

# Alan Furst Quotes

*Writing, Book, People, Paris, Knows, Thinking, Want, Europe, Dog, Ifs, Army,  
Tomorrow, Bankers, Accommodations, Novel, Reality, Wise, Situation, Always  
Working, Contemporary*

Politicians were like talking dogs in a circus: the fact that they existed was uncommonly interesting, but no sane person would actually believe what they said

~Alan Furst

Whether you like it or not, Paris is the beating heart of Western civilisation. It's where it all began and ended.

~Alan Furst

You can't make accommodations in crucial situations and be heroic.

~Alan Furst

Wherever God has planted you, you must know how to flower - translated from a French saying

~Alan Furst

If you can live in Paris, maybe you should.

~Alan Furst

Good people don't spend their time being good. Good people want to spend their time mowing the lawn and playing with the dog. But bad people spend all their time being bad. It is all they think about.

~Alan Furst

Live today, for tomorrow we die.

~Alan Furst

I have a very serious censorship office inside my head; it censors things that I could tell you that you would never forget, and I don't want to be the person to stick that in your brain.

~Alan Furst

The best Paris I know now is in my head.

~Alan Furst

Once you have your characters, they tell you what to write, you don't tell them.

~Alan Furst

If you're a writer, you're always working.

~Alan Furst

One is what one has the nerve to pretend to be.

~Alan Furst

I don't really write plots. I use history as the engine that drives everything.

~Alan Furst

I invented the historical spy novel.

~Alan Furst

I grew up reading genre writers, and to the degree that Eric Ambler and Graham Greene are genre writers, I'm a genre writer.

~Alan Furst

I don't just want my books to be about the '30s and '40s. I want them to read as if they had been written then. I think of them as '40s novels, written in the conservative narrative past.

~Alan Furst

It takes me three months of research and nine months of work to produce a book. When I start writing, I do two pages a day; if I'm gonna do 320, that's 160 days.

~Alan Furst

The printing presses of the state treasuries cranked out reams of paper currency- showing wise kinds and blissful martyrs- while bankers wept and peasants starved.

~Alan Furst

You write a lot of books; you hope you get better.

~Alan Furst

I read very little contemporary anything.

~Alan Furst

I write what I call 'novels of consolation' for people who are bright and sophisticated.

~Alan Furst

My novels are about the European reality, not about chases. You want chases, get somebody else's books.

~Alan Furst

I'm not really a mass market writer.

~Alan Furst

I expect that my readers have been to Europe, I expect them to have some feeling for a foreign language, I expect them to have read books - there are a lot of people like that! That's my audience.

~Alan Furst

I don't inflict horrors on readers.

~Alan Furst

I'm basically an Upper West Side Jewish writer.

~Alan Furst

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