

Kazuo Ishiguro

Quotes

Thinking, People, Book, Writing, Never Let Me Go, Years, Memories, Literature, Might, Believe, World, Running, Childhood, Mistake, Way, Moving, Eye, Needs, Song, Men

The evening's the best part of the day. You've done your day's work. Now you can put your feet up and enjoy it.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

There was another life that I might have had, but I am having this one.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Memories, even your most precious ones, fade surprisingly quickly. But I don't go along with that. The memories I value most, I don't ever see them fading.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Many of our deepest motives come, not from an adult logic of how things work in the world, but out of something that is frozen from childhood.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Our family arrived in England in 1960. At that time I thought the war was ancient history. But if I think of 15 years ago from now, that's 1990, and that seems like yesterday to me.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Love isn't about when you first meet. It's about the many, many years you spend together, when you're trying to keep that flame burning.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

She always wanted to believe in things.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Memory, I realize, can be an unreliable thing; often it is heavily coloured by the circumstances in which one remembers.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

As a writer, I'm more interested in what people tell themselves

happened rather than what actually happened.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Don't you wonder sometimes, what might have happened if you tried?

~Kazuo Ishiguro

If you are under the impression you have already perfected yourself, you will never rise to the heights you are no doubt capable of.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

What is pertinent is the calmness of beauty, its sense of restraint. It is as though the land knows of its own beauty, its own greatness, and feels no need to shout it.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

After all, what can we ever gain in forever looking back and blaming ourselves if our lives have not turned out quite as we might have wished?

~Kazuo Ishiguro

If you go to Tokyo, I think it becomes very obvious that there's this almost seamless mixture of popular culture and Japanese traditional culture.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

The world is crawling with authors touring now. They're like performance artists.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I have the feeling of this completely alternative person I should have become. There was another life that I might have had, but I'm having this one.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I discovered that my imagination came alive when I moved away from the immediate world around me.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

As with a wound on one's own body, it is possible to develop an intimacy with the most disturbing of things

~Kazuo Ishiguro

But then, I suppose, when with the benefit of hindsight one begins to search one's past for such 'turning points', one is apt to start seeing them everywhere.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

What is pertinent is the calmness of that beauty, its sense of restraint.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I've always had a great fondness for English detective fiction such as Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

It didn't hurt, did it? When I hit you?" "Sure. Fractured skull. Concussion, the lot..." "But seriously, Kath. No hard feelings, right? I'm awfully sorry. I honestly am.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I think of my pile of old paperbacks, their pages gone wobbly, like they'd once belonged to the sea.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Now naturally, like many of us, I have a reluctance to change too much of the old ways.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

You say you're sure? Sure that you're in love? How can you know it?

You think love is so simple?

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Sometimes I get so immersed in my own company, if I unexpectedly run into someone I know, it's a bit of a shock and takes me a while to adjust.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I started as a songwriter and wanted to be like Leonard Cohen. I've always seen my stories as enlarged songs.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Memory is quite central for me. Part of it is that I like the actual texture of writing through memory.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

When you become a parent, or a teacher, you turn into a manager of this whole system. You become the person controlling the bubble of innocence around a child, regulating it.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

You need to remember that. If you're to have decent lives, you have to know who you are and what lies ahead of you, every one of you.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Now when I look back to the Guildford of that time it seems far more exotic to me than Nagasaki.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

It had never occurred to me that our lives, which had been so closely interwoven, could unravel with such speed.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Indeed " why should I not admit it? " in that moment, my heart was

breaking.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I cannot start a story or chapter without knowing how it ends. ... Of course, it rarely ends that way.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Your life must now run the course that's been set for it.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Screenplays I didn't really care about, journalism, travel books, getting my writer friends to write about their dreams or something. I just determined to write the books I had to write.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

When a man induces his wife to turn suspicious thoughts against her own father, then that is surely cause enough for resentment.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

If you look at my last songs and first short stories, there is a real connection between them.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I was a little concerned that a lot of people thought I wrote Merchant Ivory movies. I also thought if I was ever going to write something strange and difficult, that was the time.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I think I had actually served my apprenticeship as a writer of fiction by writing all those songs. I had already been through phases of autobiographical or experimental stuff.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

There comes a point when you can more or less count the number of

books you're going to write before you die.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

It is one of the enjoyments of retirement that you are able to drift through the day at your own pace, easy in the knowledge that you have put hard work and achievement behind you.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I can't even say I made my own mistakes. Really - one has to ask oneself - what dignity is there in that?

