

# Jennifer Egan Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, People, Real, Girl, Years, Reading, Song, Ideas, Way, Two,  
Looks, Past, Want, Men, Technology, Hair, Trying, Mother, Teenage*

I was a stepchild in two different families. The hardest thing about being a stepchild is you know that in some way everything would be easier if you didn't exist.

~Jennifer Egan

If I had a view like this to look down on every day, I would have the energy and inspiration to conquer the world. The trouble is, when you most need such a view, no one gives it to you.

~Jennifer Egan

Read at the level at which you want to write. Reading is the nourishment that feeds the kind of writing you want to do.

~Jennifer Egan

'Goon Squad' took about three years to write and that's the short end. My second novel, 'Look at Me,' took six years.

~Jennifer Egan

I don't want to fade away, I want to flame away - I want my death to be an attraction, a spectacle, a mystery. A work of art.

~Jennifer Egan

Because you can't write habitually and well all the time, you have to be willing to write badly. That's how you get the regularity that enables you to be present for the good stuff.

~Jennifer Egan

Reading is the nourishment that lets you do interesting work.

~Jennifer Egan

"I'm always happy," Sasha said. "Sometimes I just forget.

~Jennifer Egan

The answers were maddeningly absent—it was like trying to

remember a song that you knew made you feel a certain way, without a title, artist, or even a few bars to bring it back.

~Jennifer Egan

Vinegar: that's what fear smells like.

~Jennifer Egan

I think ethical ambivalence is a kind of inoculation, a way of excusing yourself in advance for something you actually want to do. No offense.

~Jennifer Egan

Her only thought was of getting away, as if she were carrying a live grenade from inside the house, so that when it exploded, it would destroy just herself.

~Jennifer Egan

There are so many ways to go wrong. All we've got are metaphors, and they're never exactly right. You can never just Say. The. Thing.

~Jennifer Egan

Sure, everything is ending," Jules said, "but not yet.

~Jennifer Egan

We lie. That's what we do. You're selling me a line of bullshit and you want me to sell you a line of bullshit back so you can write a major line of bullshit and be paid for it.

~Jennifer Egan

Sometimes I imagine myself looking back on right now and I think like where will I be standing when I look back Will right now look like the beginning of a great life or... or what

~Jennifer Egan

The music industry is an interesting lens through which to look at

change, because it has had such a difficult time adjusting to the digital age.

~Jennifer Egan

Technology makes everyone feel old. A laptop is old after two years. Someone always has something newer. Everyone seems to feel obsolete now, even the young.

~Jennifer Egan

Structural dissatisfaction: Returning to circumstances that once pleased you, after having experienced a more thrilling or opulent way of life, and finding that you can no longer tolerate them.

~Jennifer Egan

I'm sorry and I believe in you and I'll always be near you, protecting you, and I will never leave you, I'll be curled around your heart for the rest of your life.

~Jennifer Egan

I haven't had writer's block. I think it's because my process involves writing very badly.

~Jennifer Egan

The world is full of shitheads, Rhea. Don't listen to themâ€”listen to me. And I know that Lou is one of those shitheads. But I listen.

~Jennifer Egan

The problem was precision, perfection; the problem was digitization, which sucked the life out of everything that got smeared through its microscopic mesh.

~Jennifer Egan

I'm like America â€• he said. Stephanie swung around to look at him unnerved. â€œWhat are you talking about â€• she said. â€œAre you

off your meds • "Our hands are dirty" Jules said.

~Jennifer Egan

And Alex understood that Scotty Hausmann did not exist. He was a word casing in human form: a shell whose essence has vanished.

~Jennifer Egan

Rich children are always blond, Jocelyn goes. It has to do with vitamins.

~Jennifer Egan

"See," Sasha muttered, eyeing the sun. "It's mine."

~Jennifer Egan

reach isn't describable in terms of cause and effect anymore: it's simultaneous.

~Jennifer Egan

What he needed was to find fifty more people like him, who had stopped being themselves without realizing it.

~Jennifer Egan

th blu nyt th stRs u can't c th hum tht nevr gOs awy

~Jennifer Egan

She looks like someone I want to know, or maybe even be.

~Jennifer Egan

I guess it's always romantic when two people fall in love.... Even if it turns out not to be real.

~Jennifer Egan

Everyone we've lost, we'll find. Or they'll find us.

~Jennifer Egan

I've never been that confident. I don't tend to think, swaggeringly, I'm going to ace this. It's just not who I am.

~Jennifer Egan

I think the one thing that's changed over time is that I've come to realise, as a fiction writer, the fact that I don't think it will work out, doesn't mean that it actually won't.

~Jennifer Egan

I don't really know where my ideas come from. I start with a time and a place. That's what I need to get started, and an intellectual question.

~Jennifer Egan

I'm a dogged person. I respond to adversity with a steely resistance.

