

# Raymond Carver Quotes

*Writing, Morning, Stories, World, Knows, Heart, Moving, Thinking, Talking,  
Fiction, Trying, Looks, Want, Men, Crafts, Littles, Real, Lying, Feels, Firsts*

there isn't enough of anything as long as we live. But at intervals a sweetness appears and, given a chance prevails.

~Raymond Carver

Life and death matters, yes. And the question of how to behave in this world, how to go in the face of everything. Time is short and the water is rising.

~Raymond Carver

That's all we have, finally, the words, and they had better be the right ones.

~Raymond Carver

Write about what you know, and what do you know better than your own secrets?

~Raymond Carver

And what did you want? To call myself beloved, to feel myself beloved on the earth.

~Raymond Carver

I could hear my heart beating. I could hear everyone's heart. I could hear the human noise we sat there making, not one of us moving, not even when the room went dark.

~Raymond Carver

It ought to make us feel ashamed when we talk like we know what we're talking about when we talk about love.

~Raymond Carver

The places where water comes together with other water. Those places stand out in my mind like holy places.

~Raymond Carver

Dreams, you know, are what you wake up from.

~Raymond Carver

But I can hardly sit still. I keep fidgeting, crossing one leg and then the other. I feel like I could throw off sparks, or break a window--maybe rearrange all the furniture.

~Raymond Carver

He wondered if she wondered if he were watching her.

~Raymond Carver

Art doesn't have to do anything. It just has to be there for the fierce pleasure we take in doing it.

~Raymond Carver

There are significant moments in everyone's day that can make literature. That's what you ought to write about.

~Raymond Carver

It's strange. You never start out life with the intention of becoming a bankrupt or an alcoholic or a cheat and a thief. Or a liar.

~Raymond Carver

You've got to work with your mistakes until they look intended.

Understand?

~Raymond Carver

Ralph also took some classes in philosophy and literature and felt himself on the brink of some kind of huge discovery about himself. But it never came.

~Raymond Carver

Booze takes a lot of time and effort if you're going to do a good job with it.

~Raymond Carver

I am a cigarette with a body attached to it

~Raymond Carver

Woke up this morning with a terrific urge to lie in bed all day and read.

~Raymond Carver

Every great or even every very good writer makes the world over according to his own specifications.

~Raymond Carver

Honey, no offense, but sometimes I think I could shoot you and watch you kick.

~Raymond Carver

You're...writing for other writers to an extent-the dead writers whose work you admire, as well as the living writers you like to read.

~Raymond Carver

What good are insights? They only make things worse.

~Raymond Carver

Isak Dinesen said that she wrote a little every day, without hope and without despair. I like that.

~Raymond Carver

Nights without beginning that had no end. Talking about a past as if it'd really happened. Telling themselves that this time next year, this time next year, things were going to be different.

~Raymond Carver

This is awful. I don't know what's going to happen to me or to anyone else in the world.

~Raymond Carver

Something's died in me,â€• she goes. â€œIt took a long time for it to do it, but it's dead. You've killed something, just like you'd took an axe to it. Everything is dirt now.

~Raymond Carver

Happiness. It comes on unexpectedly. And goes beyond, really, any early morning talk about it.

~Raymond Carver

A man without hands came to the door to sell me a photograph of my house. Except for the chrome hooks, he was an ordinary-looking man of fifty or so.

~Raymond Carver

I dressed and went for a walk - determined not to return until I took in what Nature had to offer.

~Raymond Carver

In short, everything about his life was different for him at the bottom of that well.

~Raymond Carver

I'm moving to Nevada. Either there or kill myself.

~Raymond Carver

I think a little menace is fine to have in a story. For one thing, it's good for the circulation.

~Raymond Carver

Anyone can express himself or herself, but what writers and poets want to do in their work, more than simply express themselves, is communicate.

~Raymond Carver

That morning she pours Teacher's over my belly and licks it off. That afternoon she tries to jump out the window.

~Raymond Carver

There was this funny thing of anything could happen now that we realized everything had.

~Raymond Carver

There is no answer. It's okay. But even if it wasn't okay, what am I supposed to do?

~Raymond Carver

and did you get what you wanted from this life even so? i did.

~Raymond Carver

My circumstances of unrelieved responsibility and permanent distraction necessitated the short story form.

~Raymond Carver

Fiction shows the external effects of internal conditions. Be aware of the tension between internal and external movement.

~Raymond Carver

A man can go along obeying all the rules and then it don't matter a damn anymore.

~Raymond Carver

There is no God, and conversation is a dying art.

~Raymond Carver

I've done as many as 20 or 30 drafts of a story. Never less than 10 or 12 drafts.

~Raymond Carver

Don't complain, don't explain.

~Raymond Carver

Remember Haydn's 104 symphonies. Not all of them were great. But there were 104 of them.

~Raymond Carver

A little autobiography and a lot of imagination are best.

~Raymond Carver

My life is going to change. I feel it.

~Raymond Carver

I'm always learning something. Learning never ends.

~Raymond Carver

Get in, get out. Don't linger. Go on.

~Raymond Carver

I'd like to go out in the front yard and shout something. "None of this is worth it!" That's what I'd like people to hear.

~Raymond Carver

You have to have been in love to write poetry.

~Raymond Carver

When a reader finishes a wonderful story and lays it aside, he should have to pause for a minute and collect himself.

~Raymond Carver

The smooth stones you pick up and examine under the moon's light have been made blue from the sea. Next morning when you pull them

from your trouser pocket, they are still blue.

~Raymond Carver

What do any of us really know about love?

~Raymond Carver

You're a beautiful drunk, daughter. But you're a drunk.

~Raymond Carver

We knew our days were numbered. We had fouled up our lives and we were getting ready for a shake-up.

~Raymond Carver

I am too nervous to eat pie.

~Raymond Carver

The fiction I'm most interested in has lines of reference to the real world.

~Raymond Carver

I guess my writing has changed as my life has.

~Raymond Carver

Writers will be judged by what they write.

~Raymond Carver

A great danger, or at least a great temptation, for many writers is to become too autobiographical in their approach to their fiction. A little autobiography and a lot of imagination are best.

~Raymond Carver

All of us, all of us, all of us trying to save our immortal souls, some ways seemingly more round about and mysterious than others. We are having a good time here. But hope all will be revealed soon.



~Raymond Carver

There's literary creation and literary business. When I first got something accepted, it gave my life a validation it didn't otherwise have.

~Raymond Carver

My heart is broken,â€• she goes. â€œIt's turned to a piece of stone. I'm no good. That's what's as bad as anything, that I'm no good anymore.

~Raymond Carver

In the beginning, when I was trying to write, I couldn't turn off the outside world to the extent that I can now.

~Raymond Carver

She won't give him back his look.

~Raymond Carver

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