

Tanith Lee

Quotes

*Writing, Book, Real, Dark, Hate, Needs, World, Thinking, Night, Love Is, People,
Trouble, Jobs, Reading, Trying, Men, Art, Wine, Horse, Would Be*

Writing is writing, and stories are stories. Perhaps the only true genres are fiction and nonfiction. And even there, who can be sure?

~Tanith Lee

The bitterness of joy lies in the knowledge that it cannot last. Nor should joy last beyond a certain season, for, after that season, even joy would become merely habit.

~Tanith Lee

She looked, and a scarlet butterfly flew away from her, away down the length of the tower, and then another, another, an unraveling scarf of butterflies like winged blood.

~Tanith Lee

Archetypes are universal, and, in subtle or extravagant ways, interchangeable.

~Tanith Lee

We need the expressive arts, the ancient scribes, the storytellers, the priests.

~Tanith Lee

The soul is a magician. Only living flesh hampers it.

~Tanith Lee

When I am fascinated by something, I like to play with it.

~Tanith Lee

I submitted manuscripts to publishers. This was not so much a feeling that I should be published as a wish to escape the feared and hated drudgery of normal work.

~Tanith Lee

No one is ever ordinary.

~Tanith Lee

Maidens who stay maidens turn into saints. Old women become sorceresses. Tough jobs, both of these.

~Tanith Lee

I will draw you back to me. You shall see. By a chain of stars.

~Tanith Lee

Never be afraid of a cliché, if it expresses what you wish to say.

~Tanith Lee

Flat or round, there has always been hate in the world.

~Tanith Lee

The so-called Real World. Human misery and sadness. Blind politics and general cruelty.

~Tanith Lee

I never know where I am going, though. That is part of what makes it so wonderful. And after all, who does?

~Tanith Lee

We all have our dreams. May we find them, and God have mercy on us when we do.

~Tanith Lee

Genre categories are irrelevant. I dislike them, but I do not have the casting vote.

~Tanith Lee

I like writing about women, weak and strong, pathetic and heroic. I like writing about men, ditto. And all the variants of men and women, beasts and demons.

~Tanith Lee

There was no violence, no speed. It moved to the rhythm of an elder dance, putting all the rituals of the world to shame. Black, silver, gold and moon-opal, night and sea, fire, earth, air and water.

~Tanith Lee

I simply write what I want, wish, long to write.... The state of human life and the god or demon within. The constant internal war that being alive can conjure.

~Tanith Lee

I hardly ever work from a synopsis -- I find they act like chains.

~Tanith Lee

I love writers all across the board, but one who influenced me very directly at the beginning was Mary Renault.

~Tanith Lee

Writers tell stories better, because they've had more practice, but everyone has a book in them. Yes, that old cliché.

~Tanith Lee

In the greater part of humankind there resides an instinct for survival. It is this which can clutch at straws and effect a rescue from them. It is this which can, now and then, outwit fate.

~Tanith Lee

Im writing what comes into my head, or through me, or from somewhere else, and it is the most extraordinary, exciting thing. I love it, and Im very greedy, and I really enjoy it!

~Tanith Lee

I hate the way, once you start to know someone, care about them, their

behavior can distress you, even when it's unreasonable and not your fault, even if you were really trying to be careful, tactful.

~Tanith Lee

Madness. I did not get myself born to die. I have better things to do.

~Tanith Lee

Ecstasy and vulnerability belonged in the same dish. The fear the cup would be snatched away was what gave the wine its savor.

~Tanith Lee

I like films, or some films, and would be intrigued to see my work on screen.

~Tanith Lee

As a child, my mother told me lots of fairy stories, many her own invention. She, too, tended to reverse the norm.

~Tanith Lee

If they had said my writing wasn't good enough, fair enough, that's an opinion. But to say it's too complex is to insult the intelligence of the so-called young.

~Tanith Lee

It's very selfish when I write. I'm not aware, ever, of writing for another person; I'm not even really aware of writing for myself.

