

# Patricia Highsmith

## Quotes

*People, Writing, Book, Thinking, Justice, Men, Want, Night, Murder, Hate,  
Boring, Ends, Imagination, Dream, Two, New York, Memories, Self, Answers,  
Blood*

My imagination functions much better when I don't have to speak to people.

~Patricia Highsmith

Everything human is alien to me.

~Patricia Highsmith

Life is a long failure of understanding ... a long, mistaken shutting of the heart.

~Patricia Highsmith

Each book is, in a sense, an argument with myself, and I would write it, whether it is ever published or not.

~Patricia Highsmith

One situation - maybe one alone - could drive me to murder: family life, togetherness.

~Patricia Highsmith

And no book, and possibly no painting, when it is finished, is ever exactly like the first dream of it.

~Patricia Highsmith

How easy it was to lie when one had to lie!

~Patricia Highsmith

I have Graham Greene's telephone number, but I wouldn't dream of using it. I don't seek out writers because we all want to be alone.

~Patricia Highsmith

It always gets late with you. - Is that a compliment?

~Patricia Highsmith

For neither life nor nature cares if justice is ever done or not.

~Patricia Highsmith

What was it to love someone, what was love exactly, and why did it end or not end? Those were the real questions, and who could answer them?

~Patricia Highsmith

This is what I like, sitting at a table and watching people go by. It does something to your outlook on life. The Anglo-Saxons make a great mistake not staring at people from a sidewalk table.

~Patricia Highsmith

When I am thickening my plots, I like to think 'What if ... What if ... ' Thus my imagination can move from the likely, which everyone can think of, to the unlikely-but-possible, my preferred plot.

~Patricia Highsmith

The night was a time for bestial affinities, for drawing closer to oneself.

~Patricia Highsmith

The kiss became the narrowed center of the still point of the turning world, so that even the park was turning in comparison to the still peace at their lips.

~Patricia Highsmith

Anticipation! It occurred to him that his anticipation was more pleasant to him than the experiencing.

~Patricia Highsmith

Every man is his own law court and punishes himself enough.

~Patricia Highsmith

I think people often try to find through sex things that are much easier to find in other ways.

~Patricia Highsmith

I prefer to live in the country where it's quiet. Woody Allen movies there are dubbed into Italian.

~Patricia Highsmith

Perhaps it was freedom itself that choked her.

~Patricia Highsmith

Dusk was falling quickly. It was just after 7 P.M., and the month was October.

~Patricia Highsmith

Robert Walker as Bruno was excellent. He had elegance and humor, and the proper fondness for his mother

~Patricia Highsmith

Honestly, I don't understand why people get so worked up about a little murder!

~Patricia Highsmith

I think J.D. Salinger is correct in granting no interviews, and in making no speeches

~Patricia Highsmith

I find the public passion for justice quite boring and artificial.

~Patricia Highsmith

I know you have it in you, Guy," Anne said suddenly at the end of a silence, "the capacity to be terribly happy.

~Patricia Highsmith

I was in New York. Hitchcock was in California. He rang me to make a report on his progress and said, I'm having trouble. I've just sacked my

second screenwriter

~Patricia Highsmith

I can't write if someone else is in the house, not even the cleaning woman.

~Patricia Highsmith

I don't want to know movie directors. I don't want to be close to them. I don't want to interfere with their work. I don't want them to interfere with mine.

~Patricia Highsmith

That wasn't a bad price for a first book. My agent upped it as much as possible. I was 27 and had nothing behind me. I was working like a fool to earn a living and pay for my apartment

~Patricia Highsmith

The conversation seemed just as boring and forgettable as details of American history around 1805, for example.

~Patricia Highsmith

If people have bought something of mine, they know by now that I will decline writing it for the movies

~Patricia Highsmith

I don't set the alarm to get up. I get up when I feel like it.

~Patricia Highsmith

The justice I have received, I shall give back.

~Patricia Highsmith

one blow in anger [would] kill, probably, a child from aged two to eight. Those over eight would take two blows to kill.

~Patricia Highsmith

I have no television - I hate it.

~Patricia Highsmith

He liked the fact that Venice had no cars. It made the city human. The streets were like veins, he thought, and the people were the blood, circulating everywhere.

~Patricia Highsmith

I didn't hang around films. I don't know if I'd ever seen Hitchcock's *The Lady Vanishes*.

~Patricia Highsmith

Honesty, for me, is usually the worst policy imaginable.

~Patricia Highsmith

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