~Kazuo Ishiguro

My friends and I took songwriting very, very seriously. My hero was and still is Bob Dylan, but also people like Leonard Cohen and Joni Mitchell and that whole generation.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I want my words to survive translation.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

All children have to be deceived if they are to grow up without trauma.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

An artist's concern is to capture beauty wherever he finds it.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

We took away your art because we thought it would reveal your souls. Or to put it more finely, we did it to prove you had souls at all.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

To see the best before I have properly begun would be somewhat premature.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

The problem, as I see it, is that you've been told and not told. You've been told, but none of you really understand, and I dare say, some people are quite happy to leave it that way.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

When I see films made from books, I make a huge effort not to remember the book. It's important to see the film as a film.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

It was like being given a maths problem when your brain's exhausted, and you know there's some far-off solution, but you can't work up the energy even to give it a go. Something in me just gave up.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Poor creatures. What did we do to you? With all our schemes and plans?

~Kazuo Ishiguro

It was like there was some parallel universe we all vanished off to where we had all this sex.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Maybe all of us at Hailsam had little secrets like that -- little private nooks created out of thin air where we could go off alone without fears and longing.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

The book was at a reasonably high position on the New York Times... before I was in the country. I thought it would be an interesting experiment to see if my presence here would push it up or down.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I think jogging is bad for your health. All that pressure on the knees and back cannot be good for you.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I spent ages figuring out things like viewpoint, how you tell the story, and so on.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

Every country should have a strong literary tradition of its own at the center, but it should also have an interest in other countries.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I find Japanese books quite baffling when I read them in translation. It's only with Haruki Murakami that I find Japanese fiction that I can understand and relate to. He's a very international writer.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

One need hardly dwell on the catastrophic possibility of uttering a bantering remark only to discover it wholly inappropriate

~Kazuo Ishiguro

There's a practical problem about time and energy, and a more subtle problem of what it does to a writer's head, to continually analyze why they write, where it all comes from, where it's going to.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I wouldn't want to try to adapt something of my own. It would be like going back to school and doing all my exams again.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

When I was younger, I didn't read that much. I was more interested in film and music. Now I'm curious. I want to know what it's all about.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

What I wished more than anything was that the thing hadn't happened at all, and I thought that by not mentioning it I'd be doing everyone else

a favor.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

My donors have always tended to do much better than expected.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

She might be a great person, but life's so much bigger than just loving someone.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I don't have a deep link with England like, say, Jonathan Coe or Hanif Kureishi might demonstrate. For me it is like a mythical place.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

One is not struck by the truth until prompted quite accidentally by some external event.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I don't think it's any fun, even if you are one of the most respected authors in the world like Margaret Atwood, to keep being nominated and not win.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I try to always go for something... very interior, following thoughts and memories, something that I think is difficult to do on the screen, which is essentially a third-person medium.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

And if these incidents now seem full of significance and all of a piece, it's probably because I'm looking at them in the light of what came later.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

So why not become a mongrel? It's healthy

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I really have to think of the things fiction can do that film can't and play to the strengths of the novel. With a novel you can get right inside somebody's head.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

There was surely nothing to indicate at the time that such evidently small incidents would render whole dreams forever irredeemable.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I grew up in Britain before it became a multicultural place, so in many ways I have a nostalgia for an England that's vanished - the England of my childhood has actually disappeared.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

People were incredibly kind to our family and went out of their way to help.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I like novelists who can create other interesting worlds.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I think it's quite difficult to understand what kind of life a writer leads. They might be millionaires, or they might be starving people.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

And I'm a Hailsham student - which is enough by itself sometimes to get people's backs up.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

I felt slightly superior to student politics, for instance. I had no reason to think this, but I thought of myself as slightly more seasoned. I became quite cynical talking to my student friends.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

There is certainly a satisfaction and dignity to be gained in coming to terms with the mistakes one has made in the course of one's life

~Kazuo Ishiguro

What interests me is the surprising enormous extent to which most people accept the fate that's been given to them, and find some dignity.

~Kazuo Ishiguro

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