

# Pat Conroy

## Quotes

*Book, Writing, Thinking, Men, Tides, Teacher, Stories, Children, Memories,  
World, Mother, Reading, Mean, Father, Beautiful, Way, Laughter, Childhood,  
Moving, Art*

Without music, life is a journey through a desert.

~Pat Conroy

It's impossible to explain to a Yankee what `tacky' is. They simply have no word for it up north, but my God, do they ever need one.

~Pat Conroy

I was born and raised on a Carolina sea island and I carried the sunshine of the low-country, inked in dark gold, on my back and shoulders.

~Pat Conroy

I've never had anyone's approval, so I've learned to live without it.

~Pat Conroy

The most powerful words in English are, 'Tell me a story.'

~Pat Conroy

Here is all I ask of a book- give me everything. Everything, and don't leave out a single word.

~Pat Conroy

I stood face to face with the moon and the ocean and the future that spread out with all its bewildering immensity before me.

~Pat Conroy

Good writing ... involves the agony of turning profoundly difficult thoughts into lucid form, then forcing them into the tight-fitting uniform of language, making them visible and clear.

~Pat Conroy

There is no teacher more discriminating or transforming than loss.

~Pat Conroy

The great teachers fill you up with hope and shower you with a thousand reasons to embrace all aspects of life.

~Pat Conroy

My soul found ease and rest in the companionship of books.

~Pat Conroy

Each divorce is the death of a small civilization.

~Pat Conroy

Like everything else, love's not worth much without some action to back it up.

~Pat Conroy

I could bear the memory, but I could not bear the music that made the memory such a killing thing.

~Pat Conroy

I'd be a conservative if I'd never met any. They're selfish, mean-spirited, egocentric, reactionary, and boring.

~Pat Conroy

Happiness is an accident of nature, a beautiful and flawless aberration.

~Pat Conroy

One can learn anything, anything at all, I thought, if provided by a gifted and passionate teacher.

~Pat Conroy

Man wonders but God decides When to kill the Prince of Tides.

~Pat Conroy

I was trying to unravel the complicated trigonometry of the radical thought that silence could make up the greatest lie ever told.

~Pat Conroy

She had so mastered the strategies of camouflage that her own history had seemed a series of well-placed mirrors that kept her hidden from herself.

~Pat Conroy

I've always found paranoia to be a perfectly defensible position.

~Pat Conroy

Anyone who knows me well must understand and be sympathetic to my genuine need to be my own greatest hero. It is not a flaw of character; it is a catastrophe.

~Pat Conroy

One of the greatest gifts you can get as a writer is to be born into an unhappy family.

~Pat Conroy

Baseball fans love numbers. They love to swirl them around their mouths like Bordeaux wine.

~Pat Conroy

Except for memory, time would have no meaning at all.

~Pat Conroy

Once you have traveled, the voyage never ends, but is played out over and over again in the quietest chambers. The mind can never break off from the journey.

~Pat Conroy

Laughter is the only strategy that has ever worked at all for me when my world is falling apart.

~Pat Conroy

Once you have traveled, the voyage never ends.

~Pat Conroy

In Charleston, more than elsewhere, you get the feeling that the twentieth century is a vast, unconscionable mistake.

~Pat Conroy

A library could show you everything if you knew where to look.

~Pat Conroy

I had come to a place where I was meant to be. I don't mean anything so prosaic as a sense of coming home. This was different, very different. It was like arriving at a place much safer than home.

~Pat Conroy

Writing is the only way I have to explain my own life to myself.

~Pat Conroy

South Carolina is not a state; it is a cult.

~Pat Conroy

The University of South Carolina has always played a role in my life and the intellectual life of South Carolina.

~Pat Conroy

The English language on her tongue became a smoke-screen, without her eyes changing expression in the least.

~Pat Conroy

Carolina beach music," Dupree said, coming up on the porch. "The holiest sound on earth.

~Pat Conroy

Music could ache and hurt, that beautiful music was a place a suffering

man could hide.

~Pat Conroy

My wound is geography. It is also my anchorage, my port of call.

~Pat Conroy

... silence (can) be the most eloquent form of lying.

~Pat Conroy

Fantasy is one of the soul's brighter porcelains.

~Pat Conroy

A story is a living thing, it moves and shifts.

~Pat Conroy

Every athlete learns by theft and mimicry.

~Pat Conroy

Walking the streets of Charleston in the late afternoons of August was like walking through gauze or inhaling damaged silk.

~Pat Conroy

I loved my parents... but that can never change the fact that my father's violence ruined my childhood.

~Pat Conroy

Love's action. It isn't talk and it never has been.

~Pat Conroy

The pursuit of greatness means that laziness has no place in your life.

~Pat Conroy

Humanity is best described as inhumanity.

~Pat Conroy

The mind is an intricate mechanism that can be run on the fuels of both victory and defeatism.

~Pat Conroy

Red Hook Road made me happy, and happy to be alive. It took me out of my home on the coast of South Carolina, placed me in the town along Red hook Road, and changed me the way good books always do.

~Pat Conroy

A recipe is a story that ends with a good meal.

