

Terry Tempest Williams Quotes

*Thinking, Writing, Believe, Heart, Community, Home, Mother, Mean, Land,
Country, Soul, Stories, Real, People, Voice, World, Mind, Spiritual, Water, Eye*

To be whole. To be complete. Wilderness reminds us what it means to be human, what we are connected to rather than what we are separate from.

~Terry Tempest Williams

The Eyes of the Future are looking back at us and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I pray to the birds because they remind me of what I love rather than what I fear. And at the end of my prayers, they teach me how to listen.

~Terry Tempest Williams

The world is holy. We are holy. All life is holy. Daily prayers are delivered on the lips of breaking waves, the whisperings of grasses, the shimmering of leaves.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Despair shows us the limit of our imagination. Imaginations shared create collaboration, collaboration creates community, and community inspires social change.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Finding beauty in a broken world is creating beauty in the world we find.

~Terry Tempest Williams

The unexpected action of deep listening can create a space of transformation capable of shattering complacency and despair.

~Terry Tempest Williams

There are two important days in a woman's life: the day she is born and the day she finds out why.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Our power lies in our love of our homelands.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I take a deep breath and sidestep my fear and begin speaking from the place where beauty and bravery meet--within the chambers of a quivering heart.

~Terry Tempest Williams

To slow down is to be taken into the soul of things.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Abundance is a dance with reciprocity - what we can give, what we can share, and what we receive in the process.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I think our lack of intimacy with the land has initiated a lack of intimacy with each other. What we perceive as non-human, outside of us, is actually in direct relationship with us.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Greed says there is never enough. Abundance says there is more than enough. Greed closes the door behind itself. Abundance opens the door for others.

~Terry Tempest Williams

We can try to kill all that is native, string it up by its hind legs for all to see, but spirit howls and wildness endures.

~Terry Tempest Williams

The question I'm constantly asking myself is: what are we afraid of? I think it's important for us to follow that line of fear, because that is ultimately our line of growth.

~Terry Tempest Williams

What is the most important thing one learns in school? Self-esteem, support, and friendship.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Creativity ignited a spark. In that moment, I saw that art is not peripheral, beauty is not optional, but a strategy for survival.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I write to create red in a world that often appears black and white.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I wonder about silence. Also about darkness. I love the idea that city lights are a "conspiracy" against higher thoughts.

~Terry Tempest Williams

When one of us says 'look, there is nothing out there,' what we are really saying is, 'I cannot see'.

~Terry Tempest Williams

If you take away all the prairie dogs, there will be no one to cry for the rain.

~Terry Tempest Williams

When you are with a landscape or a human being where there is no need to speak, but simply to listen, to perceive, to feel.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Dying doesn't cause suffering. Resistance to dying does.

~Terry Tempest Williams

A shadow is never created in darkness. It is born of light. We can be blind to it and blinded by it. Our shadow asks us to look at what we don't want to see

~Terry Tempest Williams

If a man knew what a woman never forgets, he would love her differently.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Our kinship with Earth must be maintained; otherwise, we will find ourselves trapped in the center of our own paved-over souls with no way out.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Every time we make love to a human being, fully, we are making love to everything that lives and breathes. In that sense it becomes communion. It is a sacrament.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I write because it is dangerous, a bloody risk, like love, to form the words, to say the words, to touch the source, to be touched, to reveal how vulnerable we are, how transient.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Sometimes you have to disclaim your country and inhabit another before you can return to your own.

~Terry Tempest Williams

A trip to the hospital is always a descent into the macabre. I have never trusted a place with shiny floors.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Landscape shapes culture

~Terry Tempest Williams

I think that the only thing that can bring us into a place of fullness is being out in the land with other. Then we remember where the source of our power lies.

~Terry Tempest Williams

The birds and I share a natural history. It is a matter of rootedness, of living inside a place for so long that the mind and imagination fuse.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Buddha says there are two kinds of suffering: the kind that leads to more suffering and the kind that brings an end to suffering.

~Terry Tempest Williams

No separation between the spiritual and the physical. It is all one.

~Terry Tempest Williams

What other species now require of us is our attention. Otherwise, we are entering a narrative of disappearing intelligences.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I am not so interested in religion or dogma of any kind. It is too restrictive for me, too organizational, too hierarchical, and too tied up in power and being right. You call it a "rabid evangelism."

~Terry Tempest Williams

Choosing with integrity means finding ways to speak up that honor your reality, the reality of others, and your willingness to meet in the center of that large field. It's hard sometimes.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Grief dares us to love once more.

~Terry Tempest Williams

If you know wilderness in the way that you know love, you would be unwilling to let it go.... This is the story of our past and it will be the story of our future.

~Terry Tempest Williams

This is the sorcery of literature. We are healed by our stories.

~Terry Tempest Williams

These handwritten words in the pages of my journal confirm that from an early age I have experienced each encounter in my life twice: once in the world, and once again on the page.

~Terry Tempest Williams

The heart is the path to wisdom because it dares to be vulnerable in the presence of power

~Terry Tempest Williams

Greed is a deprivation of abundance, a hoarding, a constriction of energy.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Through revision, I enter the realm of the unspeakable and find the words that have eluded me.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I think wherever we are, we can create an atmosphere of openness and trust, where women and those who feel marginalized feel safe to speak the truth of their lives.

