

Alfred Kazin

Quotes

*Writing, Ideas, Art, Years, Medicine, Spirit, Journey, Long, History, Pieces,
Tragedy, Classic, Generations, Dying, Book, Knows, Principles, Beautiful, Mind,
Needs*

The writer writes in order to teach himself, to understand himself, to satisfy himself; the publishing of his ideas, though it brings gratification, is a curious anticlimax.

~Alfred Kazin

One writes to make a home for oneself, on paper, in time, in others' minds.

~Alfred Kazin

We never know how much has been missing from our lives until a true writer comes along.

~Alfred Kazin

To have a sense of history one must consider oneself a piece of history.

~Alfred Kazin

What happens whenever we convert a writer into a symbol is that we lose the writer himself in all his indefeasible singularity, his particular inimitable genius.

~Alfred Kazin

A classic is a book that survives the circumstances that made it possible yet alone keeps those circumstances alive.

~Alfred Kazin

When a writer talks about his work, he's talking about a love affair.

~Alfred Kazin

I had to admit that in his old-fashioned way O'Hara was still romantic about sex; like Scott Fitzgerald, he thought of it as an upper-class prerogative.

~Alfred Kazin

History has become more important than ever because of the to unprecedented ability of the historical sciences to take in man's life on earth as a whole.

~Alfred Kazin

Art changes all the time, but it never "improves." It may go down, or up, but it never improves as technology and medicine improve.

~Alfred Kazin

If we practiced medicine like we practice education, wed look for the liver on the right side and left side in alternate years.

~Alfred Kazin

A year after Hemingway died on the front page, Faulkner went off after a binge, as if dying was nobody's business but his own.

~Alfred Kazin

Only power can get people into a position where they may be noble.

~Alfred Kazin

Altogether beautiful in the power of its feeling. As beautiful as anything in Thoreau or Hemingway.

~Alfred Kazin

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