

Nicole Krauss Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, Book, Children, Feelings, World, Mean, Night, Memories,
Loneliness, Trying, Way, Hands, Needs, Doors, Eye, Heart, Space, Love, Long*

...we take comfort in the symmetries we find in life because they suggest a design where there is none.

~Nicole Krauss

Once upon a time there was a boy who loved a girl, and her laughter was a question he wanted to spend his whole life answering.

~Nicole Krauss

there are two types of people in the world: those who prefer to be sad among others, and those who prefer to be sad alone.

~Nicole Krauss

What about you? Are you happiest and saddest right now that you've ever been?" "Of course I am." "Why?" "Because nothing makes me happier and nothing makes me sadder than you.

~Nicole Krauss

To hike out alone in the desert; to sleep on the valley floor on a night with no moon, in the pitch black, just listening to the boom of silence: you can't imagine what that's like.

~Nicole Krauss

She struggled with her sadness, but tried to conceal it, to divide it into smaller and smaller parts and scatter these in places she thought no one would find them.

~Nicole Krauss

When will you learn that there isn't a word for everything?

~Nicole Krauss

That's what I do. Watch movies and read. Sometimes I even pretend to write, but I'm not fooling anyone. Oh, and I go to the mailbox.

~Nicole Krauss

I've reached the age where bruises are formed from failures within rather than accidents without.

~Nicole Krauss

So many words get lost. They leave the mouth and lose their courage, wandering aimlessly until they are swept into the gutter like dead leaves. On rainy days you can hear their chorus rushing past.

~Nicole Krauss

The accolades, just like the scrapes and bruises, fade in the end, and all you're left with is your ambition.

~Nicole Krauss

...after all, who isn't a survivor from the wreck of childhood?

~Nicole Krauss

Perhaps that is what it means to be a father - to teach your child to live without you.

~Nicole Krauss

I always wrote little things when I was younger. My first opus was a book of poems put down in a spiral notebook at five or six, handsomely accompanied by crayon illustrations.

~Nicole Krauss

To me, this is the singular privilege of reading literature: we are allowed to step into another's life.

~Nicole Krauss

What is literature, really? Boiled down to a single sentence, I'd say it's this: an endless conversation about what it means to be human. And to read literature is to engage in that conversation.

~Nicole Krauss

I like to think the world wasn't ready for me, but maybe the truth is that I wasn't ready for the world. I've always arrived too late for my life.

~Nicole Krauss

...our eyes locked in one of those looks that sometimes happen between strangers, when both wordlessly agree that reality contains sinkholes whose depths neither can ever hope to fathom.

~Nicole Krauss

Wittgenstein once wrote that when the eye sees something beautiful, the hand wants to draw it. I wish I could draw you.

~Nicole Krauss

She was gone, and all that was left was the space where you'd grown around her, like a tree that grows around a fence.

~Nicole Krauss

Lonely people are always up in the middle of the night.

~Nicole Krauss

An average of seventy-four species become extinct every day, which was one good reason but not the only one to hold someone's hand.

~Nicole Krauss

If it weren't for her, there would never have been an empty space, or the need to fill it.

~Nicole Krauss

Loneliness: there is no organ that can take it all.

~Nicole Krauss

After all who doesn't wish to make a spectacle of their loneliness

~Nicole Krauss

The truth is the thing I invented so I could live.

~Nicole Krauss

When I got older I decided I wanted to be a real writer. I tried to write about real things. I wanted to describe the world, because to live in an undescribed world was too lonely.

~Nicole Krauss

At night the sky is pure astronomy.

~Nicole Krauss

When at last I came upon the right book, the feeling was violent: it blew open a hole in me that made life more dangerous because I couldn't control what came through it.

~Nicole Krauss

All I want is not to die on a day when I went unseen.

~Nicole Krauss

Sometimes no length of string is long enough to say the thing that needs to be said. In such cases all the string can do, in whatever its form, is conduct a person's silence.

~Nicole Krauss

Part of me is made of glass, and also, I love you.

~Nicole Krauss

Life in general in my experience gets deeper and deeper, more and more profound, more and more complex, the older one gets.

~Nicole Krauss

It's strange what the heart can do when the mind is giving the directions.

