

# Julianna Baggott

## Quotes

*Writing, Want, Character, Stories, Knows, Giving, Men, Catholic, Believe, Love  
Is, Real, Genre, Lying, Children, Book, Trying, Different, Years, Imagination,  
Way*

A good novel doesn't just transcend the boundaries of its target market - it knows nothing about target markets.

~Julianna Baggott

Sometimes the only way to fix a mistake- is to make it twice.

~Julianna Baggott

Love is a luxury. It's something that people are allowed to indulge in when they're not simply trying to survive and keep other people alive.

~Julianna Baggott

If you look at the world one way, it takes from you - it's a thief of time, energy, creative mojo. But if you look at the world another way, it gives you an endless supply of motivation.

~Julianna Baggott

Omission is a sin only if, in the process of deceiving, you forget the truth. Lying is a sin only if, in the process, the lie becomes the only truth.

~Julianna Baggott

The intricacy of plotting a thriller is akin to writing formal poetry.

~Julianna Baggott

Red Sox fans have been pushed to the brink over the years, but that's how faith grows stronger.

~Julianna Baggott

I want women writers to write boldly, wildly, deeply. I want them to feel really liberated to tell the brutal truth, however they see that truth and are moved to tell it.

~Julianna Baggott

I prefer a cluttered workspace.

~Julianna Baggott

The poem has to bear the weight with image, language... the screenplay with dialogue, plot.

~Julianna Baggott

I try not to divide plot and character. I get to know a character by what they want and fear and how those internal forces play out in their lives.

~Julianna Baggott

Some of the best work done to combat the Republicans has been wit and humor.

~Julianna Baggott

People know the difference between good and evil in their hearts-if they search them. Religions twist good and evil. Their differences are the kind that need to be taught because they aren't natural.

~Julianna Baggott

I prefer true over happy now.

~Julianna Baggott

I've never thought there was anything I could hope to get by praying for it.

~Julianna Baggott

I'm about to start something new. I'm waiting to bewhelmed. The whelming as you start something new is quite something.

~Julianna Baggott

Sometimes you meet someone and you know that your life will be different from then on.

~Julianna Baggott

Weakness, like not being able to bury the past. Weakness, like not giving up hope when you know you should.

~Julianna Baggott

My work is to know the characters intimately and to tell their story.

~Julianna Baggott

What does it mean to be Catholic and not a Catholic? I feel adrift, homeless. My Catholic imagination allows me to see the soul as a lit breath, seeking the divine. It persists.

~Julianna Baggott

But there it is: Everyone is alone, for life, and maybe that's not such a bad thing.

~Julianna Baggott

I have faith in human beings. I struggle with that faith.

~Julianna Baggott

Try to think of writing as a gift - more complexly put: it is the curse and the cure.

~Julianna Baggott

You learn to exploit genre for the more important things - to my mind - like story, character, image, language.

~Julianna Baggott

The generation of women who came before us did much of our shouting. They laid the groundwork and now we can be calm and constant and steady.

~Julianna Baggott

Literature has done great work for feminism - writing and reading are a practice of empathy - and great literature will continue to do so.

~Julianna Baggott

I don't know when I'm writing dark. I don't know when I'm writing funny or even heartbreaking. I'm always just trying to write it true.

~Julianna Baggott

The fact is there are many women who nod politely, even agree openly within their male-dominated often highly educated cultures, but vote their own minds.

~Julianna Baggott

Women are constantly underestimated in our power, our reach, our collective pull.

~Julianna Baggott

Writing stories is the habit of lying put to good use.

~Julianna Baggott

Basically if you burst into my office the walls themselves will flutter as if alive - maybe that's the reason for all the wings in 'Pure.

~Julianna Baggott

Don't shame the young for releasing their pent-up fear.

~Julianna Baggott

One of the reasons I write in different genres is that I get to have the feeling - even fleetingly - that I'm not just writing like Baggott again. I can escape myself.

~Julianna Baggott

I am deeply Catholic and always will be, but I'm no longer a member of the church. I left in 2003 because of the sex abuse scandal.