~Jennifer Egan

One area I have a huge amount of trouble in is writing about myself. I get a heavy, almost depressed feeling.

~Jennifer Egan

...water laughing softly down a black stone wall.

~Jennifer Egan

It was the hat. He looked sweet in the hat. How could a man in a fuzzy blue hat have used human bones to pave his roads?

~Jennifer Egan

This is the music business. 'Five years is five hundred years' - your words.

~Jennifer Egan

Oh we'll know each other forever, Bix says. The days of losing touch are almost gone.

~Jennifer Egan

They were snobs or idiots or both...yet she was inexplicably crushed by their coldness.

~Jennifer Egan

I know I'm famous and irresistible - a combination whose properties closely resemble radioactivity - and I know that you in this room are helpless against me.

~Jennifer Egan

if thr r childrn thr mst be a fUtr rt?

~Jennifer Egan

We live in a moment and a culture when reading is really endangered. There's simply no way to write well, though, if you're not reading well.

~Jennifer Egan

Be willing and unafraid to write badly, because often the bad stuff...forms a base on which to build something better.

~Jennifer Egan

The bottom line is that I like my first drafts to be blind, unconscious, messy efforts; that's what gets me the best material.

~Jennifer Egan

That adage about 'Write what you know' is basically the opposite of the way I function. I write about what I'm curious to find out.

~Jennifer Egan

Redemption, transformation--God how she wanted these things. Every day, every minute. Didn't everyone?

~Jennifer Egan

It's turning out to be a bad day, a day when the sun feels like teeth.

~Jennifer Egan

It's finished. Everything went past, without me.

~Jennifer Egan

Real computers scared me; if you can find Them, then They can find you.

~Jennifer Egan

So I feel that lack of qualification. And I'm scared. And I have a tendency to think things may not/probably won't work out. That's my basic mindset.

~Jennifer Egan

No one is waiting for me. In this story, I'm the girl no one is waiting for.

~Jennifer Egan

Americans are less selfish than some of our politicians believe and will respond with reason and resilience to passionate clarity.

~Jennifer Egan

Time's a goon, right? You gonna let that goon push you around?â€•  
Scotty shook his head. â€œThe goon won.

~Jennifer Egan

She'd risked everything, and here was the result: the raw, warped core of her life.

~Jennifer Egan

I think, The world is actually huge. That's the part no one can really explain.

~Jennifer Egan

If you don't have people that the reader cares about and stories that are gripping, you've got nothing.

~Jennifer Egan



I had this idea that I could hire myself out as a person to go on archeological digs and dig, without any training! I actually wrote to a number of archeology departments and offered up my services.

~Jennifer Egan

I listened to classic rock and roll, and punk rock. 'Goon Squad' provides a pretty accurate playlist of my teenage years, though it leaves out 'The Who,' which was my absolute favorite band.

~Jennifer Egan

[I]t may be that a crowd at a particular moment of history creates the object to justify its gathering.

~Jennifer Egan

I am at my worst trying to write about things that overlap with my life.

~Jennifer Egan

And the question is, which one is really "you."

~Jennifer Egan

That we have some history together that hasn't happened yet.

~Jennifer Egan

There's a fine line between thinking about somebody and thinking about not thinking about somebody, but I have the patience and the self-control to walk that line for hours - days, if I have to.

~Jennifer Egan

Everybody sounds stoned, because they're e-mailing people the whole time they're talking to you.

~Jennifer Egan

Kathy was a Republican, one of those people who used the unforgivable phrase "meant to be"--usually when describing her own

good fortune or the disasters that had befallen other people.

~Jennifer Egan

Now that Scotty has entered the realm of myth, everyone wants to own him. And maybe they should. Doesn't a myth belong to everyone?

~Jennifer Egan

some mornings... I sit at the kitchen table shaking salt into the hairs on my arm, and a feeling shoves up in me: it's finished. Everything went past without me.

~Jennifer Egan

When does a fake Mohawk become a real Mohawk? Who decides? How do you know if it's happened?

~Jennifer Egan

But it was another girl, young and new to the city, fiddling with her keys.

~Jennifer Egan

Too clear, too clean. The problem was precision, perfection.

~Jennifer Egan

I can't tell if she's actually real, or if she's stopped caring if she's real or not. Or is not caring what makes a person real?

~Jennifer Egan

Kissing Mother Superior, incompetent, hairball, poppy seeds, on the can.

~Jennifer Egan

What I Suddenly Understand My job is to make people uncomfortable.  
+ I will do it all my life. ---> My mother, Sasha Blake, is my first victim.

~Jennifer Egan

a swell of gratitude and appreciation for his assistant, as opposed to the murderous rage he felt toward the rest of his staff

~Jennifer Egan

He looks tired, like someone walked on his skin and left footprints.

~Jennifer Egan

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