

Marisha Pessl

Quotes

*People, Men, Writing, Character, Book, Dad, America, Hate, Feelings, World,
Realizing, Sea, Dark, Band, Next, Fighting, Understanding, Forever, Believe,
Couple*

I hate how the people who really get you are the ones you can never hold on to for very long. And the ones who don't understand you at all stick around.

~Marisha Pessl

People had an illogical, self-serving rationale when it came to interpreting the behavior of others.

~Marisha Pessl

Not returning phone calls is the severest form of torture in the civilized world.

~Marisha Pessl

It's a common feeling for people to feel intermittent antipathy toward individuals they're familiar with.

~Marisha Pessl

Always live your life with your biography in mind.

~Marisha Pessl

Sovereign. Deadly. Perfect.

~Marisha Pessl

He said you couldn't pretend the terrible things in life didn't happen. You can't clean it up. You keep all the refuse and the scars. It's how you learn. And try to make improvements.

~Marisha Pessl

Making love to Aurelia was like rummaging through a card catalog in a deserted library, searching for one very obscure, little-read entry on Hungarian poetry.

~Marisha Pessl

Within every elaborate lie, a kernel of truth.

~Marisha Pessl

It's got to be some kind of cult. Anyone offers you Kool-Aid or a hot shower, say no.

~Marisha Pessl

For every man there exists bait he cannot resist swallowing.

~Marisha Pessl

There was quantum mechanics, string theory, and then there was the most mind-bending frontier of the natural world, women.

~Marisha Pessl

In college I studied '60s and '70s radicalism, student activism, forms of political violence, groups like the Weathermen, the Black Panthers, the Symbionese Liberation Army, the New Left.

~Marisha Pessl

Funnily enough, it is the subject one dreads talking about at length one ends up talking about at length, often without the slightest provocation.

~Marisha Pessl

Justice wields an erratic sword, grants mercy to fortunate few. Yet if man doesn't fight for her, 'tis chaos he's left to.

~Marisha Pessl

It was never the act itself but our own understanding of it that defeated us, over and over again.

~Marisha Pessl

Good bands you can kind of lose, then come back and realize they're still good.

~Marisha Pessl

I haven't always been a writer and I suppose I tiptoed around the idea of writing full time, because it's so isolating.

~Marisha Pessl

Show me what a man hates and I'll show you what he is.

~Marisha Pessl

Occasionally when I'm procrastinating writing, I'll while away the hours on iTunes. You can just keep going forever and find these bands you'd never normally hear of.

~Marisha Pessl

But when you flee someone, no matter how far you roam, that person will follow you as doggedly as the stars.

~Marisha Pessl

â€"deep-diving love, a love that excavates you. It's something you have to have before you die in order to have lived.

~Marisha Pessl

Look at Picasso. O'Neill. Tennessee Williams. Capote. Were these shiny happy people spreading sunshine? No. Only the greatest of personal demons can force you to do powerful work.

~Marisha Pessl

When you grow up--and from the look of things, you have awhile--but you learn things never go back to normal simply because everyone's sorry. Sorry is ridiculous.

~Marisha Pessl

What you tend to find in the personal lives of brilliant men is devastation akin to a nuclear bomb going off.

~Marisha Pessl

Some people, every now and then, simply had to have One Too Many, go drifty voiced and slouch mouthed, swimming willfully around in their own sadness as if it were hot springs.

~Marisha Pessl

Well, it doesn't look good. Makes me look like one of those unloved latchkey children they make after-school specials about." "Don't sell yourself short. You're more Masterpiece Theatre.

~Marisha Pessl

Sadly, American teenagers are to a weightless vacuum as seat cushions are to polyurethane foam -

~Marisha Pessl

It was as if Hannah had sprung a leak and her character, usually so meticulous and contained, was spilling all over the place.

~Marisha Pessl

â€¦how monstrous the people you loved could be.

~Marisha Pessl

When I'm creating characters, I definitely think of theme songs. Writing for me is very visual, so I sometimes think of it in terms of a movie with a soundtrack, and try to transfer that to words.

~Marisha Pessl

It's funny how the night that changes your life forever starts out like all the others.

~Marisha Pessl

What, really, was the difference between something hounding you and something leading you somewhere?

~Marisha Pessl

You journalists bulldoze life's mysteries, ignorant of what you're so ruthlessly turning up.

~Marisha Pessl

Always live your life with your biography in mind," Dad was fond of saying. "Naturally, it won't be published unless you have a Magnificent Reason, but at the very least you will be living grandly.

~Marisha Pessl

Some people are as fragile as butterflies and sensitive and it's your responsibility not to destroy them. Just because you can

~Marisha Pessl

As much as some people would like to believe, for their own peace of mind, that the appearance of evil in this world had a clean cause, the truth was never that simple.

~Marisha Pessl

Just when you think you've hit rock bottom, you realize you're standing on another trapdoor.

~Marisha Pessl

Sometimes it takes more courage not to let yourself see. Sometimes knowledge is damaging - not enlightenment but enleadenment.

~Marisha Pessl

Life was a freight train barreling toward just one stop, our loved ones streaking past our windows in blurs of color and light. There was no holding on to any of it, and no slowing it down.

~Marisha Pessl

Happiness is a hound dog in the sun. We aren't on Earth to be happy, but to experience incredible things. - Hannah Schneider

~Marisha Pessl

It's hard, in America, not to equate 'happiness' with 'things'.

~Marisha Pessl

Dad's Theory of Arrogance--that everyone always assumes they're the Principal Character of Desire and/or Loathing in everybody else's Broadway Play.

~Marisha Pessl

I was aware now, as ever, that between all people there were First Times You See Them and Last Times you See Them.

~Marisha Pessl

Freak the ferocious out.

~Marisha Pessl

His characters are ravaged, beaten. They walk through infernos and emerged charred doves.

~Marisha Pessl

We're living longer, we social network alone with our screens, and our depth of feeling gets shallower. Soon it'll be nothing but a tide pool, then a thimble of water, then a micro drop.

~Marisha Pessl

Because every one of us has our box, a dark chamber stowing the thing that lanced our heart. It contains what you do everything for, strive for, wound everything around you.

~Marisha Pessl

People don't realize how easy life is to change. You just get on the bus.

~Marisha Pessl

Most people ended up, after only a couple of months, so far away from

where they'd intended to go, stuck in some barbed underbrush of a quagmire when they'd meant to head straight to the ocean.

~Marisha Pessl

It's easy to be yourself in the dark.

~Marisha Pessl

I'm not afraid of total failure. In the end, we're all just food for worms, so what are we so worried about?

~Marisha Pessl

Juliet and Romeo be damned, you can't be in love until you've flossed your teeth next to the person at least three hundred times.

~Marisha Pessl

It's not fair. It's not. But then, that's the game. It makes life great. The fact that it ends when we don't want it to. The ending gives it meaning.

~Marisha Pessl

God, the boring relative everyone ignores--no one calls, no one writes--until they need a serious favor.

~Marisha Pessl

To be next to her was to have everything.

~Marisha Pessl

...the deepest secrets about ourselves that we, in the ultimate act of humanity, will spare those we truly love.

~Marisha Pessl

Betrayal isn't ridiculous. It's the reason empires fall.

~Marisha Pessl

If I scribbled a few words on a cocktail napkin and showed it to my

family, they'd proclaim it astonishing and more culturally relevant than the Bible.

~Marisha Pessl

In America, people of a certain age ask, 'Where were you when Kennedy was shot?' In my house you were more likely to be asked, 'Where were you when you first read 'The Catcher In The Rye?

~Marisha Pessl

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