

# Yiyun Li Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, People, Character, Chinese, Justice, Distance, Memories,  
Children, Father, Stronger, Good Place, Faces, Freedom Of Speech, Football,  
Struggle, Reason, Princess, Clouds, Mutual*

Every place is a good place, only time goes wrong.

~Yiyun Li

Even the most innocent person, when cornered, is capable of a heartless crime.

~Yiyun Li

To write about a struggle amidst the struggling: one must hope that the muddling will end someday.

~Yiyun Li

What a long way it is from one life to another: yet why write if not for that distance; if things can be let go, every before replaced by an after.

~Yiyun Li

A real dreamer must have a mutual trust with time.

~Yiyun Li

Only the smaller fish pay for the government's face-lift. The big ones - they just become bigger and fatter.

~Yiyun Li

She wonders if this is what people call falling in love, the desire to be with someone for every minute of the rest of her life so strong that sometimes she is frightened of herself.

~Yiyun Li

What is revolution except a systematic way for one species to eat another alive?

~Yiyun Li

I would never describe a cloud as 'fluffy'â€™in Chinese or in English.

~Yiyun Li

The decaying that had dragged on for too long had only turned tragedy into nuisance; death, when it strikes, better completes its annihilating act on the first try.

~Yiyun Li

Regarding heroism, I grew up in a culture where you learn about heroes and heroines all the time. In a way, when you call someone a hero or heroine, it's the same as calling them a villain.

~Yiyun Li

I think our eyes are trained to look for what we want to see.

~Yiyun Li

There are people who are willing to work within the system, and people who don't want to work with the system at all.

~Yiyun Li

It is a Chinese tradition that everyone has to be in everyone else's life.

~Yiyun Li

Horrible that you could write in a language so well, but have nothing meaningful to say.

~Yiyun Li

If I didn't self-censor, I would be in jail, and then I wouldn't be effective at all.

~Yiyun Li

There is a certain amount of politeness here in America, which is probably more than just politeness.

~Yiyun Li

Chinese people don't care about freedom, but they do care about justice.

~Yiyun Li

Some people in China don't look at freedom of speech as an abstract ideal, but more as a means to an end.

~Yiyun Li

No one is immune from either taking the wrong action or not taking action at all, but the sense that something is completely out of a person's control is stronger in China.

~Yiyun Li

Everybody contributes something to the system, and everybody suffers from the system.

~Yiyun Li

Overall there may be less censorship in America than in China, but censorship and self-censorship are not only from political pressure, but also pressures from other places in a society.

~Yiyun Li

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