Writing, Thinking, Years, Law, College, World, Long, Way, Eye, Book, Self, Want, Moments, Effort, Ashamed, Haiti, Letting Go, Cities, Gone, Courses

Somewhere along the way America became a giant mall with a country attached.

~Ben Fountain

It took me 10 years to write a story that pleased me - that I could look at after it was published and not cringe.

~Ben Fountain

Late bloomer' is another way of saying 'slow learner.

~Ben Fountain

It is sort of weird being honored for the worst day of your life.

~Ben Fountain

By the end of the first decade of writing, I considered myself a confirmed failure in the eyes of the world.

~Ben Fountain

I never listen to music when I'm writing.

~Ben Fountain

Americans are incredibly polite as long as they get what they want.

~Ben Fountain

The funny thing is, about the time I let go of any aspiration toward worldly success, that's about the time I started writing decent work.

~Ben Fountain

I kept going back while I was writing the novel - which never sold, may it rest in peace - and by the time it was finished I had too many connections to Haiti to walk away.

~Ben Fountain

There was no such thing as perfection in this world, only moments of

such extreme transparency that you forgot yourself, a holy mercy if there ever was one.

~Ben Fountain

It's amazing what happens when you stick yourself in a place and let things take their more or less natural course.

~Ben Fountain

I'm ashamed and embarrassed to say that I've read very little of David Foster Wallace's work. It's a huge gap in my education, one of many.

~Ben Fountain

I think if you spend much time dwelling on influence you can get self-conscious about every line you write. That's a great way to freeze up.

~Ben Fountain

The Kessler Theater is one such gem, an Art Deco beauty â€l for a slice of real life, there's always the Kessler.

~Ben Fountain

Maybe the light's at the other end of the tunnel.

~Ben Fountain

If you could figure out how to live with family then you'd gone a long way toward finding your peace.

~Ben Fountain

I started publishing stories in small magazines early on, but after seven or eight or nine years you feel like you need a little more than that to show for your efforts.

~Ben Fountain

I thought when I started writing that I'd have a book out in four or five

years, and as it became apparent that that wasn't going to happen, I became increasingly frustrated and unsure of myself.

~Ben Fountain

I quit law in 1988 to start writing, and it took me 17 years from that point to get a book contract. I guess you can say I was on the slow train.

~Ben Fountain

I realized I was never going to have any peace with myself unless I made an honest stab at trying to write.

~Ben Fountain

Eruptions of talent continue to happen in Haiti, in spite of everything.

~Ben Fountain

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