

# PJ Harvey

## Quotes

*Writing, Song, People, Thinking, Way, Trying, Artist, Want, Country, War, Art,  
Mean, Soul, Different, Two, Stories, Get Better, Singing, Littles, Men*

People have a tendency to see country life through rose-colored glasses.

~PJ Harvey

I just love having no clothes on outside, and the only time to do that is when the sun's shining. It's a wonderful sensation to not have any clothes on.

~PJ Harvey

I feel like the actual, the most beautiful thing about a song is that it is something that goes out there in the universe and people use it in the way that they need it in their lives.

~PJ Harvey

You know, two people can say exactly the same words, saying the same story, and it would mean something entirely different.

~PJ Harvey

I enjoy looking like a tart and thinking like a politician.

~PJ Harvey

Shame is the shadow of love.

~PJ Harvey

I see men come and go, but there'll be one who'll collect my soul.

~PJ Harvey

I try to see as much dance, theatre and films as I can because all of it feeds me in a way that I need feeding for what I do.

~PJ Harvey

I've always been very visceral in that I feel things very deeply.

~PJ Harvey

I think of myself as a songwriter, a weaver of story and imagination in a way that a novelist might write a book.

~PJ Harvey

Making me into a role model is placing too much importance on what I see as a work in progress.

~PJ Harvey

People have this idea of me being some kind of monster, and that's the complete opposite of who I am.

~PJ Harvey

I'm not an autobiographical writer, but I am a writer who deals with human emotion on all levels.

~PJ Harvey

I think that's always very valuable: to keep the mind open to receiving all sorts of information, which can then be used in my work, but also just as a human being.

~PJ Harvey

It's good to feel excited by the environment you're in.

~PJ Harvey

The way I make music is unique to myself and the way I have lived my life - no one else would tell that story in the same way that I do.

~PJ Harvey

Some people, like Leonard Cohen, write one album every 10 years, and labor over a song for five years at a time.

~PJ Harvey

I'm finding my way, and I make mistakes.

~PJ Harvey

I would never feel confident enough to express my views and opinions as the right ones because I just don't think that's possible. There are so many sides to everything that nobody is right or wrong.

~PJ Harvey

It's so interesting to me how songs take on a shape and body of their own and grow.

~PJ Harvey

When I'm writing for rappers it's kinda like switching, "Okay, you're not PJ. Now you have to act like a rapper."

~PJ Harvey

Writing is something that I practice at every day to get better at.

~PJ Harvey

Fly with me, touch the face of the true God. And then cry with joy at the depth of my love.

~PJ Harvey

I decide immediately if I like a person and if I do, then I'm myself, and if I don't, then I give nothing.

~PJ Harvey

My town was even smaller. Only six hundred people. We didn't have a grocery store.

~PJ Harvey

In college, I thought I wanted to be solely an artist, and then when I got here, to college, I was like, "Okay, well I want to be a songwriter," 'cause it was like close to Nashville.

~PJ Harvey

I just started writing and writing for people. And then, like I guess after

(a) year of getting some placements, I kinda got a shot to be an artist. Long story short I think, yeah.

~PJ Harvey

But even when I do give interviews, I always come across as such a completely different person. It seems like there's no controlling it anyway.

~PJ Harvey

My mom is a sculptress.

~PJ Harvey

I feel like it's very important that I'm doing what I'm doing, and I want to keep honoring that and try and do it as honestly as I can.

~PJ Harvey

You shouldn't separate the piece from the way it's intended. I always feel like words shouldn't be unraveled from the music. They're all linked so much together.

~PJ Harvey

Never settle for anything less than you want.

~PJ Harvey

I feel like when I'm writing for other people, when I'm doing rap hooks, it's kinda like playing dress up for me...

~PJ Harvey

I think I've been interested in music since I was little.

~PJ Harvey

I did photography, painting, and drawing, but I prefer sculpture. I like it because it's very physical.

~PJ Harvey

Most of the stuff that I do talk about, about being counted out and being an underdog, 'cause that's what I feel like I am.

~PJ Harvey

I find it hard myself to feel justified to sing in a very politically direct way about war or social conditions because I feel so ignorant of a lot of it.

~PJ Harvey

I've so much left to explore, it's enormously exciting to me. It's a passion. I just try and get better at what I do, and I study it very hard, like it is my life degree.

~PJ Harvey

I think it does surprise me a bit when people have a very fixed idea of what I'm like, based upon the work that I do, which is something that is very separate.

~PJ Harvey

First off, I think nudity is taken differently in America, though they did make a fuss in England, too.

~PJ Harvey

I think that most art is asking a question or is looking for something, looking for answers and that is what life seems to be about for most people.

~PJ Harvey

I long ago learned that you can't expect people to interpret the songs in the way they had meant for you, as the writer.

~PJ Harvey

Being a recording artist and having thousands of people listening to your music and singing your songs, and paying for it? It feels great!

~PJ Harvey

What we are fed through the media I do not accept, unless you see it with your own eyes you cant trust anything.

~PJ Harvey

I don't loathe interviews, I'm just one of those people who makes music because I find it difficult to talk.

~PJ Harvey

I make tiny wooden people with bits of hair. Puppets and things like that.

~PJ Harvey

I work on words, mostly, toward them being poetry or short stories, and then some of those become songs.

~PJ Harvey

I've always been very interested in the visual aspect of what I do.

~PJ Harvey

My father is actually a quarry man - he deals in stone. He also at one point had a lot of sheep, he owned a sheep farm, but primarily the family business was in stone.

~PJ Harvey

I'm always writing, the past 10 years. A lot has changed, in that it's something I do every day.

