

Jonathan Coe

Quotes

*Book, Writing, People, Country, Sides, Political, Thinking, Fall, Ideas, Littles,
Wife, Rain, Real, Talent, Two, Subjectivity, Years, Guy, Objectivity, Human
Beings*

I like the rain before it falls. of course there is no such thing, she said. That's why it's my favorite. Something can still make you happy, can't it, even if it isn't real.

~Jonathan Coe

I'm one of those unlucky people who had a happy childhood.

~Jonathan Coe

The writer I feel the most affinity with - you said you felt my books are 19th century novels, I think they're 18th century novels - is Fielding, Henry Fielding, he's the guy who does it for me.

~Jonathan Coe

Objectivity is just male subjectivity.

~Jonathan Coe

Writers never feel comfortable having labels attached to them, however accurate they are.

~Jonathan Coe

You would go mad if you began to speculate about the impact your novel might have while you were still writing it.

~Jonathan Coe

Contemporary Britain seems an endlessly fascinating place to me - but if I knew a little bit more about other places, and other times, maybe it wouldn't.

~Jonathan Coe

But I have always - ever since *The Accidental Woman* - written novels about individuals attempting to make choices in the context of situations over which they have no control.

~Jonathan Coe

The more melancholy side of my literary personality is much in tune with BS Johnson's.

~Jonathan Coe

Some people don't realize that a straight 'No' can be the kindest answer in the world.

~Jonathan Coe

Ah, well, I have no talent for nonfiction, that's my problem.

~Jonathan Coe

For many weeks after [my wife] died, I could not get used to the feeling of coldness and lifelessness on her side of the bed - and it was even worse when they took the body away and buried her.

~Jonathan Coe

I have two ideas for novels at the moment, neither of them all that conventional, but I'm not ready to choose between them yet, let alone settle down to the process of writing.

~Jonathan Coe

My only regret is that I signed away the world rights and in America they've been far and away my most successful books, but I never saw a cent from any of it.

~Jonathan Coe

As I said, I had no publisher for *What a Carve Up!* while I was writing it, so all we had to live off was my wife's money and little bits I was picking up for journalism.

~Jonathan Coe

Thatcherism has become bigger than she ever was.

~Jonathan Coe

As soon as you start writing about how human beings interact with each other socially, you're into politics, aren't you?

~Jonathan Coe

I like the idea of a big caesura between the narratives, a space which readers can fill in with their own speculative history.

~Jonathan Coe

Well, I like the rain before it falls.

~Jonathan Coe

It seems to me that you would have to write a novel on a very small, intimate scale for it not to become political.

~Jonathan Coe

I had no sense of any reputation that *What a Carve Up!* might acquire - at the time I didn't even have a publisher, so my main worry was whether it was even going to see the light of day or not.

~Jonathan Coe

But at the same time, I have trouble keeping things out of books, which is why I don't write short stories because they turn into novels.

~Jonathan Coe

But you can try to read books at the wrong time or for the wrong reasons.

~Jonathan Coe

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