

Karen Thompson Walker Quotes

*Writing, Stories, Book, Thinking, Years, Beautiful, Fiction, Editors, College,
Father, Feelings, Earthquakes, Worry, Reader, Jobs, Sunday, Way, Kind,
Miracle, Fall*

How much sweeter life would be if it all happened in reverse, if, after decades of disappointments, you finally arrived at an age when you had conceded nothing, when everything was possible.

~Karen Thompson Walker

I first started writing fiction in college because I was attracted to beautiful sentences. I loved to read them. I wanted to write them.

~Karen Thompson Walker

Fear is ... a kind of unintentional storytelling that we are all born knowing how to do.

~Karen Thompson Walker

Just like all great stories, our fears focus our attention on a question that is as important in life as it is in literature: What will happen next?

~Karen Thompson Walker

Sometimes I think I might not have written 'The Age of Miracles' if I hadn't grown up in California, if I hadn't been exposed to its very particular blend of beauty and disaster, of danger and denial.

~Karen Thompson Walker

I'm an only child, and I think one of the sweet things about that is that my parents are really interested in every aspect of my life.

~Karen Thompson Walker

Sometimes the saddest stories take the fewest words.

~Karen Thompson Walker

Even beauty, in abundance, turns creepy.

~Karen Thompson Walker

It's really hard to get a book published, even a good book, but the better the book is the better chance it has of eventually catching

someone's attention.

~Karen Thompson Walker

Our fears are an amazing gift of the imagination, a kind of everyday clairvoyance, a way of glimpsing what might be the future when there's still time to influence how that future will play out.

~Karen Thompson Walker

But the past is long, and the future is short.

~Karen Thompson Walker

Nothing has happened to me out of the closet that was anywhere near as dangerous as being closeted.

~Karen Thompson Walker

To some degree we all live with uncertainty. We have no control over the future. Yet we carry on, we persevere, because, I guess, it's the way we're made.

~Karen Thompson Walker

I can write all the way through the morning, when my mind is clear, and there are no distractions.

~Karen Thompson Walker

I feel like writing a book there's always a version in your head that's an amazing version, but then you write the version that you can write.

~Karen Thompson Walker

It requires a certain kind of bravery, I suppose, to choose the status quo. There's a certain boldness to inaction.

~Karen Thompson Walker

We were a different kind of Christian, the quiet, reasonable kind, a breed embarrassed by the mention of miracles.

~Karen Thompson Walker

I was a book editor for nine years. I'm familiar with the opposite experience, bracing myself for the likelihood that no one would want to publish my book.

~Karen Thompson Walker

I tend to mostly take the day off from working on Sundays, but I do spend some time reading. Mostly what I'm picking up is what's in stores. I really do love to read fiction from the last year or two.

~Karen Thompson Walker

I left my job in the fall, and now I can set my life up around writing instead of squeezing writing into my day; it's amazing to have that time, and I feel very lucky.

~Karen Thompson Walker

I fell in love with Virginia Woolf in college. I especially admire how well she writes about daily life, how she captures so much meaning and consequence in the smallest details of a day.

~Karen Thompson Walker

I love conventional apocalypse movies. In movies, I like to be with the President, or the scientist trying to solve the problem, but that's not the kind of fiction that I like to read.

~Karen Thompson Walker

My goal was just to tell the unlikely story in a way that would feel as convincing as possible.

~Karen Thompson Walker

I guess it never is what you worry over that comes to pass in the end. The real catastrophes are always differentâ€”unimagined, unprepared for, unknown.

~Karen Thompson Walker

To be a good editor or a good writer, I think you really need to be a great reader first.

~Karen Thompson Walker

Who knows how fast a second-guess can travel? Who has ever measured the exact speed of regret?

~Karen Thompson Walker

I really believe that fiction functions best when stories are allowed to develop in an organic way, so I didn't set out to deliver a specific message.

~Karen Thompson Walker

Working as an editor was like being a professional reader, and the better I became at reading the better I became at writing.

~Karen Thompson Walker

An editor is like a professional reader, and as I became a better reader, I also became a better writer.

~Karen Thompson Walker

Sometimes death is proof of life. Sometimes decay points out a certain verve.

~Karen Thompson Walker

In general, I think I'm quick to worry about disasters of all kinds.

~Karen Thompson Walker

It took me years to learn that sentences in fiction must do much more than stand around and look pretty.

~Karen Thompson Walker

Sentences or solutions occur to me in the shower, or while running on the treadmill, or riding on the subway.

~Karen Thompson Walker

There's a pleasure in being reminded of the value of ordinary life.

~Karen Thompson Walker

Some say that love is the sweetest feeling, the purest form of joy, but that isn't right. It's not love--it's relief.

~Karen Thompson Walker

If I read a scary story in the newspaper, I find I'm haunted by it.

~Karen Thompson Walker

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