~PJ Harvey

It [ "Not For Long" ] was the biggest song that I've had, and I actually heard it on the radio multiple times.

~PJ Harvey

When I write - I always write on my own - I demo those songs on a four-track.

~PJ Harvey

The devil wanders into my soul.

~PJ Harvey

Before I record for real, I know pretty much exactly how I want them to feel.

~PJ Harvey

It's so much in me to want to keep experimenting all the time. It's just inherent.

~PJ Harvey

I would listen most particularly to the countries whose language I didn't understand, didn't know what they were singing. But being a singer myself, I could understand because of the emotion.

~PJ Harvey

There's a level of discipline I use as a writer, designed to get better at what I'm doing, that requires quite a lot of study and quite a lot of hard work as well.

~PJ Harvey

I get to a point when I've collected together enough words that seem like they want to be songs rather than poems, or sometimes not.

~PJ Harvey

I think blues music is music of the soul. Of course, there are other forms. You could call some classical music blues music in that way.

~PJ Harvey

I think I'm a maker of songs, and songs are like films or a picture: You put them over there, and they have nothing to do with you.

~PJ Harvey



I do take enormous interest in what's going on. I try to see whatever I can, whenever I can.

~PJ Harvey

When I was young, I had idols that I thought were wonderful. I wanted to be just like them.

~PJ Harvey

I'm probably much more influenced by film-makers and painters than I am by other songwriters or poets.

~PJ Harvey

There is nothing more boring than doing singing exercises.

~PJ Harvey

With songs I almost see the images, see the action, and then all I have to do is describe it. It's almost like watching a scene from a film, and that's what I go about trying to catch in a song.

~PJ Harvey

It varies, I don't think there is any one set way of writing songs or coming up with ideas, it comes in so many ways you know.

~PJ Harvey

I'm always trying to swim to new ground.

~PJ Harvey

I feel that my dreamscapes are part of my everyday life, and sometimes I can't tell the difference.

~PJ Harvey

Well, I'm quite a self-deprecating person.

~PJ Harvey

I firmly disbelieve that one has to be a tortured soul to write good music.

~PJ Harvey

I like to be around things that I find inspiring.

~PJ Harvey

I like things that are beaten up, that have lived a little. I like things that are real. I like things that are made out of wood or string. I never feel very responsive to plastic machinery.

~PJ Harvey

I also like a lot of silence, and when you're touring, it's constantly noise, all the time, you're surrounded with 15 or 20 people the entire time. I find that tough.

~PJ Harvey

Yeah, I mean I am somebody that makes an effort to go and see a lot of exhibitions, painting, drawing, sculpture.

~PJ Harvey

But huge photographs of dead bodies are slightly different. I couldn't find much humor there.

~PJ Harvey

I think I've got a pretty good sense of humor.

~PJ Harvey

[I] try to do both because the writing for me, to be a new artist, the writing is gonna pay the bills.

~PJ Harvey

At this point in my life, I'm probably not gonna be able to stop writing because it's gonna help me be able to do what I need to do.

~PJ Harvey

[Writing] has helped me meet people.

~PJ Harvey

I had a chip on my shoulders 'cause I felt like I was being overlooked.

~PJ Harvey

I'm a visual artist myself and always have been so it's very natural for me to be very concerned with presentation, whether it's artwork or onstage.

~PJ Harvey

There's so much you can do with laying words on a bed of music. You can completely change their meaning with the type of music or the way they're sung.

~PJ Harvey

I feel like "Not For Long" was one for me just because I got to work with two people that I looked up to...

~PJ Harvey

You go back and look at some of the ancient writings that exist throughout the world about wars and it's the same; the human beings' articulation of events is the same. That really fascinated me.

~PJ Harvey

I think you have to be very careful getting the balance right if you're going to talk about grand themes like war, death and nationhood. You need to use the right language or don't do it at all.

~PJ Harvey

People want to build musicians into mythical beings.

~PJ Harvey

To think of myself as a role model is extremely flattering, but I could never accept that, because I'm just learning like everybody else.

~PJ Harvey

I am someone that follows the news and reads newspapers yet what do you believe and what don't you.

~PJ Harvey

I have learnt through doing interviews throughout my life that the way that somebody can write about something can change entirely how it was meant, or what actually happened.

~PJ Harvey

Everything from a lifetime's worth of collecting things. You know as we go through life, and something stays and ends up on your shelf and lives there until you die? Just those little things.

~PJ Harvey

There is a thread connecting you no matter how far away you are from someone and you know I have two or three relationships in my life that are like that.

~PJ Harvey

We just kind of lost our way. But we were looking to be free. One day we'll float. Take life as it comes.

~PJ Harvey

Like I have to pretend like I'm a male rapper, that I got stacks and we're in the club, and what do I want to say. And then, when writing *Rare* I could just be PJ.

~PJ Harvey

I think a lot of people have an idealistic view - if you grow up in the country, there can't possibly be anything wrong with you.

~PJ Harvey

Well, I don't really concern myself too much with what other people make of my work.

~PJ Harvey

The craft, the writing of a song, is about creating a story, a life story, a world within three minutes, but that's the frame, if you like, the picture frame. That fascinates me.

~PJ Harvey

I knew what I didn't want to do- that's always my starting point. The starting point is always that I don't want to repeat myself. Or I try my best not to, with varying degrees of success.

~PJ Harvey

If I ever meet a writer or a painter, I don't presuppose that they are like the work they are presenting.

~PJ Harvey

The artists that I love- whether painters or filmmakers- it's because something resonates in me because I've felt it.

~PJ Harvey

Maybe I'm just purely lucky. If I've come up against obstacles I've always found another way around it.

~PJ Harvey

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