

# Sue Grafton

## Quotes

*Writing, People, Book, Thinking, Men, Dark, Two, Years, Grief, Law, Fall,  
Character, Pain, Long, Passion, Giving, Believe, Feelings, Eye, Mean*

Train yourself to listen to that small voice that tells us what's important and what's not.

~Sue Grafton

God save us from the people who want to do what's best for us.

~Sue Grafton

If your mind isn't open, keep your mouth shut too.

~Sue Grafton

We all need to look into the dark side of our nature - that's where the energy is, the passion. People are afraid of that because it holds pieces of us we're busy denying.

~Sue Grafton

Ideas are easy. It's the execution of ideas that really separates the sheep from the goats.

~Sue Grafton

If high heels were so wonderful, men would still be wearing them.

~Sue Grafton

Kinsey was never a lawyer. She's strictly blue collar.

~Sue Grafton

I was an English major in college with minors in Fine Arts and Humanities.

~Sue Grafton

I love being single. It's almost like being rich.

~Sue Grafton

I write letters to my right brain all the time. They're just little notes. And right brain, who likes to get little notes from me, will often come through

within a day or two.

~Sue Grafton

I've never known anyone yet who doesn't suffer a certain restlessness when autumn rolls around... We're all eight years old again and anything is possible.

~Sue Grafton

When all else fails, cleaning house is the perfect antidote to most of life's ills.

~Sue Grafton

A woman should never, never, never be financially dependent to anyone, especially a man, because the minute you were dependent, you could be abused.

~Sue Grafton

The hard thing about death is that nothing ever changes. The hard thing about life is that nothing stays the same.

~Sue Grafton

I know there are people who believe you should forgive and forget. For the record, I'd like to say I'm a big fan of forgiveness as long as I'm given the opportunity to get even first.

~Sue Grafton

No one with a happy childhood ever amounts to much in this world. They are so well adjusted, they never are driven to achieve anything.

~Sue Grafton

People talk about dysfunctional families; I've never seen any other kind.

~Sue Grafton

Pretending to be 'normal' is a lot harder than you think.

~Sue Grafton

The struggle is what teaches you.

~Sue Grafton

My job as the writer is to fool you. Your job as the reader is to see if you can catch me at it.

~Sue Grafton

Some people can't see the color red. That doesn't mean it isn't there.

~Sue Grafton

In my opinion, there's no condition in life that can't be ameliorated by a dose of junk food.

~Sue Grafton

There are days when none of us can bear it, but the good comes around again. Happiness is seasonal, like anything else. Wait it out. There are people who love you. People who can help.

~Sue Grafton

Happiness is seasonal, like anything else

~Sue Grafton

I think you'd best make your peace with the past since you've come this far. I think you know by now that you won't go back again.

~Sue Grafton

Pay enough for anything and it passes for taste.

~Sue Grafton

The critical lessons in life hold sway whether you like it or not.

~Sue Grafton

My primary lesson, however, was that I'm a solo writer, happiest when I'm making all the executive decisions. I've always been willing to rise or fall on my own merits.

~Sue Grafton

Dream big but think small.

~Sue Grafton

Pay minimum wage, you get minimum work. Nobody seems to get that.

~Sue Grafton

If you're unhappy, change something.

~Sue Grafton

I spent the first twenty years of my writing career preparing for the mystery genre, which is my favorite literary form.

~Sue Grafton

The character of Rosie is based on a woman who used to live in the same apartment building I lived in many years ago. She's taken on a life of her own, of course.

~Sue Grafton

Society values cooperation over independence, obedience over individuality, and niceness above all else.

~Sue Grafton

The memory is like orbiting twin stars, one visible, one dark, the trajectory of what's evident forever affected by the gravity of what's concealed.

~Sue Grafton

He might be a man without character, but she was a woman without

courage. Of the two, which was worse?

~Sue Grafton

I focus on the writing and let the rest of the process take care of itself. I've learned to trust my own instincts and I've also learned to take risks.

~Sue Grafton

After my years in Hollywood, I got tired of apologizing for work that really wasn't mine to begin with.

~Sue Grafton

You never know which people will affect your life.

~Sue Grafton

There's a certain class of people who will do you in and then remain completely mystified by the depth of your pain.

~Sue Grafton

Having reached the halfway mark in the alphabet, my prime focus is on writing each new book as well as I can.

~Sue Grafton

My notion of an elegant table is you don't leave the knife sticking out of the mayonnaise jar.

~Sue Grafton

Grieving is like being ill. You think the entire world revolves around you and it doesn't.

~Sue Grafton

You try to keep life simple but it never works, and in the end all you have left is yourself.

~Sue Grafton

To many women mistake a man's hostility for wit and his silence for depth.

~Sue Grafton

What could smell better than supper being cooked by someone else?

