

Jeffrey Eugenides

Quotes

Writing, Girl, People, Book, Suicide, Character, Thinking, Virgin Suicides, Years, Memories, Reading, Heart, Two, Real, World, Depression, Long, Believe, Mean, House

We knew, finally, that the girls were really women in disguise, that they understood love and even death, and that our job was merely to create the noise that seemed to fascinate them.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Biology gives you a brain. Life turns it into a mind.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

When I wrote *The Virgin Suicides*, I gave myself very strict rules about the narrative voice: the boys would only be able to report what they had seen or found or what had been told to them.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Basically what we have here is a dreamer. Somebody out of touch with reality. When she jumped, she probably thought she'd fly

~Jeffrey Eugenides

It was one of those humid days when the atmosphere gets confused. Sitting on the porch, you could feel it: the air wishing it was water.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

In the end, the tortures tearing the Lisbon girls pointed to a simple reasoned refusal to accept the world as it was handed down to them, so full of flaws.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Depression is like a bruise that never goes away. A bruise in your mind. You just got to be careful not to touch it where it hurts. It's always there, though.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

You never get over it, but you get to where it doesn't bother you so much.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

It was like autumn, looking at her. it was like driving up north to see the colors.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

She held herself very straight, like Audrey Hepburn, whom all women idolize and men never think about.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

She may have looked normal on the outside, but once you'd seen her handwriting you knew she was deliciously complicated inside.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

There are some books that reached through the noise of life to grab you by the collar and speak only of the truest things.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

our job was merely to create the noise that seemed to fascinate them.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

We couldn't imagine the emptiness of a creature who put a razor to her wrists and opened her veins, the emptiness and the calm.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

In the end we had the pieces of the puzzle, but no matter how we put them together, gaps remained, oddly shaped emptinesses mapped by what surrounded them, like countries we couldn't name.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

The trees like lungs filling with air. My sister, the mean one, pulling my hair.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

What are you doing here, honey? You're not even old enough to know how bad life gets." (...) "Obviously, Doctor," she said, "you've never

been a thirteen-year-old girl.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

The zipper opened all the way down our spines.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

She wanted a book to take her places she couldn't get to herself.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

There comes a moment, when you get lost in the woods, when the woods begin to feel like home.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Heartbreak is funny to everyone but the heartbroken.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

It was possible to feel superior to other people and feel like a misfit at the same time.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

It took courage to let things fall apart so beautifully.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Can you see me? All of me? Probably not. No one ever really has.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

She thought a writer should work harder writing a book than she did reading it.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

The essential matrimonial facts: that to be happy you have to find variety in repetition; that to go forward you have to come back to where you begin.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

In the end, it wasn't death that surprised her but the stubbornness of life.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Everyone struggles against despair, but it always wins in the end. It has to. It's the thing that lets us say goodbye.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

What I do when I create a character is put in details from all the people I know who might be like that person, and then put in a huge amount of myself.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

I live my own life and nurse my own wounds. It's not the best way to live. But it's the way I am.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Don't waste your time on life.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

To be inclusive you must accommodate different levels of sophistication.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

I'm hopefully making the reader feel a lot about the characters and then about their own life.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

I don't know what you're feeling, I won't even pretend

~Jeffrey Eugenides

All wisdom ends in paradox.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

I have a lot of novels that I haven't finished. I usually get 150 pages in and I realize it's not going anywhere. I don't publish everything I write. I must have six unfinished novels at least.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

The time has to be right and the heart willing.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

You can tell when something's not moving forward anymore. When the doubts you have about it don't go away.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

You don't understand me. I'm a teenager. I've got problems!

~Jeffrey Eugenides

I always work in a room where there's no Internet to keep from being distracted so easily.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

The Pulitzer Prize is an idea; it's a vote of confidence. Like literature, it exists purely in the mind.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

and she had succeeded, on the second try, in hurling herself out of the world

~Jeffrey Eugenides

I spend most of every day writing. I like to write every day if I can. I don't start extremely early.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

it's amazing what you can get used to.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

But in the end it wasn't up to me. The big things never are. Birth, I mean, and death. And love. And what love bequeaths to us before we're born.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Pregnancy humbles husbands. After an initial rush of male pride they quickly recognise the minor role that nature had assigned them in the drama of reproduction.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

There was nowhere I could go that wouldn't be you.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

I was born twice: first, as a baby girl, on a remarkably smogless Detroit day in January of 1960; and then again, as a teenage boy, in an emergency room near Petoskey, Michigan, in August of 1974.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

On their best days, writers all over the world are winning Pulitzers, all alone in their studios, with no one watching.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

I'd like to show how 'intimations of mortality brought on by aging family members' connects with 'the hatred of mirrors that begins in middle age.'

