

Barry Hannah

Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, Drinking, Joy, Believe, Hate, Long, Stories, Soul, People,
Men, Two, Stuff, Plot, Glee, Children, Different, Hand In Hand, Labyrinth,
Character*

Voice comes to you through a spell, a trance. The best voices are not you... they're a little away from you.

~Barry Hannah

The point is to strip down, get protestant, then even more naked. Walk over scorched bricks to find your own soul. Your heart a searching dog in the rubble.

~Barry Hannah

Professional Southerners sicken me.

~Barry Hannah

Literature is the history of the soul.

~Barry Hannah

What a bog and labyrinth the human essence is... We are all overbrained and overemotioned.

~Barry Hannah

You need to see a bit of hell now and then. That, and great joy.

~Barry Hannah

If you are able to explain suffering, a man once told him, you weren't really there.

~Barry Hannah

I don't write under the ghost of Faulkner. I live in the same town and find his life and work inspiring, but that's it. I have a motorcycle and tool along the country lanes. I travel at my own speed.

~Barry Hannah

Randomness I love. And I still love just a holler right in the middle of an ongoing narrative. Pain or joy, ecstasy.

~Barry Hannah

The Deep South might be wretched, but it can howl.

~Barry Hannah

I hate to be fatalistic about it, but alcoholism, it's just in your genes. We had some of it in my family, and it just got me.

~Barry Hannah

My best stories come out of nowhere, with no concern for form at all.

~Barry Hannah

I was always kind of florid. And full of rhetoric. That was my flaw. My whole time writing, I've had to work against that because it can be a wrecking posture.

~Barry Hannah

I wouldn't buy somebody's album on a dare if they called him a musician's musician. I don't write to be a writer's writer. I don't want to be like the little-magazine writer.

~Barry Hannah

Time is what makes good stories. Much has been cooking for a long time, and at last finds an out in narration one day. That's a supreme joy. And why the characters keep showing up.

~Barry Hannah

Love and despair go hand in hand.

~Barry Hannah

A writers job is to destroy and then to build the thing back up again by a chosen means.

~Barry Hannah

You've got to lie to stay halfway interested in yourself.

~Barry Hannah

My stories do have plot. They're not just scattered language; they're controlled, toward an end.

~Barry Hannah

There was no one, when I was in school, who talked about going in and blowing up students. The teachers were very stern and hateable, but nobody ever mentioned murder.

~Barry Hannah

The wild stuff is all so overrated. Drinking, you don't feel good all the time. There's a lot of down, a lot of misery.

~Barry Hannah

The alcohol had the code and mystery about it as a writer's drug, but I'm glad that's been debunked. But the trouble with the drinking, much as I hate to admit it, is it helped the work.

~Barry Hannah

I never pulled a loaded pistol on anybody, but it got around that I did. It got turned into lore. It's a myth. There's so much bad gun stuff.

~Barry Hannah

I always intended to be light and open. I misjudged the American audience.

~Barry Hannah

I wake my wife up at 3 a.m. and say, "Listen to this!"

~Barry Hannah

I lost my second marriage because of drinking, and I loved the woman very much. But I thought I needed booze to write. I'm glad I was disabused.

~Barry Hannah

I grew up when people seemed actually to be hurting themselves for their art. Of course, some of it was phony.

~Barry Hannah

Children will listen to anything elders say to survive, and if you grew up without an elder telling you there was a god, what did your parents say to you?

~Barry Hannah

Most novels I come across have all the excitement of a long trip on a bus with a sensitive glee club. Yammer and chat.

~Barry Hannah

I don't really care about plot; I want to have a page-turner in a different kind of way.

~Barry Hannah

I wanted very much to be Miles Davis when I was a boy, but without the practice. It just looked like an endless road.

~Barry Hannah

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