~Pat Conroy

Evil would always come to me disguised in systems and dignified by law.

~Pat Conroy

Cameras are a lifesaver for very shy people who have nowhere else to hide. Behind a lens they can disguise the fact that they have nothing to say to strangers.

~Pat Conroy

But no one walks out of his family without reprisals: a family is too disciplined an army to offer compassion to its deserters.

~Pat Conroy

Craziness attacks the softest eyes and hamstring the gentlest flanks.

~Pat Conroy

In families, there are no crimes beyond forgiveness.

~Pat Conroy

From the very beginning, I wrote to explain my own life to myself, and I invited any readers who chose to make the journey with me to join me

on the high wire.

~Pat Conroy

Good writing is the hardest form of thinking.

~Pat Conroy

Honor is the presence of God in man.

~Pat Conroy

But even her demons she invested with inordinate beauty, consecrated them with the dignity of her attention.

~Pat Conroy

A family is one of nature's solubles; it dissolves in time like salt in rainwater.

~Pat Conroy

The world of literature has everything in it, and it refuses to leave

~Pat Conroy

Reading is the most rewarding form of exile and the most necessary discipline for novelists who burn with the ambition to get better.

~Pat Conroy

I was born into the century in which novels lost their stories, poems their rhymes, paintings their form, and music its beauty, but that does not mean I have to like that trend or go along with it.

~Pat Conroy

She had awakened something in him that had slumbered far too long. Not only did he feel passion, he felt the return of hope.

~Pat Conroy

I don't know why it is that I have always been happier thinking of

somewhere I have been or wanted to go, than where I am at the time. I find it difficult to be happy in the present.

~Pat Conroy

I would always be a better hater of things and institutions than a lover of them.

~Pat Conroy

There are no ideas in the South, just barbecue.

~Pat Conroy

I've always believed that dreams were both the love letters and the hate mail of the subconscious.

~Pat Conroy

Men are prisoners of their genitalia and women are the keepers of the keys to paradise.

~Pat Conroy

Every industry is going to be affected (by the aging population). This creates tremendous opportunities and tremendous challenges.

~Pat Conroy

Paranoia has a sharper taste if the danger is real.

~Pat Conroy

He was one of those rare men who are capable of being fully in love only once in their lives.

~Pat Conroy

I was the only person in the world who thought it was a military duty to appear to be in a good mood.

~Pat Conroy

All life connects ... Nothing happens that is meaningless.

~Pat Conroy

Because she deserved my tears if anyone on earth ever did. I could feel the tears within me, undiscovered, and untouched in their inland sea. Those tears had been with me always.

~Pat Conroy

The only way I could endure being a coward was if I was the only one who knew it.

~Pat Conroy

There are no verdicts to childhood, only consequences, and the bright freight of memory.

~Pat Conroy

A story untold could be the one that kills you.

~Pat Conroy

Love had always issued out of the places that hurt the most.

~Pat Conroy

My father wouldn't let me take typing in childhood.

~Pat Conroy

I lived with the terrible knowledge that one day I would be an old man still waiting for my real life to start. Already, I pitied that old man.

~Pat Conroy

Rape is a crime against sleep and memory; it's afterimage imprints itself like an irreversible negative from the camera obscura of dreams.

~Pat Conroy

Good coaching is good teaching and nothing else.

~Pat Conroy

We've pretended too much in our family, Luke, and hidden far too much. I think we're all going to pay a high price for our inability to face the truth.

~Pat Conroy

Isn't it a shame military doctors couldn't be as good as military sunglasses?

~Pat Conroy

Those wishing to be successful in the market can't ignore the boomer numbers, the wealth and spending power they have.

~Pat Conroy

Her laughter was a shiny thing, like pewter flung high in the air.

~Pat Conroy

I was born to be a point guard, but not a very good one.

~Pat Conroy

We set down feasts for each other and treated our love with tongues of fire. Our bodies were fields of wonder to us.

~Pat Conroy

I meet kids now who become novelists, poets, write for the theater and movies, who were simply inspired by what they saw during the Spoleto Festival.

~Pat Conroy

These are the quicksilver moments of my childhood I cannot remember entirely. Irresistible and emblematic, I can recall them only in fragments and shivers of the heart.

~Pat Conroy

... the wing of a fly is proof enough of the existence of God for me.

~Pat Conroy

When I was 5 years old, my mother read me 'Gone With The Wind' at night, before I went to bed. I remember her reading almost all year.

~Pat Conroy

The children of warriors in our country learn the grace and caution that come from a permanent sense of estrangement.

~Pat Conroy

Some things don't mix. Some things don't mix at all, but sometimes in life you have to take the risk.

~Pat Conroy

When mom and dad went to war the only prisoners they took were the children

~Pat Conroy

My soul grazes like a lamb on the beauty of an indrawn tide.

~Pat Conroy

The only word for goodness is goodness, and it is not enough.

~Pat Conroy

I don't believe in happy families.

~Pat Conroy

I've never cackled with laughter at a single line I've ever written. None of it has given me pleasure.

~Pat Conroy

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