~Tanith Lee

The worst vulgarity is to avoid vulgarity solely on the grounds that it is vulgar.

~Tanith Lee

I began to feel lighthearted. Don't ever do that; it tempts some dark and evil force abroad in the universe.

~Tanith Lee

Hope is a punishable offense. The verdict is always death; one more death of the heart.

~Tanith Lee

Danger and anger are everywhere. Love is the rarity, the gem buried in the core of the mine, the outpost of God.

~Tanith Lee

Condemned and executioner with aren't coupled in a primitive rite.

~Tanith Lee

I came up with a parallel Venice called Venus. set in a parallel Venice about 1701.

~Tanith Lee

Oh, love. Love is best of all. There is no such total element, not even pain. Who has ever loved, knows this. I need not say more.

~Tanith Lee

He sat by her, watching every gesture she made, as if he would paint her portrait afterward.

~Tanith Lee

I haven't changed. Something's happened to me, that's all.

~Tanith Lee

She could not mourn. She could no longer weep grasping the essence of annihilation, she wished only to cease, to be no more, as if sunk in some profound sleep devoid of wakening.

~Tanith Lee

It was so useful to lie with the truth.

~Tanith Lee

Robespierre, crippled and blind, has yet to be healed to the knowledge that service - his desire - is a deed of savage-speaking gentleness, not soft-spoken savagery.

~Tanith Lee

If you run away from trouble, it always follows.

~Tanith Lee

I've been criticised for writing in too complex a manner for younger people.

~Tanith Lee

No one more cynical than an idealist.

~Tanith Lee

You should visit before you pass judgment on a place.

~Tanith Lee

Tales of heroes end in bliss.

~Tanith Lee

I tend not to analyse my work, though I'm frequently intrigued when other people take time to do so.

~Tanith Lee

The humble were the elect of God. Did not the priests teach so, in their gemmed, kingly robes, from their towering pulpits?

~Tanith Lee

Your dreams will betray you. Go nowhere on a horse that fades.

~Tanith Lee

If you run away from trouble, it always follows.' Rather my impression, too. Though that never stopped me trying.

~Tanith Lee

When I started as a writer, I knew nothing about publishing-nothing about anything!

~Tanith Lee

Im a devotee of Dracula, which was a pathfinder in horror and vampire fiction.

~Tanith Lee

Pirates have always fascinated me.

~Tanith Lee

I'm not very good at being alive. Sometimes I despair of ever mastering it, getting it right. When I'm old, perhaps.

~Tanith Lee

It's lovely. I hate it.

~Tanith Lee

What is any of this to us? Time is endless and ours. Love and Death are only the games we play in it.

~Tanith Lee

Are not all loves secretly the same? A hundred flowers sprung from a single root.

~Tanith Lee

People are always the start for meanimals. When I can get into their heads, gods, supernatural beings,immortals, the deadthese are all people to me.

~Tanith Lee

The other writer who had a very important early influence on me when I was about 17 was C.S. Lewis.

~Tanith Lee

I think of myself as a storyteller, and that is it.

~Tanith Lee

Dawn rose from the desert and turned the river to wine.

~Tanith Lee

Men are not the causers of history. History itself, by a pressure of events, causes men to resort to particular actions.

~Tanith Lee

Whatever the hell I am, I am Me.

~Tanith Lee

The dictate of the light says: Know yourself and what you are. The dark replies, By all means, but then become afraid.

~Tanith Lee

It gets cold in the desert at night, particularly up in the mountains; the stars hammer on the rock and strike frost.

~Tanith Lee

It was not apathy. It was an intelligent disinterest in those things that could have no bearing on one's existence.

~Tanith Lee

I also love Disney, and will defend doing so, because there's so much in those films and I don't care if it's stereotyped.

~Tanith Lee

I was reading some complex books in my own youth-and no, I didnt

always understand every word, let alone every concept-but I got the main thrust, which was like a lifeline in a fluctuating world.

~Tanith Lee

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