

# Tea Obreht Quotes

*Writing, Mother, Grandfather, Thinking, Attachment, Superstitions, The End Of  
The Day, Knows, Heart, Egypt, Memories, Matter, Children, Doctors, Happens,  
Fists, Pain, Eight, Influence, Should*

I grew up in Cyprus and Egypt, these fantastic places I remember fondly.

~Tea Obreht

I do no writing while I'm in Belgrade visiting my grandma.

~Tea Obreht

For me it was a lot harder to come to terms with the death of my grandfather than it was to come to terms with what's happened to the former Yugoslavia.

~Tea Obreht

The best fiction stays with you and changes you.

~Tea Obreht

Kelly Link's prose is conveyed in details so startling and fine that you work up a sweat just waiting for the next sentence to land. This is why we read, crave, need, can't live without short stories.

~Tea Obreht

My grandfather and I were very close.

~Tea Obreht

In my earliest memory, my grandfather is bald as a stone and he takes me to see the tigers.

~Tea Obreht

A family has its own rituals and its own superstitions.

~Tea Obreht

Come on, is your heart a sponge or a fist?

~Tea Obreht

We're all entitled to our superstitions.

~Tea Obreht

A lot of writers that I know have told me that the first book you write, you write about your childhood, whether you want to or not. It calls you back.

~Tea Obreht

My mother always says that fear and pain are immediate, and that, when they're gone we're left with the concept, but not the true memory.

~Tea Obreht

I've always written about animals. I'm still trying to process why that is.

~Tea Obreht

I think the mythology of death really ran away with me when I was very young.

~Tea Obreht

I like dark subject matter. I'm not sure what that means about me!

~Tea Obreht

At the end of the day, it's about the reader's attachment to and belief in the magical elements that make or break magical realism.

~Tea Obreht

I am very interested in place, and the influences of place on characters.

~Tea Obreht

The dead are celebrated. The dead are loved. They give something to the living. Once you put something into the ground, Doctor, you always know where to find it.

~Tea Obreht

No matter how grave the secret, how imperative absolute silence, someone would always feel the urge to confess, and an unleashed secret is a terrible force.

~Tea Obreht

In the end, all you want is someone to long for you when it comes time to put you in the ground.

~Tea Obreht

Wash the bones, bring the body, leave the heart behind.

~Tea Obreht

My family lived in Egypt from 1993 to 1996.

~Tea Obreht

When you're in a place, the details you focus on are different than details you focus on when you're writing about it.

~Tea Obreht

In terms of people that I know, my grandmother and my mother are huge influences on my writing life because they are both massively supportive and always have been of my career.

~Tea Obreht

What inspires me most to write is the act of traveling.

~Tea Obreht

My road to publishing actually came through a colleague who connected me to my agent, and the faculty at Cornell was very supportive.

~Tea Obreht

In the mess of moving from place to place, I skipped two grades in the space of one year.

~Tea Obreht

death should be celebrated...when you put something in the ground you always know where it is

~Tea Obreht

You never know what's going to happen in your life, and you never know what's going to happen in someone else's life either.

~Tea Obreht

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