~Nicole Krauss

The price we paid for the volumes of ourselves that we suffocated in the dark.

~Nicole Krauss

Holding hands, for example, is a way to remember how it feels to say nothing together.

~Nicole Krauss

All the times I have suddenly realized that my parents are dead, even now, it still surprises me, to exist in the world while that which made me has ceased to exist

~Nicole Krauss

Part of the work of writing a novel is to uncover the symmetries or connections that make it whole, which might not reveal itself at first.

~Nicole Krauss

I do realize that the reader needs some form of resolution. Sometimes I think of it almost like writing a musical score where things have to harmonize and certain lines have to come to a close.

~Nicole Krauss

What interests me very much as a writer is the ability for writing to have our lives to be occupied so vividly by others. I think that's what we long for as writers.

~Nicole Krauss

I have a very strong sense of architecture in my novels. But at first it's sometimes like building a doorknob before you have a door, and a door before you have a room.

~Nicole Krauss

The unique thing that literature provides is to be able to step so fully into another situation and condition.

~Nicole Krauss

One is always changing. I don't want to write the same book and I couldn't, because I'm a different person.

~Nicole Krauss

In one's youth, one has tremendous access to one's feelings. And as one gets older, some of those feelings kind of drift away. But so much more happens to you. There's more at stake in life.

~Nicole Krauss

There are times when the kindness of strangers only makes things worse because one realizes how badly one is in need of kindness and that the only source is a stranger.

~Nicole Krauss

At first Babel longed for the use of just two words: Yes and No. But he knew that just to utter a single word would be to destroy the delicate fluency of silence.

~Nicole Krauss

The truth is that she told me she couldn't love me. When she said goodbye, she was saying goodbye forever. And yet. I made myself forget. I don't know why. I keep asking myself. But I did.

~Nicole Krauss

I think of novels as houses. You live in them over the course of a long period, both as a reader and as a writer.

~Nicole Krauss

I take almost no notes when I write. I have one notebook - this old green leather notebook that my dad gave me a decade ago.

~Nicole Krauss

I read like an animal. I read under the covers, I read lying in the grass, I read at the dinner table. While other people were talking to me, I read.

~Nicole Krauss

I have realised just how important it is to readers to feel that fictional stories are based on reality.

~Nicole Krauss

I have always written about characters who fall somewhere in the spectrum between solitary and totally alienated.

~Nicole Krauss

Getting a book published made me feel a little bit sad... I felt driven by the need to write a book, rather than the need to write. I needed to figure out what was important to me as a writer.

~Nicole Krauss

And so he did the hardest thing he'd ever done in his life: he picked up his hat and walked away.

~Nicole Krauss

Empty teacups gathered around her and dictionary pages fell at her feet.

~Nicole Krauss

The idea that we've outgrown ends up limiting us and we have to make a choice about what we're going to do in our lives.

~Nicole Krauss

In nature forms are endlessly being destroyed and then recreated and destroyed and recreated. Nature isn't afraid to destroy forms in the process of regenerating. So why are we afraid of that in life?

~Nicole Krauss

What interests me in writing a novel is taking really remote voices, characters, and stories and beginning to create some kind of web.

~Nicole Krauss

You can't imagine how hard I am on myself. Nothing pummels me like my own doubts, the feeling of how far I still have to go.

~Nicole Krauss

No, I don't harbor any mystical ideas about writing, Your Honor, it's work like any other kind of craft; the power of literature, I've always thought, lies in how willful the act of making it is.

~Nicole Krauss

When the word 'nostalgia' was coined in the 18th century, it was used to describe a pathology - not so much a sense of lost time, but a severe homesickness.

~Nicole Krauss

...larger than life...I've never understood that expression. What's larger than life?

~Nicole Krauss

My first novel, 'Man Walks Into a Room,' is about a man who's lost his memory and has to start a second life. On one level, it's about how we create a coherent sense of self.

~Nicole Krauss

If the book is a mystery to its author as she's writing, inevitably it's going to be a mystery to the reader as he or she reads it.

~Nicole Krauss

I'm very interested in structure, how multiple stories are assembled in different ways; that is what memory does as well.

