

Siri Hustvedt

Quotes

*Men, Memories, Dream, Thinking, Book, Reading, Writing, Stories, Past, Brain,
Emotional, Body, Feelings, Made, Imagine, Doors, Order, Night, Intellectual,
Sadness*

Every painting is always two paintings: The one you see, and the one you remember.

~Siri Hustvedt

A book is a collaboration between the one who reads and what is read and, at its best, that coming together is a love story like any other.

~Siri Hustvedt

There is no future without a past, because what is to be cannot be imagined except as a form of repetition.

~Siri Hustvedt

That is the strangeness of language: it crosses the boundaries of the body, is at once inside and outside, and it sometimes happens that we don't notice the threshold has been crossed.

~Siri Hustvedt

Dreams are stories made by and for the dreamer, and each dreamer has his own folds to open and knots to untie.

~Siri Hustvedt

Our memory fragments don't have any coherence until they're imagined in words. Time is a property of language, of syntax, and tense.

~Siri Hustvedt

Pain is always emotional. Fear and depression keep constant company with chronic hurting.

~Siri Hustvedt

Widowers marry again because it makes their lives easier. Widows often don't, because it makes their lives harder. [p. 61]

~Siri Hustvedt

Every sickness has an alien quality, a feeling of invasion and loss of

control that is evident in the language we use about it.

~Siri Hustvedt

Reading is a private pursuit; one that takes place behind closed doors.

~Siri Hustvedt

I will turn human anatomy into roses and stars and sea. I will dissect the beloveds body in metaphor.

~Siri Hustvedt

Memory changes as a person matures.

~Siri Hustvedt

True stories can't be told forward, only backward. We invent them from the vantage point of an ever-changing present and tell ourselves how they unfolded.

~Siri Hustvedt

Correlation is not cause, it is just a 'music of chance'.

~Siri Hustvedt

Human beings are repetitive animals. All meaning is generated through repetition.

~Siri Hustvedt

Dreams are stories made by and for the dreamer.

~Siri Hustvedt

Being a mother is complicated because its not just a paternal culture making demands on you; its those internal demands and expectations that women have and are self-generated.

~Siri Hustvedt

Depression is when you think there's nothing to be done. Fortunately I

always think there's something to be done.

~Siri Hustvedt

The truth is that personality inevitably bleeds into all forms of our intellectual life. We all extrapolate from our own lives in order to understand the world.

~Siri Hustvedt

There is no reason we should expect young children to enter the nocturnal darkness of sleep and dreams without help.

~Siri Hustvedt

We read each other through our eyes, and anatomically they are an extension of our brains. When we catch someone's eye, we look into a mind.

~Siri Hustvedt

We sometimes imagine we want what we don't really want.

~Siri Hustvedt

Intellectual curiosity about one's own illness is certainly born of a desire for mastery. If I couldn't cure myself, perhaps I could at least begin to understand myself.

~Siri Hustvedt

Reading is perception as translation. The inert signs of an alphabet become living meanings in the mind.

~Siri Hustvedt

There's a phenomenology of being sick, one that depends on temperament, personal history, and the culture which we live in.

~Siri Hustvedt

We chart delusions through collective agreement.

~Siri Hustvedt

Libraries are sexual dream factories. The langour brings it on.

~Siri Hustvedt

All human states are organic brain states - happiness, sadness, fear, lust, dreaming, doing math problems and writing novels - and our brains are not static.

~Siri Hustvedt

Demonstration of mastery gives a feeling of power and that feeling of power is a good feeling.

~Siri Hustvedt

Many writers over the centuries simply do not have the reputations they deserve because they were female, and that is an act of suppression.

~Siri Hustvedt

I've often thought that one of us is what we imagine, that each of us normalizes the terrible strangeness of inner life with a variety of convenient fictions.

~Siri Hustvedt

We lose ourselves in stories; that's the beauty of literary art.

~Siri Hustvedt

Dreaming is another form of thinking, more concrete, more economical, more visual, and often more emotional than the thoughts of the day, but a thinking through of the day, nevertheless.

~Siri Hustvedt

Writing fiction is like remembering what never happened.

~Siri Hustvedt

Great books are the ones that are urgent, life-changing, the ones that crack open the reader's skull and heart.

~Siri Hustvedt

Not telling is just as interesting as telling I have found. Why speech, that short verbal journey from inside to outside can be excruciating under certain circumstances is fascinating.

~Siri Hustvedt

Memory is essential to who we are, and memories can be both implicit and explicit - unconscious and conscious.

~Siri Hustvedt

Crippled and crazy, we hobble toward the finish line, pen in hand.

~Siri Hustvedt

Every one of us is prone to implicit sexual prejudices, including women.

~Siri Hustvedt

Women really are not supposed to be imaginative. That creativity of this kind is supposed to belong to men. You know, because women make babies. I find the double standards shocking.

~Siri Hustvedt

I myself have perceived women's actions as more aggressive than I would have in men because I too am walking around with my own biases. The way to fight them is to become conscious of them.

~Siri Hustvedt

After years of having immersed myself in science, I do think that if you master several different ways of thinking, it makes your own thought processes more agile.

~Siri Hustvedt

There is this assumption that much of what I write is about my life, and that simply is not true.

~Siri Hustvedt

The fictive is an enormous territory it turns out, its boundaries vague, and there is little certainty about where it begins and ends.

~Siri Hustvedt

The old story is true: Women have to be less emotional than men.

~Siri Hustvedt

It is fascinating to me that when the lists of the great writers are trotted out year after year, you often find lists without a single woman mentioned.

~Siri Hustvedt

Men generally do not see women as competition.

~Siri Hustvedt

Good books, written by men or women, are ones in which you lose consciousness of the person writing the sentences.

~Siri Hustvedt

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