

# Junot Diaz

## Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, People, Book, Men, World, Long, Kids, Real, Mean, Art, Stories, Way, Heart, Artist, Country, Years, Running, Character, Color*

But if these years have taught me anything it is this: you can never run away. Not ever. The only way out is in.

~Junot Diaz

Migration gives a blank cheque to put anything you don't feel like addressing in the memory hold. No neighbours can go against the monster narrative of your family.

~Junot Diaz

I don't think you can be from the Caribbean and not know a certain amount about the apocalypse.

~Junot Diaz

The whole culture is telling you to hurry, while the art tells you to take your time. Always listen to the art.

~Junot Diaz

If you didn't grow up like I did then you don't know, and if you don't know it's probably better you don't judge.

~Junot Diaz

In my view, a writer is a writer because even when there is no hope, even when nothing you do shows any sign of promise, you keep writing anyway.

~Junot Diaz

Sometimes you just have to try, even if you know it won't work.

~Junot Diaz

In order to write the book you want to write, in the end you have to become the person you need to become to write that book.

~Junot Diaz

She's applying her lipstick; I've always believed that the universe

invented the color red solely for Latinas.

~Junot Diaz

If you want to make a human being into a monster, deny them, at the cultural level any reflection of themselves

~Junot Diaz

We get these lives for free. I didn't do anything to get this life, and no matter what the hardships are, it is free and, in a way, it's an extraordinary bargain.

~Junot Diaz

Colleagues are a wonderful thing - but mentors, that's where the real work gets done.

~Junot Diaz

I think the average guy thinks they're pro-woman, just because they think they're a nice guy and someone has told them that they're awesome. But the truth is far from it.

~Junot Diaz

[Donald] Trump is taking America's dirty laundry to the center stage. Everything he does, the rest of the country already does really well: victimize immigrants, poor people, women.

~Junot Diaz

The anti-immigrant logic has basically saturated our world. I'm staying, and I'm fighting.

~Junot Diaz

Mine (story) ain't the scariest, the clearest, the most painful, or the most beautiful. It just happens to be the one that's got it's fingers around my throat.

~Junot Diaz

I'm like everybody else: weak, full of mistakes, but basically good.

~Junot Diaz

As expected: she, the daughter of the Fall, recipient of its heaviest radiation, loved atomically.

~Junot Diaz

She smelled like herself, like the wind through a tree.

~Junot Diaz

You can't regret the life you didn't lead.

~Junot Diaz

I look most like myself... when I'm wearing my black, nerdy engineering glasses.

~Junot Diaz

I never hear white writers get asked, 'Do you worry about how you represent white people?'

~Junot Diaz

Artists are not cheerleaders, and we're not the heads of tourism boards. We expose and discuss what is problematic, what is contradictory, what is hurtful and what is silenced in the culture we're in.

~Junot Diaz

And that's when I know it's over. As soon as you start thinking about the beginning, it's the end.

~Junot Diaz

I am a chatty person, but colossally discreet.

~Junot Diaz

For me it's a remarkable thing that there is a prize celebrating and

honouring and making for a brief moment short fiction the centre of the literary universe.

~Junot Diaz

She was the kind of girlfriend God gives you young, so you'll know loss the rest of your life.

~Junot Diaz

God bless perseverance. Because it's not easy.

~Junot Diaz

Stories are hard. I have friends who knock out stories on a weekly or monthly basis, like they're running on medicinal-strength Updike. But for me a story is as daunting a prospect as a novel.

~Junot Diaz

I know for a fact that - it's just the way our biases work now in the industry of literature, but certainly a short story collection does not receive the same kind of attention as a novel.

~Junot Diaz

I act most like myself... when I'm in my hometown, Santo Domingo. I try to get there about five times a year.

~Junot Diaz

I prefer the 1950s where people were like, "I'm a white supremacist, and that's who I am." Now people want to burn a cross on your lawn and call themselves not racists.

~Junot Diaz

Stereotypes, they're sensual, cultural weapons. That's the way that we attack people. At an artistic level, stereotypes are terrible writing.

~Junot Diaz

It's exactly at these moments, when all hope has vanished, that prayer has dominion.

~Junot Diaz

It's never the changes we want that change everything.

~Junot Diaz

Even if you didn't come from another country, the idea of how do you make a home somewhere new is common to anyone who's either going to college, shifting towns.

~Junot Diaz

When I got heartbroken at 20, it just felt like someone had spiraled a football right into my skull. At 40, it feels like someone had driven a 757 right through me.

~Junot Diaz

The idea that America has cornered the market on anti-immigration is ridiculous. It's a global phenomenon.

~Junot Diaz

The greatest myth of all is what America is. I think that America is such an incredibly dynamic place because of immigration.

~Junot Diaz

Success, after all, loves a witness, but failure can't exist without one.

~Junot Diaz

Here at last is her smile: burn it into your memory; you won't see it often.

~Junot Diaz

She would be a new person, she vowed. They said no matter how far a mule travels it can never come back a horse, but she would show them

all.

~Junot Diaz

Each morning, before Jackie started her studies, she wrote on a clean piece of paper: Tarde venientibus ossa. To the latecomers are left the bones.

~Junot Diaz

[The biggest disappointment is] that he [Barack Obama] deported everybody and their grandmother.

~Junot Diaz

A person doesn't mourn forever.

~Junot Diaz

I find reading to be a delight, a source of comfort, a way to explore.

~Junot Diaz

I sat down next to her. Took her hand. This can work, I said. All we have to do is try.

~Junot Diaz

If you really want a prize, or if you really want applause, you should try to write as many books as humanly possible.

~Junot Diaz

Every single immigrant we have, undocumented or documented, is a future American. That's just the truth of it.

