

Martin Amis

Quotes

*Thinking, Writing, People, Way, Want, America, Father, Country, Book, Mother,
Real, Fiction, Men, Novelists, Children, Heart, Long, Style, Giving, Years*

Only in art will the lion lie down with the lamb, and the rose grow without thorn.

~Martin Amis

Religious belief is without reason and without dignity, and its record is near-universally dreadful.

~Martin Amis

Probably human cruelty is fixed and eternal. Only styles change.

~Martin Amis

My life looked good on paper - where, in fact, almost all of it was being lived.

~Martin Amis

When the past is forgotten, the present is unforgettable

~Martin Amis

Closure is a greasy little word which, moreover, describes a nonexistent condition. The truth, Venus, is that nobody gets over anything.

~Martin Amis

Perhaps there are other bits of my life that would take on content, take on shadow, if only I read more and thought less about money.

~Martin Amis

When you've lost all your play, guess what love becomes. Work. Work that gets harder every hour.

~Martin Amis

Love is blind; but it makes you see the blind man; teetering on the roadside . . .

~Martin Amis

Every 10 years you're a different person, and the really great books evolve with you as you get older. They're full of new rewards.

~Martin Amis

These are the Seven Deadly Sins: Avarice, Envy, Pride, Gluttony, Lust, Anger, Sloth. These are the seven deadly sins: venality, paranoia, insecurity, excess, carnality, contempt, boredom.

~Martin Amis

Addictions do come in handy sometimes: at least you have to get out of bed for them.

~Martin Amis

Kingsley Amis was a lenient father. His paternal style, in the early years, can best be described as amiably minimalist - in other words, my mother did it all.

~Martin Amis

Bullets cannot be recalled. They cannot be uninvented. But they can be taken out of the gun.

~Martin Amis

I always do my draft in long hand because even the ink is part of the flow.

~Martin Amis

You can kill time in a number of ways but it always depends on the kind of time you're fighting: some time is unkillable, immortal

~Martin Amis

Time, the human dimension, which makes us everything we are.

~Martin Amis

If you want to know the real meaning of pornography, it is the utter

dissociation of love and sex, the banishment of love from the sexual arena.

~Martin Amis

The first thing that distinguishes a writer is that he is most alive when alone.

~Martin Amis

Style isn't something added on; it's intrinsic to the perceptions and the way you see life.

~Martin Amis

People are always talking on their phones, or looking at their phones, because they don't want to be alone with their thoughts.

~Martin Amis

Tremendous interest in the superficial is very characteristic of cultures in decline.

~Martin Amis

Love is an abstract noun, something nebulous. And yet love turns out to be the only part of us that is solid, as the world turns upside down and the screen goes black.

~Martin Amis

When it comes to flying, I am a nervous passenger but a confident drinker and Valium-swallower.

~Martin Amis

Someone watches over us when we write. Mother. Teacher. Shakespeare. God.

~Martin Amis

Envy never comes to the ball dressed as envy; it comes dressed as

high moral standards or distaste for materialism.

~Martin Amis

Weapons are like money; no one knows the meaning of enough.

~Martin Amis

Your heart becomes gangrenous in your body when you go against your talent.

~Martin Amis

Belief is otiose; reality is sufficiently awesome as it stands.

~Martin Amis

Don't dumb down; always write for your top five percent of readers.

~Martin Amis

Money doesn't mind if we say it's evil, it goes from strength to strength. It's a fiction, an addiction, and a tacit conspiracy.

~Martin Amis

The argument, now, is about whether Bolshevik Russia was 'better' than Nazi Germany. In the days when the New Left dawned, the argument was about whether Bolshevik Russia was better than America.

~Martin Amis

Mere fact has no chance of being formally perfect. It will get in the way, it will be all elbows.

~Martin Amis

It's without doubt my main subject. The way masculinity can go wrong. And I'm something of a gynocrat in a utopian kind of way.

