

Charles Stross

Quotes

Writing, Thinking, Book, Years, Ideas, Gone, Believe, Reading, People, Space, Average, Long, Firsts, Running, War, Needs, Religious, Style, Matter, Crazy

Back before the internet we had a name for people who bought a single copy of our books and lent them to all their friends without charging: we called them "librarians".

~Charles Stross

Idiots emit bogons, causing machinery to malfunction in their presence. System administrators absorb bogons, letting machinery work again.

~Charles Stross

The programmers have another saying: 'The question of whether a machine can think is no more interesting than the question of whether a submarine can swim.'

~Charles Stross

Nothing stands for content-free corporate bullshit quite like PowerPoint. And that's just scratching the surface.

~Charles Stross

More often than not, piracy is a symptom of an under-provisioned market.

~Charles Stross

Steampunk is nothing more than what happens when Goths discover brown.

~Charles Stross

One ape's hallucination is another ape's religious experience - it just depends on which one's god module is overactive at the time.

~Charles Stross

Unfortunately it's also true to say that good management is a bit like oxygen - it's invisible and you don't notice its presence until it's gone, and then you're sorry.

~Charles Stross

Any civilization where the main symbol of religious veneration is a tool of execution is a bad place to have children.

~Charles Stross

If an idea is compelling enough it'll stick in my head until I am forced to write it. If it's forgettable, who cares?

~Charles Stross

The dirty little secret of publishing is that, all along, each book sold has had an average of 5 readers. That's an 80% "piracy" rate if you insist on looking at it in those terms.

~Charles Stross

Fiction is about human beings, first and foremost. (It's not impossible to write fiction with no human protagonists, but it's very hard to keep the reader interested ...)

~Charles Stross

Gene police! You! Out of the pool, now!

~Charles Stross

Writing novels takes up about 100% of my available working time.

~Charles Stross

We're currently living with a generation of established novelists who are embarrassingly out of date with respect to social networking, internet skills, and so on.

~Charles Stross

In general, a little controversy isn't harmful: if anything, it gets people interested.

~Charles Stross

What I read: while I'm writing, I tend to go off reading fiction for

relaxation - especially the challenging stuff. It's too much like the day job.

~Charles Stross

I don't want to permanently damage myself! On the other hand, a couple of days off the keyboard tends to make things somewhat better.

~Charles Stross

I'm trapped in a fun-house mirror reflection of a historical society where everyone was crazy by default, driven mad by irrational laws and meaningless customs.

~Charles Stross

Well then. Will the naysayers please leave the universe?

~Charles Stross

--but I find her personality annoying. It's like being molested by a sleeping bag that speaks in Comic Sans with little love-hearts over the i's.

~Charles Stross

Time is a corrosive fluid, dissolving motivation, destroying novelty, and leaching the joy from life.

~Charles Stross

Christmas: the one time of year when you can't avoid the nuts in your family muesli.

~Charles Stross

To boldly go where no uploaded metahuman colony has gone before' has a certain ring to it, doesn't it?

~Charles Stross

I like classic British spy thrillers. Seriously. If the cold war was still on,

that's something I'd be writing.

~Charles Stross

When I do get to chow down on a book, I try to read ones that are nothing like what I'm writing. So, as I'm currently working on a space opera (of sorts) I'm mostly indulging in urban fantasy.

~Charles Stross

Can I remember "I remember lots," I say. How much of what I remember is true is another matter.

~Charles Stross

I was Computer Shopper's linux columnist for more than half a decade, from the late 90s onwards. Yes, I know about Linux. (My first review of a Linux distro in the press was published in late 1996.)

~Charles Stross

I wrote two million words of crap. Maybe I'm just a slow learner .

~Charles Stross

I don't do football. (Grew up in Leeds in the 1970s. Football there was indelibly associated with the National Front, i.e. violent fascist skinheads.)

~Charles Stross

I'm an atheist .I was raised in British reform Judaism, which is not like American reform Judaism, much less any other strain of organised religion. So: no cults here.

~Charles Stross

No two books come out the same way. Some I write by the seat of my pants; others are planned in minute detail.

~Charles Stross

I do not click on random youtube videos.

~Charles Stross

Speech recognition is utterly crap for writing fiction. If you try reading a novel aloud you'll soon figure out why - written prose style is utterly unlike the spoken word.

~Charles Stross

What I've learned during my life is that the near future is 90% identical to the present - if you buy a new car today, it'll probably still be on the road in 2022.

~Charles Stross

I don't keep anything on paper (except within an actual novel in progress, at which point I need a file to keep track of plot threads, characters, and so on).

~Charles Stross

My favourite movie is: "Dr Strangelove". (I haven't seen any films released in the past 2-5 years, I'm afraid: I don't do TV/cinema).

