

# Jesse Ball Quotes

*Book, Ifs, Thinking, Believe, Ideas, Done, Confused, Trying, Easier, Pleasure,  
Might, Concepts, Important, Needs, Different, Would Be, Persons, Want,  
Writing, Reason*

If he acts, if he doesn't, it's meaningless. The whole thing goes forward. No one is important. No one at all.

~Jesse Ball

Not that believing such things has anything to do with whether they are true. You see that, don't you?

~Jesse Ball

I'm an elephant today. I will need to have lots of room and also a bowl of water on the floor.

~Jesse Ball

I believe in discovering the love that exists and then trying to understand it. Not to invent a love and try to make it exist, but to find what does exist, and then to see what it is.

~Jesse Ball

Sunday was always the best of days for being the self you had intended to be, but were not, for one reason or another.

~Jesse Ball

I believe my friends think I'm funny. All the books are full of humor. Maybe it is a quiet sort of humor that masquerades as not-much-at-all. It is certainly easy to miss.

~Jesse Ball

I like small books. I like durable books. I like plain books. I like small type and thin pages.

~Jesse Ball

I don't read books for pleasure, but in desperation.

~Jesse Ball

We tire differently if we love or love not.

~Jesse Ball

I'm confused, and brilliant books help me to be less so.

~Jesse Ball

That would be the death of anyone - to recognize false hopes with a certainty. One mustn't know that. If it is offered, refuse!

~Jesse Ball

The old man began to sing. His voice was very lovely and obviously a part of something that the world had disposed of in its haste, evidence of a grander, kinder past.

~Jesse Ball

I have a very basic notion of the structure the book might have - that's mostly it. The rest is luck and happenstance.

~Jesse Ball

It is at the heart of our human enterprise, that is to say, at the heart of society, to allow consensus a power it ought not to have.

~Jesse Ball

This is what we bear, I thought, the nearness of other lives.

~Jesse Ball

Different times and different structures make more sense at one point in life than at another.

~Jesse Ball

The books turn out to be about things afterwards. I don't go into them with concepts, for the most part.

~Jesse Ball

I have a different purpose in writing each novel. Some of them seem

more similar than others, but the purposes are always different.

~Jesse Ball

I want to say less, and it's easier to say less.

~Jesse Ball

A person always has a chance to protest this or that.

~Jesse Ball

Clarity is the most important thing to me - in thinking - and so I try in the books to be as clear as possible.

~Jesse Ball

Much of my work has been done in first person.

~Jesse Ball

I begin with an image of some sort, just as if you saw something out of a window, and then went to the window to see what it was.

~Jesse Ball

I am clearer in my mind and a bit less confused than I used to be.

~Jesse Ball

I'm clearer now in what I want to say, and I know better how to say just that.

~Jesse Ball

I'd say writing is easier for me now than it once was, but I do less of it.

~Jesse Ball

A beginning idea for a book might be: a boy emerges from a hole in the ground. He enters a house. The book will take place in the first ten minutes following his arrival.

~Jesse Ball

I don't start with an idea or concept in the sense that I flesh out an idea or concept and set it at the center of something.

~Jesse Ball

A book can just be a description of a stick being snapped in half. If the reader is brought to feel the plight of the stick, well, you can imagine what that would be like.

~Jesse Ball

I don't think anything needs to happen in a book.

~Jesse Ball

Americans are genuinely and profoundly anti-intellectual. They are especially so in their pleasure-seeking, which is epically banal.

~Jesse Ball

If Americans are to read something that is difficult, they will only do so supposing they will be admired for having done it.

~Jesse Ball

As far as ideas about book design: I have plenty. But I also try and let people do their jobs.

~Jesse Ball

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