~Junot Diaz

In the months that follow you bend to the work, because it feels like hope, like grace--and because you know in your lying cheater's heart that sometimes a start is all we ever get.

~Junot Diaz

'A Princess of Mars' may not have exerted the same colossal pull that Tarzan had on the global imagination, but its influence on generations of readers cannot be underestimated.

~Junot Diaz

Motherfuckers will read a book that's one third Elvish, but put two sentences in Spanish and they [white people] think we're taking over.

~Junot Diaz

The half-life of love is forever.

~Junot Diaz

This is what I know: people's hopes go on forever.

~Junot Diaz

I think men spend so much time passing for being men.

~Junot Diaz

And because love, real love, is not so easily shed.

~Junot Diaz

Beli at thirteen believed in love like a seventy-year-old widow who's been abandoned by family, husband, children and fortune believes in God.

~Junot Diaz

Sadness at being caught, at the incontrovertible knowledge that she will never forgive you.

~Junot Diaz

I think one of the paradoxes of writing fiction is when people enjoy it, they want it to be real. So they look for connections.

~Junot Diaz



Books don't live and die by awards. You don't listen to an Hector Lavoe album because it won some awards.

~Junot Diaz

The world should always be concerned whenever a vast human rights violation occurs anywhere on the planet.

~Junot Diaz

Once someone gets a little escape velocity going, ain't no play in the world that will keep them from leaving.

~Junot Diaz

Because I can't seem to escape it. It's a way for me to address and counter my questions about what it means to be human, or, in my case a Dominican human who grew up in New Jersey.

~Junot Diaz

You think people hate a fat person? Try a fat person who's trying to get thin.

~Junot Diaz

I am a person who dreads any kind of public exposure and any kind of public event. I spend all day, if I have to do a reading, preparing.

~Junot Diaz

...and when he thought about the way she laughed, as though she owned the air around her, his heart thundered inside his chest, a lonely rada.

~Junot Diaz

Technically, I split my time between N.Y.C. and Boston.

~Junot Diaz

I mean, the nation in which we live - and the world in which we live - is

so extraordinarily more like a future than the futures that we're being sold on the screen and on television.

~Junot Diaz

Spin is 'something is beautiful because we say it's beautiful.'

~Junot Diaz

If you, like, consciously think about being cool, you're not cool. If you consciously think about being, like, different or original, you ain't different or original.

~Junot Diaz

Nobody warned me that when you fall in love, you really fall in love forever.

~Junot Diaz

We all have a blind spot and it's shaped exactly like us.

~Junot Diaz

- Nothing else has any efficacy, I might as well be myself. - But your yourself sucks! - It is, lamentably, all I have.

~Junot Diaz

You know how it is when you get back with somebody you've loved. It felt better than it ever was, better than it ever could be again

~Junot Diaz

I wring my hands because I know that as a dude, my privilege, my long-term deficiencies work against me in writing women, no matter how hard I try and how talented I am.

~Junot Diaz

You don't want to let go, but don't want to be hurt, either. It's not a great place to be but what can I tell you?

~Junot Diaz

but back then, in those first days, I was so alone that every day was like eating my own heart.

~Junot Diaz

Personally I always feel like I could use a little more of poetry apothegmatic power in my own work but we're always lacking something.

~Junot Diaz

'Oscar Wao' for example cohered in a period of terrible distress. All the novels that I wanted to write were not happening.

~Junot Diaz

New Jersey for me is so alive with history. It's old, dynamic, African-American, Latino.

~Junot Diaz

We hide so well. This is the bottom line: how hidden is male subjectivity? Name five books where male subjectivity is produced in an honest way.

~Junot Diaz

When I read Toni Morrison and Sandra Cisneros as a freshman at Rutgers, it all clicked - that writing was all I wanted to do. It became my calling.

~Junot Diaz

I feel most like myself... after I run - I go out for five miles every morning.

~Junot Diaz

Nobody likes children, your mother assured you. That doesn't mean

you don't have them.

~Junot Diaz

Sucks to be left out of adolescence, sort of like getting locked in the closet on Venus when the sun appears for the first time in a hundred years.

~Junot Diaz

You keep waiting for the heaviness to leave you. You keep waiting for the moment you never think about the ex again. It doesn't come.

~Junot Diaz

I can't imagine anybody who ends up being an artist who didn't pass through a time of geekiness.

~Junot Diaz

She had reason to doubt him; he was real good at planning but real bad at doing.

~Junot Diaz

You were at the age where you could fall in love with a girl over an expression, over a gesture

~Junot Diaz

Literature is less involved in giving you answers and more dedicated to giving you insight.

~Junot Diaz

I always individuate myself from other writers who say they would die if they couldn't write. For me, I'd die if I couldn't read.

~Junot Diaz

Privilege does not operate without silence.

~Junot Diaz

Character is the plot in many ways

~Junot Diaz

As artists we are here to make you uncomfortable with the complexity of your reality.

~Junot Diaz

The only difference between a published and unpublished writer is a tolerance for imperfection.

~Junot Diaz

Love was a rare thing, easily confused with a million other things, and if anybody knew this to be true it was him.

~Junot Diaz

She's sensitive, too. Takes to hurt the way water takes to paper.

~Junot Diaz

The thoughts he put in her head. Someone should've arrested him for it.

~Junot Diaz

In minority communities there's a sensitivity, often a knee-jerk reaction, to critical representations. There's a misunderstanding of what an artist does.

~Junot Diaz

When I write, what I long for is not more realism or fiction but more courage. That's what I always find myself short on and what I have to struggle to achieve in order that the work might live.

~Junot Diaz

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