~Martin Amis

Fiction is the only way to redeem the formlessness of life

~Martin Amis

To idealize: all writing is a campaign against clichés. Not just clichés of the pen but clichés of the mind and clichés of the heart.

~Martin Amis

The true manipulator never has a reputation for manipulating.

~Martin Amis

All my adult life I have been searching for the right adjective to describe my father's peculiarly aggressive comic style. I recently settled on 'defamatory.'

~Martin Amis

Tennis: the most perfect combination of athleticism, artistry, power, style, and wit. A beautiful game, but one so remorselessly travestied by the passage of time.

~Martin Amis

The universe is a million billion light-years wide, and every inch of it would kill you if you went there. This is the position of the universe with regards to human life.

~Martin Amis

This (writing) is the love of your life. It's what I want to do when I wake up. Nothing feels so absorbing, so fulfilling.

~Martin Amis

He awoke at six, as usual. He needed no alarm clock. He was already comprehensively alarmed.

~Martin Amis

Style is not neutral; it gives moral directions.

~Martin Amis

Your purpose when driving is not to arrive at your destination safely or quickly. Your purpose when driving is...to impress your personality on the road.

~Martin Amis

I think all writers have a bit of genius in them, and a bit of talent. Genius retreats but talent improves.

~Martin Amis

[On STDs] This be Nature's way of recommending monogamy.

~Martin Amis

In America, the policeman is a working-class hero. In England, the policeman is a working-class traitor.

~Martin Amis

Novelists tend to go off at 70, and I'm in a funk about it, I've got myself into a real paranoid funk about it, how the talent dies before the body.

~Martin Amis

Let me assure you that the humourless as a bunch don't just not know what's funny, they don't know what's serious. They have no common sense, either, and shouldn't be trusted with anything.

~Martin Amis

Being inoffensive, and being offended, are now the twin addictions of the culture.

~Martin Amis

More will mean worse.

~Martin Amis

At its grandest, political correctness is an attempt to accelerate evolution.

~Martin Amis

Never content just to be, America is also obliged to mean; America signifies, hence its constant and riveting vulnerability to illusion.

~Martin Amis

Love might have expanded her. But we are not all of us going to get loved. We are not all of us going to get expanded.

~Martin Amis

It's hard to make progress with grief.

~Martin Amis

Most writers need a wound, either physical or spiritual.

~Martin Amis

Laughter always forgives.

~Martin Amis

I'm not interested in making a diagnostic novel or a concern. I'm 100 percent committed in fiction to the pleasure principle - that's what fiction is, and should be.

~Martin Amis

Who would want the socialist Utopia? Especially if you were at all artistic - you want all those inequalities, because that's what makes life interesting.

~Martin Amis

So if you ever felt something behind you, when you weren't even one, like welcome heat, like a bulb, like a sun, trying to shine right across the universe - it was me. Always me. It was me. It was me.

~Martin Amis

Screw-top wine has improved the quality of life by about ten percent, wouldn't you say?

~Martin Amis

Every writer hopes or boldly assumes that his life is in some sense exemplary, that the particular will turn out to be universal.

~Martin Amis

Like fundamentalist Judaism and medieval Christianity, Islam is totalist. That is to say, it makes a total claim on the individual.

~Martin Amis

The arms race is a race between nuclear weapons and ourselves.

~Martin Amis

So I am lonely, but not alone, like everybody else.

~Martin Amis

You use a different part of your heart with girls.

~Martin Amis

The egotism of people who are eminent without being in the least distinguished and somehow feeling that's their due - that seems to me to be a peculiarly English phenomenon.

~Martin Amis

While making love, we often talk about money. I like it. I like that dirty talk

~Martin Amis

It's a young country and a German only feels comfortable being with the masses. They have very little talent at creating an inner life, privacy.

And I think there must be something wrong.

~Martin Amis

In my experience of fights and fighting, it is invariably the aggressor who keeps getting everything wrong.

