

Maxine Kumin

Quotes

*Writing, Poetry, Ponds, Women, Air, Lying, Wake Up, Water, Nests, Years,
Nature, Jew, Confidential, Careers, Pay, Rain, People, Wilderness, Building,
Time*

We are, each of us, our own prisoner. We are locked up in our own story.

~Maxine Kumin

Love, we are a small pond.

~Maxine Kumin

When Sleeping Beauty wakes up, she is almost fifty years old

~Maxine Kumin

It is important to act as if bearing witness matters.

~Maxine Kumin

Everything pays for growing tame.

~Maxine Kumin

I didn't write my poems because I wanted to, they were wrung from me. I had to write them.

~Maxine Kumin

God serves the choosy. They know what to want.

~Maxine Kumin

One way of ending the poem is to turn it back on itself, like a serpent with its tail in its mouth.

~Maxine Kumin

... people get confidential at midnight.

~Maxine Kumin

Cherish your wilderness.

~Maxine Kumin

Nature is a catchment of sorrows.

~Maxine Kumin

I'm going home the old way with a light hand on the reins making the long approach.

~Maxine Kumin

Poetry makes nothing happen. It survives in the valley of its saying.

~Maxine Kumin

Women are not supposed to have uteruses, especially in poems.

~Maxine Kumin

Sometimes tradition is a way of keeping going.

~Maxine Kumin

The tougher the form the easier it is for me to handle the poem, because the form gives permission to be very gut honest about feelings.

~Maxine Kumin

The time on either side of now stands fast.

~Maxine Kumin

To build is to dwell.

~Maxine Kumin

And the pond's stillness nipped as if by rain instead is pocked with life.

~Maxine Kumin

Can it be I am the only Jew residing in Danville, Kentucky, looking for matzoh in the Safeway and the A & P?

~Maxine Kumin

Meanwhile let us cast one shadow in air and water.

~Maxine Kumin

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