~Jeffrey Eugenides

She'd become an English major for the purest and dullest of reasons: because she loved to read.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Household objects lost meaning. A bedside clock became a hunk of molded plastic, telling something called time, in a world marking its passage for some reason.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Usually my ideas are small.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Capitalism has resulted in material well-being but spiritual bankruptcy.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

We knew that Cecilia had killed herself because she was a misfit, because the beyond called to her, and we knew that her sisters, once abandoned, felt her calling from that place, too.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

The world, a tired performer, offers us another half-assed season.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

We realized that the version of the world they rendered for us was not the version of the world they really believed in.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

It was something every child knew how to do, maintain a direct and full connection with the world. Somehow you forgot about it as you grew up, and had to learn it again.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

The seeds of death get lost in the mess that God made us.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

During a warm winter rain ... the basins of her collarbones collected water.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

The window was still open. • Mr Lisbon said. • I don't think we'd ever remembered to shut it. It was all clear to me. I knew I had to close

it or else she'd go on jumping out of it forever

~Jeffrey Eugenides

It was amazing how it worked: the tiniest bit of truth made credible the greatest lies.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

People don't save other people. People save themselves.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

The girls took into their own hands decisions better left to God. They became too powerful to live among us, too self-concerned, too visionary, too blind.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

That's the way I will write characters, put a fair amount of myself in them, and then everyone else who was like that person, I will pick and choose.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

But, like anyone in love, Madeleine believed that her own relationship was different from every other relationship, immune from typical problems.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Just like ice, lives crack, too. Personalities. Identities.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Grief is natural,' she said. 'Overcoming it is a matter of choice.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Her eyes watered and she was a foot taller than any of her sisters, mostly because of the length of her neck which would one day hang from the end of a rope

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Lux spent the ride dialing the radio for her favorite song. "It makes me crazy," she said. "You know they're playing it somewhere, but you have to find it."

~Jeffrey Eugenides

So do boys and men announce their intentions. They cover you like a sarcophagus lid. And call it love.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

If Mitchell was ever going to become a good Christian, he would have to stop disliking people so intensely.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Being a writer is a solitary life. So the little part of me that's an actor still enjoys the theatrical part of reading and doing the voices and telling the story.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

There's a kind of acting that goes on in my head when I'm writing a character where I put myself in their place.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

I wanted to be an actor. My parents were not too keen on that.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Detroit's a great music town. If your interaction with it was mainly musical, I'm sure you have a good opinion of the place.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Normality wasn't normal. It couldn't be. If normality were normal, everybody could leave it alone. They could sit back and let normality manifest itself.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

College wasn't like the real world. In the real world people dropped names based on their renown. In college, people dropped names based on their obscurity.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

The only way we know it's true is that we both dreamed it. That's what reality is. It's a dream everyone has together.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Whenever we got a glimpse, their faces looked indecently revealed, as though we were used to seeing women in veils.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

He knew a lot about his grandparents - and perhaps he feels he's been endowed with abilities to go into people's heads who are long dead - but, to a certain extent, he's making it up.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Their desire was silent yet magnificent, like a thousand daisies attuning their faces toward the path of the sun.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

It was morning by the clock but deepest nighttime in his body.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

He remained heartbroken, which meant one of two things: either his love was pure and true and earthshakingly significant; or he was addicted to feeling forlorn, he liked being heartbroken.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

They were bound for college, husbands, child-rearing, unhappiness only dimly perceived- bound, in other words, for life.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Maybe the best proof that the language is patriarchal is that it oversimplifies feeling.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

If you talk to geneticists they are constantly finding that your genes are being switched on and off because of the environment. Genes alone do not determine an exact path in your life.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

But I care about the reader, and I'm trying to keep the reader's attention for as long as I can.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

The worst thing about religion was religious people.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

I think the suicides in my first book came from the idea of growing up in Detroit. If you grow up in a city like that you feel everything is perishing, evanescent and going away very quickly.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

One of the reasons that art is important to me is sometimes it actually feels more coherent than life. It orders the chaos.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

I've never had the right words to describe my life, and now that I've entered my story, I need them more than ever.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

There is a small window of opportunity for freckled girls to tan.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

It's often said that a traumatic experience early in life marks a person forever, pulls her out of line, saying, "Stay there. Don't move.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

The mind self-edits. The mind airbrushes. It's a different thing to be inside a body than outside. From outside, you can look, inspect, compare. From inside there is no comparison.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Dieting fooled you into thinking you could control your life.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

They're just memories now. Time to write them off.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

Winter is the season of alcoholism and despair.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

She was a large, disordered woman, like a child's drawing that didn't stay within the lines.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

We listened to them, but it was clear they'd received too much therapy to know the truth.

~Jeffrey Eugenides

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