not to privilege one story above another. All the stories must be told. Well, maybe that's true, maybe all stories are worth hearing, but not all stories are worth telling.

~Jeanette Winterson

I would rather have regrets of excess than regrets of denial.

~Jeanette Winterson

London is a small place, and it is very incestuous. People know where you live. Everybody is sort of on top of each other.

~Jeanette Winterson

Language is a finding place, not a hiding place.

~Jeanette Winterson

...there are two kinds of writing: the one you write and the one that writes you.

~Jeanette Winterson

If you should leave me, my heart will turn to water and flood away.

~Jeanette Winterson

I've never been tempted by God but I like his trappings.

~Jeanette Winterson

I know I've had an unusual beginning and a colourful life, but that wouldn't matter if I couldn't make it speak to other people.

~Jeanette Winterson

What a strange world this is when you can have as much sex as you like but love is taboo.

~Jeanette Winterson

To create a past that seemed authentic but would be a fiction, you need an invented language.

~Jeanette Winterson

Nobody knows anything about Shakespeare the person. It's all legend, it is all rumor.

~Jeanette Winterson

I don't write for any group. I write to bring about a change in consciousness.

~Jeanette Winterson

I wanted to invent myself as a fictional character. And I did, and it has caused a great deal of confusion.

~Jeanette Winterson

It may be that you are settled in another place it may be that you are happy but the one who took your heart wields final power.

~Jeanette Winterson

Seeing one's books on the shelf tells you so much about the way somebody has, over the years, put together their private library, which is a reflection of their minds and their selves.

~Jeanette Winterson

Part fact part fiction is what life is. And it is always a cover story. I wrote my way out.

~Jeanette Winterson

I dreamed I was a single moment in a single day. A note struck and vanished. A sounding. A reckoning. Gone.

~Jeanette Winterson

Age is information failure. The body loses fluency.

~Jeanette Winterson

History is not a suicide note -- it is a record of our survival.

~Jeanette Winterson

In the heat of her hands I thought, This is the campfire that mocks the sun.

~Jeanette Winterson

The probability of separate worlds meeting is very small. The lure of it is immense. We send starships. We fall in love.

~Jeanette Winterson

In the space between chaos and shape there was another chance.

~Jeanette Winterson

My books always begin with a sentence and an image - not necessarily connected.

~Jeanette Winterson

If we had the courage to love we would not so value these acts of war.

~Jeanette Winterson

I write about sex because often it feels like the most important thing in the world.

~Jeanette Winterson

Happy Valentines Day to those who have found love, in whatever shape or form, and to those who are still hunting, don't give up. If you feel bad, send yourself a card. You must be worth it.

~Jeanette Winterson

I think people deceive themselves about themselves, particularly as they get older.

~Jeanette Winterson

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