

# Victoria Chang

## Quotes

*Thinking, People, Book, Poet, Writing, World, Children, Kids, Trying, Parent,  
Sometimes, New York, Way, Reading, Kind, Talking, Mean, Different, Vacation,  
Bottom*

Most people are trying to go digital, and trying to do different things with poetry. McSweeney's is going in the opposite direction - going more classic, and retro, which is all coming back.

~Victoria Chang

I was sort of obsessed about corporate people committing suicide.

~Victoria Chang

I think my brain is full of collisions and that's how I like to read and process information. I'm always comparing things and I think I do that subconsciously when I'm reading books of poetry.

~Victoria Chang

I think I love humor in poetry, but not that slapstick cheap easy humor, but that uncomfortable, "did she say that out loud?" kind of humor.

~Victoria Chang

People who are too uptight make me nervous.

~Victoria Chang

Sometimes I feel like I'm on top of the world, and other mornings I feel like crap.

~Victoria Chang

My life in general, orderly or not, it allows me more freedom in my own writing. Sometimes I wonder, though - I have friends that sit around and just write all day. And I think it's the coolest thing.

~Victoria Chang

I can't help but go against the grain, I suppose it is in my fabric to be a rule-breaker.

~Victoria Chang

I am always reading, always, and tons of things at once. I wouldn't say

I'm a voracious reader, though. I never finish books that fast, because I'm always reading so many things at once.

~Victoria Chang

I think my way of being "funny" is just saying things that people think but have learned not to say, whereas, I haven't learned not to say them.

~Victoria Chang

There's an attraction to emotional clusters or hypocrisies or awkwardness. A desire to expose something or point at something that's already poking out.

~Victoria Chang

I feel like I give myself all day long to other people and other things, and I still seem like I have something to write once in awhile. Not often, though.

~Victoria Chang

I think I've always felt very isolated, and I'm sure lots of poets do.

~Victoria Chang

I think e-mail and social media and all that has made me feel way less isolated than ever before.

~Victoria Chang

It took me awhile to not be ashamed to be a poet in the business environment, and to be a business person in the poet environment.

~Victoria Chang

I love being part of poetry conversations. I love talking about what I've read.

~Victoria Chang

I've read a lot more than most of the people that I know, except for one of my really close friends reads way more than I do.

~Victoria Chang

For the most part, it's a world of artists that are very in their own heads.

~Victoria Chang

I definitely have favorite books by favorite poets, but poets' books also vary. I could like some books, but not like another book.

~Victoria Chang

I think being a poet, period, is isolating.

~Victoria Chang

The whole process of getting a book published is just part of the process. The last of the process that I enjoy

~Victoria Chang

Our lives are short and everything sort of regresses to the mean.

~Victoria Chang

I've always wanted editors that actually edited my poems.

~Victoria Chang

I'm a total bottoms-up kind of person. I like things to bubble up.

~Victoria Chang

My gut was always that if I taught students poetry, I would give too much of myself to them and have nothing left.

~Victoria Chang

I've always felt alone and isolated, and living on the West Coast, there's no poetry community out here, and if there is, it's really spread out - because it's LA, it's spread out.

~Victoria Chang

Everyone always says that having kids is messy and sloppy. It's true, but you as a parent have to try to bring some boundaries and control over that experience, or you'd have out-of-control kids.

~Victoria Chang

Having children can be such a gift, but it can be a crushing experience for a certain kind of mom. And I am that certain kind of mom.

~Victoria Chang

There's so much stuff being written! Every year, how many books come out? I can't keep up, and I read a lot. It's amazing.

~Victoria Chang

I question my own talent and ability to make creative work every single day.

~Victoria Chang

As I published books, I realized, that's not really what I want. I don't care about the books as much anymore. I just want to write poetry.

~Victoria Chang

I've always done things that were good for me, whether they were viewed as being as prestigious or whatever.

~Victoria Chang

My life all-around is really different than a lot of other poets. Not poets that are parents, too, but just that I can hardly find anyone who works in the industries that I've worked in.

~Victoria Chang

We're all just a part of this large, spiraling, constantly fluid hierarchy and changing. At some points in your life, you feel crushed by that,

depending on who you come in contact with.

~Victoria Chang

I've never thought about the con of living in New York as a writer.  
Because I always think, Oh, what fun to be around so many writers.  
Because I've never been around so many writers.

~Victoria Chang

I do think that given my background as a poet, and also I work in a different field, you're sort of neither here nor there.

~Victoria Chang

I've always just liked writing poetry, but it's much later that I've discovered that there's this whole poetry world out there, that you almost have to be accepted into, like this little club.

~Victoria Chang

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