

Rebecca Solnit

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Journey, Space, Imagination, Hiking, Writing, World, Cities,
Book, Home, Mean, Way, War, Looks, Art, Lost, Memories, Survival, Two*

There is no one as dangerous as he or she who has nothing to lose.

~Rebecca Solnit

Leave the door open for the unknown, the door into the dark. That's where the most important things come from, where you yourself came from, and where you will go.

~Rebecca Solnit

A book is a heart that only beats in the chest of another.

~Rebecca Solnit

To be hopeful means to be uncertain about the future, to be tender toward possibilities, to be dedicated to change all the way down to the bottom of your heart.

~Rebecca Solnit

Worry is a way to pretend that you have knowledge or control over what you don't--and it surprises me, even in myself, how much we prefer ugly scenarios to the pure unknown.

~Rebecca Solnit

Joy doesn't betray but sustains activism. And when you face a politics that aspires to make you fearful, alienated and isolated, joy is a fine initial act of insurrection.

~Rebecca Solnit

Politics is pervasive. Everything is political and the choice to be "apolitical" is usually just an endorsement of the status quo and the unexamined life.

~Rebecca Solnit

Memory, even in the rest of us, is a shifting, fading, partial thing, a net that doesn't catch all the fish by any means and sometimes catches butterflies that don't exist.

~Rebecca Solnit

Every minute of every hour of every day you are making the world, just as you are making yourself, and you might as well do it with generosity and kindness and style.

~Rebecca Solnit

Revolution is as unpredictable as an earthquake and as beautiful as spring. Its coming is always a surprise, but its nature should not be.

~Rebecca Solnit

I walk wherever my errands take me.

~Rebecca Solnit

Activism is not a journey to the corner store. It is a plunge into the unknown. The future is always dark.

~Rebecca Solnit

For me, childhood roaming was what developed self-reliance, a sense of direction and adventure, imagination, a will to explore, to be able to get a little lost and then figure out the way back.

~Rebecca Solnit

A procession is a participants' journey, while a parade is a performance with an audience.

~Rebecca Solnit

Pain serves a purpose. Without it you are in danger. What you cannot feel you cannot take care of.

~Rebecca Solnit

There are fossils of seashells high in the Himalayas; what was and what is are different things.

~Rebecca Solnit

Sense of place is the sixth sense, an internal compass and map made by memory and spatial perception together.

~Rebecca Solnit

I still think the revolution is to make the world safe for poetry, meandering, for the frail and vulnerable, the rare and obscure, the impractical and local and small.

~Rebecca Solnit

Despair is easy, or at least low cost.

~Rebecca Solnit

The process of transformation consists mostly of decay.

~Rebecca Solnit

The power of large corporations is still a scourge on the earth, but at least the arguments supporting them are undermined now.

~Rebecca Solnit

How will you go about finding that thing the nature of which is totally unknown to you?

~Rebecca Solnit

A city always contains more than any inhabitant can know, and a great city always makes the unknown and the possible spurs to the imagination.

~Rebecca Solnit

To hope is to give yourself to the future - and that commitment to the future is what makes the present inhabitable.

~Rebecca Solnit

The things we want are transformative, and we don't know or only think we know what is on the other side of that transformation Never to get

lost is not to live.

~Rebecca Solnit

Modern life is moving faster than the speed of thought, or thoughtfulness.

~Rebecca Solnit

The promenade is a special subset of walking.

~Rebecca Solnit

Lost really has two disparate meanings. Losing things is about the familiar falling away, getting lost is about the unfamiliar appearing.

~Rebecca Solnit

EXPLORING the world is one of the best ways of exploring the mind, and walking travels both terrains.

~Rebecca Solnit

If you look at a lot of traditional societies, they're all organized along what we might call anarchist guidelines, but it's not like the Zapatistas were reading European social theory.

~Rebecca Solnit

I sometimes wonder what those of us who are writers would become in a nonliterary culture - storytellers? Hermits?

~Rebecca Solnit

Every walker is a guard on patrol to protect the ineffable.

~Rebecca Solnit

Roads are a record of those who have gone before.

