

Richard Siken

Quotes

*Dream, Body, Stars, Heart, Sleep, Hero, World, Hands, Sorry, Long, Thinking,
Together, Fall, Light, Here I Am, Numbers, Skins, Writing, Blood, Taken*

I sleep. I dream. I make up things that I would never say. I say them very quietly.

~Richard Siken

If you love me, Henry, you don't love me in a way I understand.

~Richard Siken

Sometimes you get so close to someone you end up on the other side of them.

~Richard Siken

You see, I take the parts that I remember and stitch them back together to make a creature that will do what I say or love me back.

~Richard Siken

He was pointing at the moon, but I was looking at his hand.

~Richard Siken

Everyone needs a place. It shouldn't be inside of someone else.

~Richard Siken

We have not touched the stars, nor are we forgiven, which brings us back to the hero's shoulders and the gentleness that comes, not from the absence of violence, but despite the abundance of it.

~Richard Siken

Is that too much to expect? That I would name the stars for you? That I would take you there? The splash of my tongue melting you like a sugar cube?

~Richard Siken

You play along, because you want to die for love, you always have.

~Richard Siken

You wanted happiness, I can't blame you for that, and maybe a mouth sounds idiotic when it blathers on about joy but tell me you love this, tell me you're not miserable.

~Richard Siken

I'm bleeding, I'm not just making conversation.

~Richard Siken

The light is no mystery, the mystery is that there is something to keep the light from passing through.

~Richard Siken

I don't know where I end and the world begins. My best guess? Skin. It's the only actual boundary between the body and the world, between a body and any other body.

~Richard Siken

Vanity, in a fairy tale, will make you evil. Vanity in the real world will drive you nuts. Vanity makes you say things like "I deserved a better life than this."

~Richard Siken

Oh, the things we invent when we are scared and want to be rescued.

~Richard Siken

Love always wakes the dragon and suddenly flames everywhere.

~Richard Siken

The way you slam your body into mine reminds me I'm alive, but monsters are always hungry, darling.

~Richard Siken

I swear, I end up feeling empty, like you've taken something out of me and I have to search my body for scars.

~Richard Siken

Here is the repeated image of the lover destroyed.

~Richard Siken

This is where the evening splits in half, Henry, love or death. Grab an end, pull hard, and make a wish.

~Richard Siken

Everything affects my poetry, every day something happens that changes me forever. I'm susceptible and plastic, thin-skinned and moody.

~Richard Siken

Do we simply stare at what is horrible and forgive it?

~Richard Siken

I woke up in the morning and I didn't want anything, didn't do anything, couldn't do it anyway, just lay there listening to the blood rush through me and it never made any sense, anything.

~Richard Siken

Actually, you said Love, for you, is larger than the usual romantic love. It's like a religion. It's terrifying. No one will ever want to sleep with you.

~Richard Siken

Tell me how all this, and love too, will ruin us. These, our bodies, possessed by light. Tell me we'll never get used to it.

~Richard Siken

Fairy tales have rules. You are a princess or you aren't. You are pure at heart or you aren't. If you are pure at heart, or lucky, you might catch a break.

~Richard Siken

Who am I? I'm just a writer. I write things down. I walk through your dreams and invent the future. Sure, I sink the boat of love, but that comes later. And yes, I swallow glass, but that comes later.

~Richard Siken

Tell me we're dead and I'll love you even more.

~Richard Siken

He could build a city. Has a certain capacity. There's a niche in his chest where a heart would fit perfectly and he thinks if he could just maneuver one into place - well then, game over.

~Richard Siken

Moonlight making crosses on your body, and me putting my mouth on every one.

~Richard Siken

The entire history of human desire takes about seventy minutes to tell. Unfortunately, we don't have that kind of time.

~Richard Siken

Okay, so I'm the dragon. Big deal. You still get to be the hero.

~Richard Siken

I am singing now while Rome burns.

~Richard Siken

We have not touched the stars, nor are we forgiven...

~Richard Siken

You go to work the next day pretending nothing happened. Your co-workers ask if everything's okay and you tell them you're just tired. And you're trying to smile. And they're trying to smile.

~Richard Siken

I wouldn't kill your pony. I'd like to believe it, anyway. I'd like to believe I wouldn't drag you out in to the woods and leave you there, either. So far, it hasn't come up.

~Richard Siken

From the landscape: a sense of scale. From the dead: a sense of scale.

~Richard Siken

Someone is digging your grave right now.

~Richard Siken

Tell me about the dream where we pull the bodies out of the lake and dress them in warm clothes again.

~Richard Siken

A kid under a tablecloth insists he's a ghost. A table underneath a tablecloth is, I guess, like the rest of us, only pretending to be invisible.

~Richard Siken

When you have nothing to say, set something on fire.

~Richard Siken

I'm battling monsters, I'm pulling you out of the burning buildings/ and you say I'll give you anything but you never come through.

~Richard Siken

Sorry about the blood in your mouth. I wish it was mine. I couldn't get the boy to kill me, but I wore his jacket for the longest time.

~Richard Siken

You're falling now. You're swimming. This is not

harmless. You are not

harmless.

breathing.

~Richard Siken

We laugh & it pits the world against us.

~Richard Siken

Wearing your clothes or standing in the shower for over an hour,
pretending that this skin is your skin, these hands your hands, these
shins, these soapy flanks

~Richard Siken

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