~Sue Grafton

Poise and indifference so often look the same.

~Sue Grafton

Everything happens for a reason, but that doesn't mean there's a point.

~Sue Grafton

Lying contains the same hostile elements as a practical joke in that the 'victim' ends up looking foolish in his own eyes and laughable in everyone else's.

~Sue Grafton

Who knows what part we play in other people's dreams?

~Sue Grafton

If I'd been listening closely, I'd have caught the sound of the gods having a great big old tee-hee at my expense.

~Sue Grafton

You write one book and you're ready for fame and fortune. I don't know that people are spending the time and attention on learning how to write-which takes years. Everybody sees the success stories.

~Sue Grafton

Thinking is hard work, which is why you don't see many people doing it.

~Sue Grafton

Grief is as contagious as a yawn.

~Sue Grafton

I only get writer's block about once a day.

~Sue Grafton

Writing isn't about the destination-writing is the journey that transforms the soul and gives meaning to all else.

~Sue Grafton

For the record, I'd like to say that I'm a big fan of forgiveness as long as I have a chance to get even first" Kinsey Millhone, V is for Vengeance

~Sue Grafton

You kill people you hate or you kill in rage or you kill to get even, but you don't kill someone you're indifferent to.

~Sue Grafton

Beware the dark pool at the bottom of our hearts. In its icy, black depths dwell strange and twisted creatures it is best not to disturb.

~Sue Grafton

You can't make anyone love you and you can't stop anyone from dying.

~Sue Grafton

Sometimes I claim I write because I put in an application at Sears and they've never called back.

~Sue Grafton

any mystery writer is both magician and moralist ... two species of artist in short supply.

~Sue Grafton



People get careless when they're feeling safe.

~Sue Grafton

It's disconcerting to realize how little you have to say to someone who once occupied such a prominent place in your bed.

~Sue Grafton

There is, apparently, some law of nature decreeing that all home construction must double in its projected cost and take four times longer than originally anticipated.

~Sue Grafton

grief is an illness I can't recover from.

~Sue Grafton

I started writing seriously when I was 18, wrote my first novel when I was 22, and I've never stopped writing since.

~Sue Grafton

Grief rolled across the space between us like a wash of salt water.

~Sue Grafton

Ghosts don't haunt us. That's not how it works. They're present among us because we won't let go of them.

~Sue Grafton

Smile. It gives your face something to do.

~Sue Grafton

It's been my observation, after years in the [insurance] business, that a certain percent of the population simply can't resist the urge to cheat.

~Sue Grafton

There is no sound so terrible as a man's sorrow for his own death.

~Sue Grafton

Personally, I don't endorse the notion of mortality. It's fine for other folk, but I disapprove of the concept for me and my loved ones.

~Sue Grafton

School was a source of great suffering to me, but once I learned to read, I disappeared into books, where I was a happy visitor to all the worlds that sprang full-blown from the printed page.

~Sue Grafton

Age plays cruel tricks on the human face; all our repressed feelings become visible on the surface, where they harden like a mask.

~Sue Grafton

It is a truth of human nature that we can ponder life's mysteries for only so long before we lose interest and move on to something else.

~Sue Grafton

Writing is not about making a buck, not about publishers and agents. Writing is not about feeling good. Writing is about pain, suffering, hard work, risk, and fear.

~Sue Grafton

Life was reduced to its four basic elements: air, food, drink, and a good friend.

~Sue Grafton

Sometimes being fooled by love is worth the price. At least you know you're alive and capable of feeling, even if all you end up with is chest pain.

~Sue Grafton

I figure guys are like Whitman's Samplers. I like to take a little bite out

of each and then move on before the whole box gets stale.

~Sue Grafton

I've never written about my husband, Steve, or any of my children because I know them all too well. I see them in all their complexities which makes them impossible to render on the printed page.

~Sue Grafton

Of the first seven novels I wrote, numbers four and five were published. Numbers one, two, three, six, and seven, have never seen the light of day... and rightly so.

~Sue Grafton

Give yourself time to get better.

~Sue Grafton

There's nothing quite as irksome as someone else's mess.

~Sue Grafton

Insecure people have a special sensitivity for anything that finally confirms their own low opinion of themselves.

~Sue Grafton

Too much virtue has a corrupting effect.

~Sue Grafton

Sometimes I wonder what the difference is between being cautious and being dead.

~Sue Grafton

That's the way the system works. Sometimes you get the bear, sometimes the bear gets you.

~Sue Grafton

Lucky is the spouse who dies first, who never has to know what survivors endure.

~Sue Grafton

There are laws for everything except the harm families do.

~Sue Grafton

Sometimes the hardest part of my job is the incessant reminder of the fact we're all trying so assiduously to ignore: we are here temporarily. Life is only ours on loan.

~Sue Grafton

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