

# Joy Williams

## Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, Animal, Beautiful, Dream, Believe, Dark, Doe, Eye, Enough,  
Who Cares, Can Do, Wanderers, Tired, Inspiration, Morning, Drunk, Today,  
Grace, Ordinary*

Of course there is nothing that cannot be done incorrectly.

~Joy Williams

A writer loves the dark, loves it, but is always fumbling around in the light.

~Joy Williams

You must stop worrying about why things happen and wonder what they mean when they do.

~Joy Williams

The story knows itself better than the writer does at some point, knows what's being said before the writer figures out how to say it.

~Joy Williams

Nothing we do is inevitable, but everything we do is irreversible.

~Joy Williams

Why does the writer write? The writer writes to serve--hopeless ly he writes in the hope that he might serve--not himself and not others, but that great cold elemental grace that knows us.

~Joy Williams

Words at night were feral things.

~Joy Williams

There is something unwholesome and destructive about the entire writing process.

~Joy Williams

One writes to find words' meanings.

~Joy Williams

There is a certain type of conversation one hears only when one is

drunk and it is like a dream, full of humor and threat and significance, deep significance.

~Joy Williams

But who knows what good might come from the least of us? From the bones of old horses is made the most beautiful Prussian Blue.

~Joy Williams

A writer starts out, I think, wanting to be a transfiguring agent, and ends up usually just making contact, contact with other human beings. This, unsurprisingly, is not enough.

~Joy Williams

Writers are like eremites or anchorites - natural-born eremites or anchorites - who seem puzzled as to why they went up the pole or into the cave in the first place.

~Joy Williams

I believe in guilt. There's not enough guilt around these days for my taste.

~Joy Williams

Good writing never soothes or comforts. It is no prescription, neither is it diversionary, although it can and should enchant while it explodes in the reader's face.

~Joy Williams

Many writers today are wanderers. There is not only an unhousedness in language - how to convey, to say nothing of converge - but an unhousedness of place.

~Joy Williams

Writers end up writing stories-or rather, stories' shadows-and they're grateful if they can, but it is not enough. Nothing the writer can do is

ever enough

~Joy Williams

As you grow older, you'll find that you enjoy talking to strangers far more than to your friends.

~Joy Williams

I think the writer has to be responsible to signs and dreams. If you don't do anything with it, you lose it.

~Joy Williams

A side benefit of the new and developing technologies is that soon we won't have to feel guilty about the suffering and denigration of the animals because we will have made them up.

~Joy Williams

One is always enthralled, I think, when a young writer you're just beginning to read and comprehend dies.

~Joy Williams

Writers when they're writing live in a spooky, clamorous silence, a state somewhat like the advanced stages of prayer but without prayer's calming benefits.

~Joy Williams

Nothing the writer can do is ever enough.

~Joy Williams

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