~Rebecca Solnit

The art is not one of forgetting but letting go. And when everything else

is gone, you can be rich in loss.

~Rebecca Solnit

Everyday life is a disaster, and disaster can liberate us.

~Rebecca Solnit

A contrarian at heart, I am often guided by what I disagree with and don't want.

~Rebecca Solnit

Walking articulates both physical and mental freedom.

~Rebecca Solnit

It's all about a war of social impulses and beliefs that is as powerful in its way as a big hurricane.

~Rebecca Solnit

The Earth we evolved to inhabit is turning into something more turbulent and unreliable at a pace too fast for most living things to adapt to.

~Rebecca Solnit

We are entering an era of heightened disaster, thanks to climate change. Being prepared for disaster will mean being prepared to sift truth from rumour, and being prepared to adjust our worldview.

~Rebecca Solnit

All gardening is landscape painting,' said Alexander Pope.

~Rebecca Solnit

A lone walker is both present and detached, more than an audience but less than a participant. Walking assuages or legitimizes this alienation.

~Rebecca Solnit

A path is a prior interpretation of the best way to traverse a landscape.

~Rebecca Solnit

Before writers are writers they are readers, living in books, through books, in the lives of others that are also the heads of others, in that act that is so intimate and yet so alone.

~Rebecca Solnit

Language is like a road, it cannot be perceived all at once because it unfolds in time, whether heard or read. This narrative or temporal element has made writing and walking resemble each other.

~Rebecca Solnit

Time itself is our tragedy and most of us are fighting some kind of war against it.

~Rebecca Solnit

Walking . . . is how the body measures itself against the earth.

~Rebecca Solnit

We fly; we dream in darkness; we devour heaven in bites too small to be measured.

~Rebecca Solnit

A place is a story, and stories are geography, and empathy is first of all an act of imagination, a storyteller's art, and then a way of traveling from here to there.

~Rebecca Solnit

We have only the language for fun and miserable, and maybe we need language for deep and shallow, meaningful and meaningless.

~Rebecca Solnit

Space--as landscape, terrain, spectacle, experience--has vanished.

~Rebecca Solnit

Walking shares with making and working that crucial element of engagement of the body and the mind with the world, of knowing the world through the body and the body through the world.

~Rebecca Solnit

Violence always seems to me the worst form of tyranny. It deprives people of their rights, including the right to live.

~Rebecca Solnit

Never to get lost is not to live, not to know how to get lost brings you to destruction.

~Rebecca Solnit

As for me, the grounds of my hope have always been that history is wilder than our imagination of it and that the unexpected shows up far more regularly than we ever dream.

~Rebecca Solnit

Writing is saying to no one and to everyone the things it is not possible to say to someone.

~Rebecca Solnit

Hope is not like a lottery ticket you can sit on the sofa and clutch, feeling lucky.... hope is an ax you break down doors with in an emergency.

~Rebecca Solnit

Credibility is a basic survival tool.

~Rebecca Solnit

There are infinite shades of grey. Writing often appears so black and white.

~Rebecca Solnit

A lot of people think of political activism as some grim duty, and I think we do have an obligation to be citizens - to be informed and engaged.

~Rebecca Solnit

The great majority of people are calm, resourceful, altruistic or even beyond altruistic, as they risk themselves for others. We improvise the conditions of survival beautifully.

~Rebecca Solnit

Sometimes it seems that the fate of the world is decided entirely in the ether of electronic communications and corporate backroom deals.

~Rebecca Solnit

The oil dinosaurs want to win so badly in my home state because what happens here matters everywhere. The nation often follows where California goes.

~Rebecca Solnit

A labyrinth is a symbolic journey . . . but it is a map we can really walk on, blurring the difference between map and world.

~Rebecca Solnit

I am against resources being controlled by corporations, but that doesn't mean I want them controlled by the state.

~Rebecca Solnit

There are disasters that are entirely manmade, but none that are entirely natural.

~Rebecca Solnit

I'm a big fan of the vigor of civil society, political engagement, and public life in many parts of Latin America.

