

# Louise Erdrich

## Quotes

*Thinking, People, Book, Writing, Life, Heart, Love, Men, Children, World, Eye,  
Order, Strong, Hands, Body, Fall, Mother, Trying, Brain, Way*

What happens when you let an unsatisfactory present go on long enough? It becomes your entire history.

~Louise Erdrich

Things which do not grow and change are dead things.

~Louise Erdrich

When women age into their power, no wind can upset them, no hand turn aside their knowledge, no fact can deflect their point of view.

~Louise Erdrich

We do know that no one gets wise enough to really understand the heart of another, though it is the task of our life to try.

~Louise Erdrich

Our songs travel the earth. We sing to one another. Not a single note is ever lost and no song is original. They all come from the same place and go back to a time when only the stones howled.

~Louise Erdrich

You have to love. You have to feel. It is the reason you are here on earth. You are here to risk your heart.

~Louise Erdrich

When we are young, the words are scattered all around us. As they are assembled by experience, so also are we, sentence by sentence, until the story takes shape.

~Louise Erdrich

some people meet the way the sky meets the earth, inevitably, and there is no stopping or holding back their love. It exists in a finished world, beyond the reach of common sense.

~Louise Erdrich

Of course, English is a very powerful language, a colonizer's language and a gift to a writer. English has destroyed and sucked up the languages of other cultures - its cruelty is its vitality.

~Louise Erdrich

Love won't be tampered with, love won't go away. Push it to one side and it creeps to the other.

~Louise Erdrich

So what is wild? What is wilderness? What are dreams but an internal wilderness and what is desire but a wildness of the soul?

~Louise Erdrich

Every so often something shatters like ice and we are in the river of our existence. We are aware.

~Louise Erdrich

Power travels in the bloodlines, handed out before birth.

~Louise Erdrich

Columbus only discovered that he was in some new place. He didn't discover America.

~Louise Erdrich

To love another another human in all of her splendor and imperfect perfection , it is a magnificent task...tremendous and foolish and human.

~Louise Erdrich

It's impossible to write about Native life without humor-that's how people maintain sanity.

~Louise Erdrich

Time is the water in which we live, and we breathe it like fish. ... Time

pours into us and then pours out again. In between the two pourings we live our destiny.

~Louise Erdrich

Can you stop your mother from singing to you? Who would do such a thing?

~Louise Erdrich

By writing I can live in ways that I could not survive.

~Louise Erdrich

Women don't realize how much store men set on the regularity of their habits. We absorb their comings and goings into our bodies, their rhythms into our bones.

~Louise Erdrich

Your life feels different on you, once you greet death and understand your heart's position.

~Louise Erdrich

When every inch of the world is known, sleep may be the only wilderness that we have left.

~Louise Erdrich

Don't read anything except what destroys the insulation between yourself and your experience.

~Louise Erdrich

There will never come a time when I will be able to resist my emotions.

~Louise Erdrich

Women are strong, strong, terribly strong. We don't know how strong until we're pushing out our babies.

~Louise Erdrich

There are ways of being abandoned even when your parents are right there.

~Louise Erdrich

If life's a joke, then suicide's a bad punch line.

~Louise Erdrich

It kills your writing if you try to manipulate it with crude politics.

~Louise Erdrich

I got well by talking. Death could not get a word in edgewise, grew discouraged, and traveled on.

~Louise Erdrich

What is this life but the sound of an appalling love.

~Louise Erdrich

I was in love with the whole world and all that lived in its rainy arms.

~Louise Erdrich

I feel myself becoming less a person than a place, inhabited, a foreign land.

~Louise Erdrich

The greatest wisdom doesn't know itself. The richest plan is not to have one.

~Louise Erdrich

We passed over in a sweep of sorrow that would persist into our small forever. We just keep going.

~Louise Erdrich

Love. The black hook. The spear singing through the mind.

~Louise Erdrich

History works itself out in the living.

~Louise Erdrich

To be of mixed blood is a great gift for a writer. I have one foot on tribal lands and one foot in middle-class life.

~Louise Erdrich

There is a legacy of violence against native women that has gotten worse and worse over time.

~Louise Erdrich

Here I am, where I ought to be. A writer must have a place where he or she feels this, the place to love and be irritated with.

~Louise Erdrich

We all got holes in our lives. Nobody dies in a perfect garment.

~Louise Erdrich

In order to purify yourself, you have to understand yourself, Father Trais went on. Everything out in the world is also in you. Good, bad, evil, perfection, death, everything. So we study our souls.

~Louise Erdrich

It was just enough to sit there without words.

~Louise Erdrich

...which causes me to wonder, my own purpose on so many days as humble as the spider's, what is beautiful that I make? What is elegant? What feeds the world?

~Louise Erdrich

I tried out the unfamiliar syllables. They fit. They cracked in my ears like a fist through ice.

~Louise Erdrich

Time was rushing around me like water around a big wet rock. The only difference is, I was not so durable as stones. Very quickly I would be smoothed away.

~Louise Erdrich

They were so strong in their beliefs that there came a time when it hardly mattered what exactly those beliefs were; they all fused into a single stubbornness.

~Louise Erdrich

The universe is transformation.

~Louise Erdrich

Be lovely and do no harm.

~Louise Erdrich

People forget the good, because the bad has more punch.

~Louise Erdrich

But if there was embellishment, it only had to do with the facts.

