

# Jesmyn Ward

## Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, People, Character, Brother, Struggle, Past, Running, Book,  
Trying, Mean, Men, Moving, Mom, Mother, Grief, Fiction, Country, Spiritual,  
Black*

Grief doesn't fade. Grief scabs over like my scars and pulls into new, painful configurations as it knits. It hurts in new ways. We are never free from grief.

~Jesmyn Ward

By the numbers, by all the official records, here at the confluence of history, of racism, of poverty, and economic power, this is what our lives are worth: nothing.

~Jesmyn Ward

My father owned pit bulls when I was young. He sometimes fought them. My brother and a lot of the men in my community owned pit bulls as well: sometimes they fought them for honor, never for money.

~Jesmyn Ward

I wrote the first draft of my first novel at Michigan, and then I wrote the first draft of 'Salvage the Bones' at Stanford. So I workshopped the entire thing.

~Jesmyn Ward

While I've said that there are plenty of things I dislike about the South, I can be clear that there are things I love about the South.

~Jesmyn Ward

I wanted to be my own heroine.

~Jesmyn Ward

That's why I write fiction, because I want to write these stories that people will read and find universal.

~Jesmyn Ward

I think that I'm trying to hopefully change my children's ideas about what is possible, and about what is possible for them.

~Jesmyn Ward

I wanted to write about voodoo tradition that I feel has been very important to survival of black people here: people of the African diaspora, people of this region, and throughout the south.

~Jesmyn Ward

There is laughter, shrill calls. Everyone is flirting, saying in nudges and jokes and blushing what they would do in private

~Jesmyn Ward

I'm a failed poet. Reading poetry helps me to see the world differently, and I try to infuse my prose with figurative language, which goes against the trend in fiction.

~Jesmyn Ward

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