

Rachel Cusk

Quotes

*Writing, Children, Mother, People, Thinking, Reality, World, Motherhood,
Believe, Needs, Feelings, Art, Jobs, Artist, Principles, Wine, Home, Childhood,
Want, Two*

Hope is like one of those orchids that grows around toxic waste: lovely in itself - and an assertion, if you like, of indefatigable good - but a sure sign that something nasty lies underneath.

~Rachel Cusk

As writers go, I have a skin of average thickness. I am pleased by a good review, disappointed by a bad. None of it penetrates far enough to influence the thing I write next.

~Rachel Cusk

That's writing for you: when you make space for passion, it doesn't turn up.

~Rachel Cusk

How can there be so many mothers in the world but so little sense of what it might be to become one?

~Rachel Cusk

The creativity of childhood was often surrendered amid feelings of unworthiness. So the idea that others are demanding to be given it back - to be "taught" - is disturbing.

~Rachel Cusk

Honest criticism, I suppose, has its place. But honest writing is infinitely more valuable.

~Rachel Cusk

Hope is one of those no-win-no-fee things, and although it needs some encouragement to survive, its existence doesn't necessarily prove anything.

~Rachel Cusk

Childhood, after all, is not an ending, but rather a state full of potent curiosity.

~Rachel Cusk

Even if they knew the truth of their own feelings, most mothers would be socially and emotionally incapable of revealing it.

~Rachel Cusk

It is living, not thinking, as a feminist that has become the challenge.

~Rachel Cusk

Human beings have a need, generally, to destroy things. The Freudian principle of civilisation is correct. There's always, always a difference between the family image and the reality.

~Rachel Cusk

Having your second child, in case you were wondering, is a lot harder than having your first, except for those people who find it easier. I'm afraid I don't have the latest figures to confirm this.

~Rachel Cusk

I'm a novelist, not a social scientist or a commentator.

~Rachel Cusk

What I increasingly felt, in marriage and in motherhood, was that to live as a woman and to live as a feminist were two different and possibly irreconcilable things.

~Rachel Cusk

I suppose, I said, it is one definition of love, the belief in something that only the two of you can see.

~Rachel Cusk

A neighbor is something that belongs to the stable world of home life, the thing that lives next door to you.

~Rachel Cusk

Christianity has kept itself going for centuries on hope alone, and has perpetrated all manner of naughtiness in the meantime.

~Rachel Cusk

Divorce also entails the beginning of a supposition that that familial reality might have obstructed one's ability to perceive others.

~Rachel Cusk

The writing you allude to is a form of dissent, but it's also expressive of the need to evolve beyond what is turgid and stale in contemporary fiction.

~Rachel Cusk

Help is dangerous because it exists outside the human economy: the only payment for help is gratitude.

~Rachel Cusk

Reality might be described as the eternal equipoise of positive and negative.

~Rachel Cusk

I'm waiting for the day when my children cease to find my domestic propriety reassuring and actually find it annoying.

~Rachel Cusk

I have absolutely no concept of work, except for university. But I like to talk to people a lot about their jobs.

~Rachel Cusk

A feminist man is a bit like a vegetarian: it's the humanitarian principle he's defending, I suppose.

~Rachel Cusk

I think a lot of artists no longer want to participate in or be associated

with narrative because of its corruptedness in contemporary culture.

~Rachel Cusk

Every time I write a book, I've probably taken five years off my life.

~Rachel Cusk

I am a good and interested mother - which has surprised me.

~Rachel Cusk

The British have always made terrible parents.

~Rachel Cusk

Feminism remains something that needs to be explained to people.

~Rachel Cusk

I absolutely don't dislike children - I would choose their company over adult company any time.

~Rachel Cusk

Like the child, the creative writing student is posited as a centre of vulnerable creativity, needful of attention and authority.

~Rachel Cusk

Modern morality is all about perception.

~Rachel Cusk

We who were born were not witnesses to our birth: like death, it is something we are forever after trying to catch sight of.

~Rachel Cusk

What other grown-up gets told how to do their job so often as a writer?

~Rachel Cusk

It's a pretty brutal process, having a baby.

~Rachel Cusk

It is interesting how keen people are for you to do something they would never dream of doing themselves, how enthusiastically they drive you to your own destruction.

~Rachel Cusk

Leaving things behind and starting again is a way of coping with difficulties. I learnt very early in my life that I was able to leave a place and still remain myself.

~Rachel Cusk

I remain fascinated by where you go as a woman once you are a mother, and if you ever come back.

~Rachel Cusk

If love is what is held to make us immortal, hatred is the reverse.

~Rachel Cusk

People are least aware of others when demonstrating their own power over them.

~Rachel Cusk

To become a mother is to learn a whole language - to relearn it, perhaps, as it was the tongue to which we were born - and hence gain entrance to a forgotten world of comprehension.

~Rachel Cusk

My children are living, thinking human beings. It isn't in my power to regret them, for they belong to themselves.

~Rachel Cusk

I don't really believe in stories, only in the people who tell them.

~Rachel Cusk

For me, a novel is always the result of my attempt to impose myself on raw circumstances. It is a concrete form of lived experience.

~Rachel Cusk

Writing, more than any other art, is indexed to the worthiness of the self because it is identified in peoples minds with emotion.

~Rachel Cusk

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