~Louise Erdrich

I think one of the most fertile, unexplored areas for poets and fiction writers is the world of science. I become overwhelmed by the science world.

~Louise Erdrich

To think about love and passion and political correctness all together, it doesn't work. Art has to go way past the political to be effective.

~Louise Erdrich

Society is like this card game here, cousin. We got dealt our hand before we were even born, and as we grow we have to play as best as we can.

~Louise Erdrich

You know, some people fall right through the hole in their lives. Its invisible, but they come to it after time, never knowing where.

~Louise Erdrich

Now that I knew fear, I also knew it was not permanent. As powerful as it was, its grip on me would loosen. It would pass.

~Louise Erdrich

Freedom, I found is not only in the running but in the heart, the mind, the hands.

~Louise Erdrich

There are people who are always, I think, going to remain people of the book, to use another author's title, but people of the book, who really must be around.

~Louise Erdrich

I work really out of mythology, so often I work out of a story that has remained lodged inside somehow, or I work out of history, you know, out of a sense of historical inevitability with characters.

~Louise Erdrich

my mind ran over scenes of Shesheeb seducing Margaret until I was a wagon dragged by the runaway horses of my jealousy.

~Louise Erdrich

Death is the least civilized rite of passage.

~Louise Erdrich

I did not choose solitude. Who would? It came on me like a kind of vocation, demanding an effort that married women can't picture.

~Louise Erdrich



We started dying before the snow, and like the snow, we continued to fall.

~Louise Erdrich

I stood there in the shadowed doorway thinking with my tears. Yes, tears can be thoughts, why not?

~Louise Erdrich

Each life is one short word slowly uttered.

~Louise Erdrich

There is no such thing as a complete lack of order, only a design so vast it appears unrepentive up close.

~Louise Erdrich

I prefer to have some beliefs that don't make logical sense.

~Louise Erdrich

The length of sky is just about the size of my ignorance. Pure and wide.

~Louise Erdrich

I have always kept notebooks and I go back to them over and over. They are my compost pile of ideas.

~Louise Erdrich

Life is made up of three kinds of people -- those who live it, those afraid to, those in between.

~Louise Erdrich

All of our actions have in their doing the seed of their undoing.

~Louise Erdrich

Numbers, time, inches, feet. All are just ploys for cutting nature down to

size.

~Louise Erdrich

Money helps, though not so much as you think when you don't have it.

~Louise Erdrich

I truly think that you can't go and stalk your material, you have to leave the door open and whatever chooses you, chooses you. You can't go and wrestle it to the ground.

~Louise Erdrich

We are never so poor that we cannot bless another human being, are we? So it is that every evil, whether moral or material, results in good. You'll see.

~Louise Erdrich

He had a thousand-year-old stare.

~Louise Erdrich

If only I had discipline, but alas, it is only an obsessive-compulsive trait and the beauty of habit that causes me to return again and again to my work.

~Louise Erdrich

I spend most of my time writing.

~Louise Erdrich

Old love, middle love, the kind of love that knows itself and knows that nothing lasts, is a desperate shared wildness.

~Louise Erdrich

I am part of what she thinks is her illness, a symptom of which she thinks she has been cured. She, on the other hand, is what I was looking for.

~Louise Erdrich

Her clothes were filled with safety pins and hidden tears.

~Louise Erdrich

Our tribe unraveled like a coarse rope, frayed at either end as the old and new among us were taken.

~Louise Erdrich

The music was more than music - at least what we are used to hearing. The music was feeling itself. The sound connected instantly with something deep and joyous.

~Louise Erdrich

I spend my time dwelling on revenge and try to deal with the monsters crawling out of the ashes.

~Louise Erdrich

I always have some way of putting the stories together that works for the book. I've always switched points of view in my books. I'm a Gemini.

~Louise Erdrich

I have brothers and was a tomboy, if that's still a designation. It wasn't a stretch for me to think and write as a 13-year-old boy - it is freeing.

~Louise Erdrich

The contents of a house can trigger all sorts of revisions to family history.

~Louise Erdrich

...whom he had saved from a life of excessive freedom

~Louise Erdrich

It is easy to take away the world that we think is so permanent and reliable.

~Louise Erdrich

The Internet, which seems now so embedded and personal and crucial to our lives, isn't at all - we really shouldn't think of it that way.

~Louise Erdrich

I don't pray. When I was young, I vowed I never would be caught begging God. If I want something I get it for myself. I go to church only to show the old hens they don't get me down.

~Louise Erdrich

I knew each person's delusion, the places their records had scratched, where the sounds repeated.

~Louise Erdrich

Life will break you. Nobody can protect you from that.

~Louise Erdrich

A woman's body is the gate to this life. A man's body is the gate to the next life.

~Louise Erdrich

The world tips away when we look into our children's faces.

~Louise Erdrich

I thought how we might have to yell to be heard by Higher Power, but that's not saying it's not there. And that is faith for you. It's belief even when the gods don't deliver.

~Louise Erdrich

I had a very free childhood and ranged around on my bicycle the way boys do. I had few restrictions.

~Louise Erdrich

To sew is to pray. Men don't understand this. They see the whole but they don't see the stitches. They don't see the speech of the creator in the work of the needle.

~Louise Erdrich

I think she is confused by the way I want her, which is like nobody else. I know this deep down. I want her in a new way, a way she's never been told about.

~Louise Erdrich

Hunger steals the memory

~Louise Erdrich

Sometimes a person's monstrosity seems superhuman.

~Louise Erdrich

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