

Karen Russell

Quotes

*Thinking, Writing, Book, Stories, Dream, Fiction, Real, Kids, People, Reality,
Reading, Mean, Fall, Way, Florida, Kind, Lonely, Men, Madness, Mom*

The beginning of the end can feel a lot like the middle when you are living in it.

~Karen Russell

When you're a kid, it's hard to tell the innocuous secrets from the ones that will kill you if you keep them.

~Karen Russell

Fiction helps me to reconnect with the true, deep weirdness inherent in everyday reality, in our dealings with one another, in just being alive.

~Karen Russell

It was sad and fierce all at once, alive with a lonely purity.

~Karen Russell

My older sister has entire kingdoms inside of her, and some of them are only accessible at certain seasons, in certain kinds of weather.

~Karen Russell

I spent most of my 20s with these alligator wrestlers in the swamps of South Florida.

~Karen Russell

It is a special kind of homelessness to be evicted from your dreams.

~Karen Russell

Self-discipline is necessary, but so is playfulness, flexibility, joy. When you stop demanding perfection of yourself, your writing desk will become a spacious place.

~Karen Russell

There are certain prehistoric things that swim beyond extinction.

~Karen Russell

You small mortals don't realize the power of your stories.

~Karen Russell

I came to hate the complainers, with their dry and crumbly lipsticks and their wrinkled rage and their stupid, flaccid, old-people sun hats with brims the breadth of Saturn's rings.

~Karen Russell

A food truce, the picnic suspension of oedipal feeling that permits the generations to love each other at family reunions.

~Karen Russell

I didn't realize that one tragedy can beget another, and another "bright-eyed disasters flooding out of a death hole like bats out of a cave.

~Karen Russell

I would love to travel around the world working for a travel company taking students abroad on cultural immersion trips.

~Karen Russell

It's funny, for a long time I would go watermelon-red and deny that I was a magical realist. It felt imprecise to me, a misrepresentation.

~Karen Russell

If you're short on time, that would be the two-word version of our story: we fell.

~Karen Russell

"I'm not going anywhere," she told me that night. But until we are old ladies-a cypress age, a Sawtooth age-I will continue to link arms with her, in public, in private, in a panic of love.

~Karen Russell

I have a B.A. in Spanish, so briefly I thought that somebody might pay me to speak Spanish badly in another country, like Norway.

~Karen Russell

It remains unbelievable to me that I have any readers beyond my own blood relations - it's a crazy, wild gift.

~Karen Russell

Once you figure out what's best for the story, take out the rest.

~Karen Russell

What passes for news is just morbid speculation or cartoonish screaming, followed by diaper commercials.

~Karen Russell

I want a real encounter with something true and disconcerting about peoples' natures.

~Karen Russell

Mythology is a really beautiful vocabulary passed down through centuries that helps us understand the perennial parts of our nature.

~Karen Russell

The folks I read as a kid really set me up. I owe a huge debt to Ray Bradbury and Madeleine L'Engle.

~Karen Russell

Myth continues to be a valuable way to understand parts of our nature that we can't quantify.

~Karen Russell

But if you kept thinking about a fight you'd lost, Mom said, you were programming yourself to lose again.

~Karen Russell

I'm probably a lot closer than perhaps the contents of my early fiction suggest to a jaded Denny's waitress with smoker's-lung-black humor than a ghost hunter.

~Karen Russell

So much of the way books get classified has to do with marketing decisions. I think it's more useful to think of literary books and sci-fi/fantasy books as existing on a continuum.

~Karen Russell

I moved to New York with the derangement of love. I was writing all these terrible stories, but I had never been happier.

~Karen Russell

I really try to write every day. It's hard, but it's my favorite thing to do. So, it's usually not too, too hard.

~Karen Russell

My favorite classes were always dumb nerdy vocabulary.

~Karen Russell

Could we betray our parents by going back to them?

~Karen Russell

You don't want people to think you're just writing stories for children about a pig in a tutu.

~Karen Russell

At the end of the block where I used to live in Coconut Grove in Miami, there's a swampy area, a no-name alcove with a little mangrove estuary. It's beautiful.

~Karen Russell

I swim with all my strength. No superhuman surge, or pony heroics; it's

just me at my most desperate.

~Karen Russell

Sometimes it can feel like the whole globe is spinning with irredeemable losses, capricious natural disasters and crimes so outrageously evil they dismantle any attempt to solve or explain them.

~Karen Russell

I hope that in my thirties I grow as a writer, push into new territory.

~Karen Russell

Regret is a pilgrimage back to the place where I was free to choose.

~Karen Russell

Madness, as I understood it from books, meant a person who was open to the high white whine of everything.

~Karen Russell

And I do think that great fiction, even when it's comedic, has an urgency or an inevitability to it, a sense that the writer absolutely had to write this particular story in this way.

~Karen Russell

The girl has a funny way of romanticizing things.

~Karen Russell

My backyard was replete with madness, it just grew indigenously in South Florida.

~Karen Russell

For me, the term "literary fiction" means there's always attention paid to language, and linguistic experimentation, sophistication.

~Karen Russell

I often felt myself to be an outsider, which is great training for all writers.

~Karen Russell

I do think that I have a more flexible view of the interactions between people, and between human and non-human protagonists, humans and their landscapes.

~Karen Russell

I think that's the real horror story for me, how little you can ever really know about your own motivations. How in the dark we all are about the concerns and the contents of our minds.

~Karen Russell

Somehow I wasn't adding up right anymore. My parts weren't summing into myself.

~Karen Russell

Pain collected into deep pockets and I was aware of this pain but somehow I could not seem to feel it. It was like a body-deafness.

~Karen Russell

I am extremely close to my brother, Kent, and my sister, Lauren, who have been remarkably understanding about all of my weird sibling tales.

~Karen Russell

My mom says I'm destined to be the sort of man who uses big words but pronounces them incorrectly.

~Karen Russell

If you're gonna do something weird, just have one thing be weird.

~Karen Russell

I do think there's something when you have an unbroken day, and it feels like you and your attention can just be together like birds again and you can actually think and dream a little.

~Karen Russell

Sometimes, when you're writing sentence by sentence, you're not really sure what footprints you're going to fall into, or what ghosts might appear.

~Karen Russell

In short stories there's more permission to be elliptical. You can have image-logic, or it's almost like a poem in that you can come to a lot of meanings within a short space.

~Karen Russell

I tended to be drawn to the weirder, darker stuff. Horror and sci-fi anthologies.

~Karen Russell

I had been eagerly waiting just such a disaster. Storms, wolves, snakebite, floods-these are the occasions to find out how your father sees you, how strong and necessary he thinks you are.

~Karen Russell

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