

Melissa Febos

Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, Book, People, Stories, Song, Real, Sex, Smart, Way, Father,
Feelings, Love Is, Reality, School, Kids, Powerful, Two, Moments, Moving*

The frustration of being marginalized often gets misdirected at the most visible members of one's own community, because they are more accessible than the real agents of marginalization.

~Melissa Febos

Abandonment by a lover won't kill us. But it awakens the parts of us that remember when it could.

~Melissa Febos

I have replaced my instinct for secrecy with an instinct for confession.

~Melissa Febos

You can turn off the song the way you cannot the actual experience.

~Melissa Febos

All our stories are part invention - the way we've decided to make sense of what has happened.

~Melissa Febos

Children's stories force logic upon the gruesome facts of our lives. They mirror our troubles and submit them to a chain of causality.

~Melissa Febos

Our lives are a long series of acquiring and then sloughing narratives.

~Melissa Febos

A lot of the experiences I write about could be described as grasping for boundaries, trying to find the limits of things.

~Melissa Febos

Maybe feeling of presence in my body is why I've always sought out extreme experiences; it forces me to be in a moment, to face the fact of my existing in that particular moment, in my body.

~Melissa Febos

I'm always writing to a younger version of myself, or a young woman who is like I was. I want that girl to know that I really existed and that it all went down that way.

~Melissa Febos

It has been my experience that the people I judge most harshly are the ones in whom I recognize some part of myself.

~Melissa Febos

Anyone who makes a life of what they love is a hero to me, and it's important for those people to be visible in every kind of life, every kind of love, every kind of work.

~Melissa Febos

New York at night, from its bridges, is a miracle. When I first came to the city, it took all my fantasies and set them on fire, turned them into flickering constellations of light.

~Melissa Febos

I can still discern people's weaknesses, but it doesn't make me want to exploit them; it makes me want to hug them.

~Melissa Febos

You don't have to write like David Foster Wallace or James Baldwin or Maggie Nelson - indeed, you shouldn't. Those writers are doing it better than you ever could.

~Melissa Febos

Torch songs are confessions. They are an expression of feeling that cannot be concealed or contained or minimized. They are marked by anguish, yes, but also by yielding.

~Melissa Febos

The craft work becomes a mediator between me and my secrets,

between me and the listener.

~Melissa Febos

Letting go of the cozy stories you've been carrying around is devastating. But there's more room for new stuff after you do it.

~Melissa Febos

Being celibate was so wonderful. It taught me a lot about love, but even more about my own self outside of love. I'd never met myself out of love before, really.

~Melissa Febos

I see consensual S&M no differently than I see consensual anything: as beautiful, and never any one thing.

~Melissa Febos

I can only see right in front of me when I'm writing, you know? I never think of it as raw or personal or anything but where I'm at in the moment. But I can see it sort of after I finish.

~Melissa Febos

Most of the smart things I've ever thought or written came vis-a-vis my body.

~Melissa Febos

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