~Martin Amis

I can imagine in a century or two that rule by women will be seen as a better bet than rule by men. What's wrong with men is that they tend to look for the violent solution. Women don't.

~Martin Amis

Present-day Spain translates as many books into Spanish, annually, as the Arab world has translated into Arabic in the past 1,100 years.

~Martin Amis

When success happens to an English writer, he acquires a new typewriter. When success happens to an American writer, he acquires a new life.

~Martin Amis

If every inhabitant of a liberal democracy believes in liberal democracy, then it doesn't matter what creed or colour they are.

~Martin Amis

Has it ever happened to you...? The color of the day suddenly changes to shadow. And you know you're going to remember that moment for the rest of your life.

~Martin Amis

All novelists write in a different way, but I always write in longhand and then do two versions of typescript on a computer.

~Martin Amis

It is very difficult, it is perhaps impossible, for someone who loves his mother to love the woman whom your father left her for.

~Martin Amis

Insects are what neurosis would sound like, if neurosis could make a noise with its nose.

~Martin Amis

I am, incidentally, the only writer to have received the Somerset Maugham award twice - the first time for my first novel, the second time for my second first novel.

~Martin Amis

On any longer view, man is only fitfully committed to the rational -- to thinking, seeing, learning, knowing. Believing is what he's really proud of.

~Martin Amis

All writers of fiction will at some point find themselves abandoning a piece of work - or find themselves putting it aside, as we gently say.

~Martin Amis

The Uruguayans have a sort of purity. I don't know where they got it, and I doubt even if they know from where they got it. Perhaps they didn't kill off their major population.

~Martin Amis

We live in the age of mass loquacity. We are all writing it or at any rate talking it: the memoir, the apologia, the c.v., the cri de coeur.

~Martin Amis

They're always looking forward to going places they're just coming back from, or regretting doing things they haven't yet done. They say hello when they mean goodbye.

~Martin Amis

But before we face experience, that miserable enemy, let us have some more innocence, just for a while.

~Martin Amis

It is straightforward "and never mind, for now, about plagues and famines: if God existed, and if he cared for humankind, he would never have given us religion.

~Martin Amis

It used to be said that by a certain age a man had the face that he deserved. Nowadays, he has the face he can afford.

~Martin Amis

The process of writing a novel begins with a pang, a moment of recognition, and a situation, a character, or something you read in a paper, that seems to go off, like a solar flare inside your head.

~Martin Amis

In the concordance of Nicola Six's kisses there were many subheads and subsections, many genres and phyla - chapter and verse, cross-references, multiple citations.

~Martin Amis

You can't be up the reader's ass, as many a writer I think is - cute as hell, ingratiating as hell. But that's not loving the reader in the right way. That's toadying to the reader.

~Martin Amis

I sometimes feel I'm a sort of cult writer, rather than a mainstream writer, in that those who like my stuff like it a lot, but the appeal is not that broad.

~Martin Amis

I think writers are excited by stupidity and bad behavior, generally.

~Martin Amis

I'm afraid the negative things are always the great subjects. Failure is much more interesting than success.

~Martin Amis

For myself and my loved ones, I want the heat, which comes at the speed of light. I don't want to have to hang about for the blast, which idles along at the speed of sound.

~Martin Amis

It is terrible to see someone being beaten up by the English language.

~Martin Amis

What did Nabokov and Joyce have in common, apart from the poor teeth and the great prose? Exile, and decades of near pauperism.

~Martin Amis

You cannot combine being a movie star with not being a movie star.

~Martin Amis

It's tremendously important how you get on with the other sex. Your life record on that is incredibly important. You never really think about any of your other achievements.

~Martin Amis

There's a lot of anti-intellectualism in Britain. And the writer's views on this or that are really of less importance, as they see it, than that of the man in the street.

~Martin Amis

Faith is a talent, and it goes the way of all your talents. Getting old is the subtraction of your powers. Which very much goes for writing.

~Martin Amis

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