~Terry Tempest Williams

The climate change movement is a river overflowing seeping into every nook and cranny.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I believe that when we are fully present, we not only live well, we live well for others.

~Terry Tempest Williams

We forget the nature of true power. The power within is abundance. The power without is greed.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I believe the personal is the collective. One of the ironies of writing memoir is in using the "I" it becomes an alchemical "we." This is the sorcery of literature.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I still have great faith in democracy. I have great belief in the power of community.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I wonder how it is we have come to this place in our society where art and nature are spoke in terms of what is optional, the pastime and concern of the elite?

~Terry Tempest Williams

Faith is not about finding meaning in the world, there may be no such thing -- faith is the belief in our capacity to create meaningful lives.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Agitation gives birth to creation.

~Terry Tempest Williams

We are aching to come together and I think it has little to do with liberal or conservative discourse. I think it has to do with increasing disconnection with what is real and soul-serving.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Most of all, differences of opinion are opportunities for learning.

~Terry Tempest Williams

The human heart is the first home of democracy.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I have inherited a belief in community, the promise that a gathering of the spirit can both create and change culture. In the desert, change is nurtured even in stone by wind, by water, through time.

~Terry Tempest Williams

An individual doesn't get cancer, a family does.

~Terry Tempest Williams

My body is a compass - and it does not lie.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I don't think of myself as an American; I see myself as a human being.

~Terry Tempest Williams

What is evolution if not creative adaptation and the progression of our own souls?

~Terry Tempest Williams

As a writer, I have learned that each time I pick up my pencil I betray someone.

~Terry Tempest Williams

We are wearing coats of trust. When one tells a story this is what happens.

~Terry Tempest Williams

We're animals, I think we forget that. I think there is an ancient archetypal memory that still exists within us. If we deny that, what is the cost? So I do think it's what binds us as human beings.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I really do believe if there is hope in the world, then it is to be found within our own communities with our own neighbors, and within our own homes and families.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Rituals are the formulas by which harmony is restored.

~Terry Tempest Williams

The act of civil disobedience is the act of taking our anger and turning it into sacred rage. It is a personal and collective gesture of resistance and insistence.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Perhaps the Wilderness we fear is the pause between our own heartbeats, the silence that reminds us we live by grace.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Water is nothing if not ingemination, an encore to the tenacity of life.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I think that water is a tremendous organizing principle.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Stories have the power to create social change and inspire community.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Blind obedience in the name of patriotism or religion ultimately takes our lives.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Abundance is an expansion of energy. Abundance is a form of gratitude, a generosity, a modesty, a bow toward others - what we can give, what we can share, rather than what we can take.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Landscape shapes culture.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I love the interrelatedness of things.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Story is a relationship between the teller and the listener, a responsibility. After the listening you become accountable for the sacred knowledge that has been shared.

~Terry Tempest Williams

The time had come to protest with the heart, that to deny one's genealogy with the earth was to commit treason against one's soul.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Word by word, the language of women so often begins with a whisper.

~Terry Tempest Williams

When one woman doesn't speak, other women get hurt.

~Terry Tempest Williams

There is an art to writing, and it is not always disclosure. The act itself can be beautiful, revelatory, and private.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Our correspondences have wings - paper birds that fly from my house to yours - flocks of ideas crisscrossing the country. Once opened, a connection is made. We are not alone in the world.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Social change can be seen as a mosaic, taking that which is broken and creating something new.

~Terry Tempest Williams

What is private belongs to me alone. What is personal belongs to all of us through the shared experience of being human.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Shards of glass can cut and wound or magnify a vision.

~Terry Tempest Williams

CONVERSATION is the vehicle for change.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I appreciate all of the unexpected places, internal and external, that my writing has taken me.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Find something that matters deeply to you and pursue it. Question. Stand. Speak. Act. Make us uncomfortable. Make us think.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Who wants to be a goddess when we can be human? Perfection is a flaw disguised as control.

~Terry Tempest Williams

The Japanese have a word - aware - which, in my understanding is, again, that full range - both the joy and the sorrow of our life. One does not exist without the other. And I really feel that.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I think the whole idea of home is central to who we are as human beings.

~Terry Tempest Williams

My voice is born repeatedly in the fields of uncertainty.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I believe capitalism will eventually be replaced by a communitarian ethic where the rights and care of all beings will be taken into consideration, not just the greed of a corporate few.

~Terry Tempest Williams

Perhaps the most radical act we can commit is to stay home.

~Terry Tempest Williams

When Emily Dickinson writes, "Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul," she reminds us, as the birds do, of the liberation and pragmatism of belief.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I admire how she protects her energy and understands her limitations.

~Terry Tempest Williams

The only book worth writing is the book that threatens to kill you.

~Terry Tempest Williams

To hear something asks very little of us. To listen places our entire being on notice.

~Terry Tempest Williams

I come from a culture that embodies the need to convert others to "the truth." The Mormon Church has one of the largest missionary programs in the world. That does not interest me.

~Terry Tempest Williams

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