~Nicole Krauss

There are so many ways to be alive, but only one way to be dead.

~Nicole Krauss

If I had a camera,' I said, 'I'd take a picture of you every day. That way I'd remember how you looked every single day of your life.

~Nicole Krauss

... as a rule of thumb, whenever there appears a plural, correct for a singular. Should I ever let slip a royal WE, put me out of my misery with a swift blow to the head.

~Nicole Krauss

...The plural of elf is elves! What a language! What a world!

~Nicole Krauss

He learned to live with the truth. Not to accept it, but to live with it.

~Nicole Krauss

How was it possible to wake up every day and be recognizable to another when so often one was barely recognizable to oneself?

~Nicole Krauss

He died alone because he was too embarrassed to phone anyone.

~Nicole Krauss

We search for patterns, you see, only to find where the patterns break. And it's there, in that fissure, that we pitch our tents and wait.

~Nicole Krauss

Sometimes I forget that the world is not on the same schedule as I. That everything is not dying, or that if it is dying it will return to life, what with a little sun and the usual encouragement.

~Nicole Krauss

Later - when things happened that they could never have imagined - she wrote him a letter that said: When will you learn that there isn't a word for everything

~Nicole Krauss

I was never a man of great ambition I cried too easily I didn't have a head for science Words often failed me While others prayed I only moved my lips

~Nicole Krauss

Then he almost but didn't say the two sentence he'd been meaning to say for years: part of me is made of glass, and also, I love you

~Nicole Krauss

I forced myself to picture the last moments. The penultimate breath. A final sigh. And yet. It was always followed by another.

~Nicole Krauss

Bruno, my old faithful. I haven't sufficiently described him. Is it enough to say he is indescribable? No. Better to try and fail than not to try at all.

~Nicole Krauss

When we went into the ocean, I watched his body as he dove into the waves, and it gave me a feeling in my stomach that wasn't an ache but something different.

~Nicole Krauss

I know there is a moral to this story, but I don't know what it is.

~Nicole Krauss

Sometimes I thought about nothing and sometimes I thought about my life. At least I made a living. What kind of living? A living. It wasn't easy. I found out how little is unbearable.

~Nicole Krauss

. . . she gave him one of those broad smiles she reserved for strangers, as if she were aware of being able to pass, in their eyes, for an ordinary woman.

~Nicole Krauss

I opened my mouth, but nothing came out. It took seven languages to make me; it would be nice if I could have spoken just one.

~Nicole Krauss

There were many things they simply didn't talk about: between them, silence was not so much a form of evasion as a way for solitary people to exist in a family.

~Nicole Krauss

I read differently now, more painstakingly, knowing I am probably revisiting the books I love for the last time. (245)

~Nicole Krauss

The moment had passed, the door between the lives we could have led and the lives we led had shut in our faces.

~Nicole Krauss

It is impossible to distrust one's writing without awakening a deeper distrust in oneself.

~Nicole Krauss

Better to try and fail than not to try at all

~Nicole Krauss

To walk into a modern-day bookstore is a little bit like studying a single photograph out of the infinite number of photographs that could be taken of the world: It offers the reader a frame.

~Nicole Krauss

There was no one to call me to bed, no one to demand that the rhythms of my life operate in a duet.

~Nicole Krauss

Because you can get free of everything except the space where things have been

~Nicole Krauss

It's one of those unforgettable moments that happen as a child, when you discover that all along the world has been betraying you.

~Nicole Krauss

I scowled at the world. And the world scowled back. We were locked in a stare of mutual disgust.

~Nicole Krauss

Even among the angels, there is the sadness of division.

~Nicole Krauss

The malpractice for advice-giving is like five times as much as a craniotomy.

~Nicole Krauss

There's no match for the silence of GOD.

~Nicole Krauss

We met each other when we were young, before we knew enough about disappointment, and once we did we found we reminded each other of it.

~Nicole Krauss

ONE THING I AM NEVER GOING TO DO WHEN I GROW UP Is fall in

love, drop out of college, learn to subsist on water and air, have a species named after me, and ruin my life.

~Nicole Krauss

In life we sit at the table and refuse to eat, and in death we are eternally hungry.

~Nicole Krauss

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