~Julianna Baggott

I write across genres so I see them, more often, as complementary instead of separated by boundaries.

~Julianna Baggott

I'm a woman, but I've been a sexist, too.

~Julianna Baggott

Different genres allow me to not feel so hemmed in by my own voice, tics, style.

~Julianna Baggott

If I'd learned nothing else, it was this: If you want to be a great writer, be a man. If you can't be a man, write like one.

~Julianna Baggott

No matter what losses happen in a given season, the Red Sox always have next year.

~Julianna Baggott

The basic rule of storytelling is 'show, don't tell.

~Julianna Baggott

When a colleague of mine had a notable New York Times book, I said, turn one of the chapters in the collection into a pitch for a novel and sell it to your publisher.

~Julianna Baggott

While I was in college becoming a good Catholic I was also becoming a writer - one haunted by Catholicism.

~Julianna Baggott

Writers aren't born properly labeled so it is hard to know one when one appears.

~Julianna Baggott

Writing is my obsession, my passion. My relationship with it is one of the most complex and agonizing and richly vexing that I have in my life.

~Julianna Baggott

I didn't start writing so that I could more deeply know myself. I was bored of myself, my life, my childhood, my hometown. I started writing as a way to know others, to get away from myself.

~Julianna Baggott

I want to keep looking at ways to stride forward with positivity.

~Julianna Baggott

My oldest sister was an actress living in NYC by the time I was ten, and desperately wanted to be the one in charge of the words.

~Julianna Baggott

Genres are just bottles for the various boats. The boats matter to me.

~Julianna Baggott

Writing across genres has made me more prolific. When one is fighting me or simply not cutting it, I turn to another.

~Julianna Baggott

Each genre has something to teach me about the others. Not all the lessons are transferable, but many of the most important ones are.

~Julianna Baggott

I don't have a favorite. I need different genres at different times.

~Julianna Baggott

Being cross-genre, you can encounter an image and decide not only how to best express it but what form would express it best.

~Julianna Baggott

Are there books about us or something?â€• This makes Pressia angry - the idea that this world is a subject of study, a story, instead of filled with real people, trying to survive.

~Julianna Baggott

I believe we're brutes, but then, miraculously, there are those among us who stand up against that brutishness and remind us of the goodness we're capable of.

~Julianna Baggott

Is it wrong to kill something that wants to kill you?

~Julianna Baggott

Our stories are what we have,â€• Our Good Mother says. â€œOur stories preserve us. we give them to one another. Our stories have value. Do you understand?

~Julianna Baggott

She knows that whispers can be useful. Sometimes they contain real information. But usually they're fairy tales and lies. This is the worst kind of whisper, the kind that draws you in, gives you hope.

~Julianna Baggott

I'm a writer of faith. I was raised Catholic, and I have a deeply Catholic imagination.

~Julianna Baggott

Beauty, you can find it here if you look hard enough.

~Julianna Baggott

Memories are like water.

~Julianna Baggott

So far, I should be calm and more specifically not like that...Anything



else? Would you like to do surgery on my personality? How about open-heart surgery? I've got some tools

~Julianna Baggott

I've left the Church - for many reasons that I've written about publicly - but it's still a large part of my identity, and I still have my faith, if not my Church.

~Julianna Baggott

Love is selfless, it is a weakness, a giving in, a constant falling.

~Julianna Baggott

Our love is our burden.

~Julianna Baggott

She glances back before stepping into the alley, and she catches her grandfather looking at her the way he does sometimes--as if she's already gone, as if he's practicing sorrow.

~Julianna Baggott

She let him go once. Every day demands that she release him over and over again.

~Julianna Baggott

I feel too much. It's like being drummed to death from within. You know?

~Julianna Baggott

The truth is that for those 86 long years when the Red Sox went without a World Series win, fans were not only in a recession, but trapped in a longstanding, deeply entrenched sports depression.

~Julianna Baggott

As a writer, my main objective is to tell the story urgently - as if

whispering it into one ear - and to know the characters intimately.

~Julianna Baggott

When you're in the world looking for only one thing, you find it or it finds you. The obsession can be mutual

~Julianna Baggott

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