

Patricia Hampl

Quotes

*Writing, Memories, Real, Stories, Hands, Firsts, Self, Mean, Secret, Prayer,
Night, Taste, People, Mystery, Mind, Past, Book, Poetry, Wish, World*

I don't write about what I know: I write in order to find out what I know.

~Patricia Hampl

People come and go in life, but they never leave your dreams. Once they're in your subconscious, they are immortal.

~Patricia Hampl

Prayer as focus is not a way of limiting what can be seen; it is a habit of attention brought to bear on all that is.

~Patricia Hampl

We only store in memory images of value. To write about one's life is to live it twice, and the second time is both spiritual and historical.

~Patricia Hampl

Maybe being oneself is always an acquired taste.

~Patricia Hampl

Memory is, first, a captivating mystery.

~Patricia Hampl

Fundamentally, [prayer] is a position, a placement of oneself.

~Patricia Hampl

No memoirists writes for long without experiencing an unsettling disbelief about the reliability of memory, a hunch that memory is not, after all, just memory.

~Patricia Hampl

True memoir is written, like all literature, in an attempt to find not only a self but a world

~Patricia Hampl

Writing is so hard. And then, sometimes, it is so bewilderingly easy.

~Patricia Hampl

A careful first draft is a failed first draft

~Patricia Hampl

What is remembered is what becomes reality.

~Patricia Hampl

Writing was the soul of everything else ... Wanting to be a writer was wanting to be a person.

~Patricia Hampl

Planes are my foxhole. I'm always on my knees in them.

~Patricia Hampl

Here, in memory, we live and die.

~Patricia Hampl

landscape, that vast still life, invites description, not narration. It is lyric. It has no story: it is the beloved, and asks only to be contemplated.

~Patricia Hampl

The world is full of mystery but it must not be choked with secrets: we must talk to one another.

~Patricia Hampl

Memoirists wish to tell their mind, not their story.

~Patricia Hampl

The real subject of autobiography is not one's experience but one's consciousness. Memoirists use the self as a tool.

~Patricia Hampl

You can't put much on paper before you betray your secret self, try as

you will to keep things civil.

~Patricia Hampl

Silence was the first prayer I learned to trust.

~Patricia Hampl

Poverty didn't necessarily engender an envy of wealth; sometimes it might beget a passion for decency.

~Patricia Hampl

The future is here, now, and the past is full of actual deeds, real history. Utopias hardly have the meat on their bones to sustain a people in grave times.

~Patricia Hampl

It is hard to sever the cords that tie us to our slavery and leave intact those that bind us to ourselves.

~Patricia Hampl

It's always a thrilling risk to say exactly what you mean, to express exactly what you see.

~Patricia Hampl

I come from people who have always been polite enough to feel that nothing has ever happened to them.

~Patricia Hampl

Looking repeatedly into the past, you do not necessarily become fascinated with your own life, but rather with the phenomenon of memory.

~Patricia Hampl

In memory each of us is an artist: each of us creates.

~Patricia Hampl

Refuse to write your life and you have no life.

~Patricia Hampl

We store in memory only images of value. The value may be lost over the passage of time, but that's the implacable judgment of feeling.

~Patricia Hampl

I could tell you stories-if only stories could tell what I have in me to tell.

~Patricia Hampl

French was the only language we had in common, and even that was like a dialect we had picked up at a rummage sale, rusty and missing a lot of essential parts.

~Patricia Hampl

poetry is the sung voice of accurate perception.

~Patricia Hampl

The materials of true poetry are always humble, absolutely idiosyncratic, the autobiographical tatters that, in gifted hands, are made into the memoir that fits us all.

~Patricia Hampl

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