~Rebecca Solnit

I've been gratified to see over the twenty or so years of my writing life the West become less of a colony of the East; maybe new technologies and too much travel undermine the idea of provinciality.

~Rebecca Solnit

I was not going to surrender to the status quo and corporate insistence that ordinary people have no power and influence.

~Rebecca Solnit

I roam around a lot in my territory, but what I learn at one end inflects and opens up my understanding at the other.

~Rebecca Solnit

For me, before I learned how to read I was really interested in story and in landscape and nature. I decided to become a writer almost as soon as I learned to read.

~Rebecca Solnit

I think that walking down the middle of the street with several thousand people who share your deepest beliefs is one of the best ways to take a walk.

~Rebecca Solnit

You don't have to be a preacher to talk about what matters, and you don't have to drop the pleasures of style

~Rebecca Solnit

I don't think my work has to be loved by everyone, and it's loved by enough people that I'm grateful and able to keep going.

~Rebecca Solnit

No one is born a writer; literacy is a peculiar mode of being, but I was

all about stories from a very early age, before reading.

~Rebecca Solnit

...there are three prerequisites to going out into the world to walk for pleasure. One must have free time, a place to go, and a body unhindered by illness or social restraints.

~Rebecca Solnit

...the questions a photographer raises may be more profound than the answers the medium permits.

~Rebecca Solnit

Italian cities have long been held up as ideals, not least by New Yorkers and Londoners enthralled by the ways their architecture gives beauty and meaning to everyday acts.

~Rebecca Solnit

We talk about politicians being in public life, but they seldom appear in the public space where everyone is free to appear as a citizen.

~Rebecca Solnit

Violence doesn't have a race, a class, a religion, or a nationality, but it does have a gender.

~Rebecca Solnit

I was fifteen, and when I picture myself then, I see flames shooting up, see myself falling off the edge of the world, and am amazed I survived not the outside world but the inside one.

~Rebecca Solnit

It's hardly surprising that the corporate aliens lie when it comes to the relationship between doing something about climate change and the economy.

~Rebecca Solnit

Some things we have only as long as they remain lost, some things are not lost only so long as they are distant.

~Rebecca Solnit

Women often find great roles in revolution, simply because the rules fall apart and everyone has agency, anyone can act.

~Rebecca Solnit

We know less when we erroneously think we know than when we recognize that we don't.

~Rebecca Solnit

In the bare room under the old library on the hill in the town at the tip of the small peninsula on the cold island so far from everything else, I lived among strangers and birds.

~Rebecca Solnit

I'm grateful that, after an early life of being silenced, sometimes violently, I grew up to have a voice, circumstances that will always bind me to the rights of the voiceless.

~Rebecca Solnit

Revolution is a phase, a mood, like spring, and just as spring has its buds and showers, so revolution has its ebullience, its bravery, its hope, and its solidarity. Some of these things pass.

~Rebecca Solnit

You get lost out of a desire to be lost. But in the place called lost strange things are found.

~Rebecca Solnit

Walking allows us to be in our bodies and in the world without being made busy by them.

~Rebecca Solnit

Sometimes a few passionate people change the world; sometimes they start a mass movement and millions do.

~Rebecca Solnit

I see disaster everywhere; I also [â€¦] see generosity and resistance everywhere.

~Rebecca Solnit

That's what I'm trying to get over: the idea that anarchism offers a description of equitable relations that go way back rather than a hypothesis of what the future should look like.

~Rebecca Solnit

Kindness and gentleness never had a gender, and neither did empathy.

~Rebecca Solnit

People rescue each other. They build shelters and community kitchens and ways to deal with lost children and eventually rebuild one way or another.

~Rebecca Solnit

Having the right to show up and speak are basic to survival, to dignity, and to liberty.

~Rebecca Solnit

...[Cabeza de Vaca] ceased to be lost not by returning but by turning into something else.

~Rebecca Solnit

Given a choice between their worldview and the facts, it's always interesting how many people toss the facts.

~Rebecca Solnit

Books are solitudes in which we meet.

~Rebecca Solnit

The magic of the street is the mingling of the errand and the epiphany.

~Rebecca Solnit

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