

Novelist | Essayist | Editor | Scholar | Teacher

Novelists sometimes claim that their fiction is quite a separate thing from their other written work. . . . I have never felt such a separation. . . . From my early childhood, reading and writing seemed to me to be points on a circle. Greedy reading made me want to write, as if this were the only adequate response to the pleasure and power of books. Writing made me want to read—it is often argued with some justice that a university training in English Literature is inhibiting to the desire to write, but I thought this out at eighteen and decided that the only way to deal with it was to read so much and so variously that no particular writer or system could overpower me.

Passions of the Mind, Selected Writings 1993

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literary
quirky
obsessive
compelling
masterful
revelatory
surprising
beautiful

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Stories | The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye: Five Fairy Stories |
Imagining Characters | New Writing 4 | Babel Tower | New Writing 6 |
The Oxford Book of English Short Stories | Elementals: Stories of Fire
and Ice | The Biographer's Tale | On Histories and Stories | Portraits in
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I Love AS Byatt

for her passions of the mind, her infinite
curiosity and her extraordinary storytelling