~Charles Stross

If I was a Marxist I'd call it the crisis of capitalism. Even though I'm not a Marxist, that seems like a not unreasonable term for the widening gap between the rich and poor that we're seeing.

~Charles Stross

The problem with ebook filesharing is simply one of scale. But I think the "piracy" problem is massively over-rated.

~Charles Stross

Writing your own story around the same ideas is not plagiarism; at worst, it's being unoriginal.

~Charles Stross

Book depository is nothing new; there've been outlets selling books internationally via mail order for many decades - the only change is that it's now easier to find and use such services.

~Charles Stross

The trouble is, if you go too far towards being polite, the label that applies is "doormat".

~Charles Stross

If I wanted to be in movies, I'd have gone into scriptwriting: the fact that I write novels should be a big hint about what I prefer to do!

~Charles Stross

While writing a novel I almost completely stop reading books in the same sub-genre for the duration.

~Charles Stross

For a sampler, you could try my short story collection "Wireless". Which contains one novella that scooped a Locus award, and one that won a Hugo, and covers a range of different styles.

~Charles Stross

I'm not planning a kickstarter game. And I'm not really a game designer.

~Charles Stross

I was an early adopter: have been on the internet continuously since late 1989, barring a six-month loss of access in the early 90s.

~Charles Stross

I tend to think that immortal souls, invisible sky daddies, and Santa Claus all belong in the same basket. The disposition of that basket is left as an exercise for the reader.

~Charles Stross

I'd like to be proven wrong on the difficulty of handling the medical side-effects of long term exposure to deep space (both microgravity induced illnesses and radiation damage).

~Charles Stross

I'd like to be proven wrong firstly on the difficulty of building a self-sustaining closed circuit ecosystem in space that can support human life.

~Charles Stross

I'm told that a couple of my Russian translations are just plain terrible, though, and there may be others.

~Charles Stross

People want to buy mp3s but can't? Piracy ensues. Then Apple strong-arms the music studios into the iTunes store and music piracy drops somewhat. The same, I believe, is also happening with ebooks.

~Charles Stross

I'm an individual. I do not want to get into a pissing match with an organization that is a de-facto gigadollar-turnover multinational!

~Charles Stross

Personal pride is probably a bad guide to merit.

~Charles Stross

I don't like Amazon (wearing my author hat, not my customer hat).

~Charles Stross

I have not watched the TV show. I do not generally watch TV sci-fi drama shows. They make me itch.

~Charles Stross

Any replacement to the current copyright position (life plus 70 years)

needs to have an answer lined up for this, and similar, messy edge cases.

~Charles Stross

I grew up on second hand bookshops and libraries.

~Charles Stross

The one thing that does happen, every time, though, is that I never get to write a book until I've already been thinking about it for a period of months to years.

~Charles Stross

You know, if I tried to change the minds of everyone who I thought needed changing, I'd never have time to do anything else.

~Charles Stross

[Core concepts: Human beings all have souls. Souls are software objects. Software is not immortal.]

~Charles Stross

Humans: such a brilliant model of emotional self-awareness.

~Charles Stross

Lawyers do not mix with diplomacy.

~Charles Stross

It's usually quite easy to shrug and write something else instead.

~Charles Stross

Where would dictators be without our compliant amnesia? Make the collective lose its memory, you can conceal anything.

~Charles Stross

Fatal accidents never happen because of just one mistake. It takes a

whole chain of stupids lining up just so to put a full stop at the end of an epitaph.

~Charles Stross

Life begets intelligence, intelligence begets smart matter and a singularity.

~Charles Stross

I have time to write 1-2 novels per year, and get roughly novel-sized ideas every month. I have to perform triage on my own writing impulses.

~Charles Stross

Had enough of my poetry yet? That's why they pay me to fight demons instead.

~Charles Stross

We are, after all, homo economicus.

~Charles Stross

The chip that functions abnormally will be desoldered, as they say.

~Charles Stross

All men are islands, surrounded by the bottomless oceans of unthinking night.

~Charles Stross

I write almost entirely on Macs, because: Windows gives me hives.

~Charles Stross

I drink tea pretty much continuously at a rate of around 1 imperial pint/hour, which sort of enforces screen/keyboard breaks.

~Charles Stross

I began my first novel when I was 15. It went through three drafts, of around 40,000 words each. If I find it, I'll burn it.

~Charles Stross

Publishing is the final step in making a book; if I was afraid to publish one, I wouldn't write it in the first place.

~Charles Stross

The late 90s were crazy science-fictional if you were inside the superheated steam bubble of the dot-com 1.0 industry.

~Charles Stross

The Magician's Land is a triumphant climax to the best fantasy trilogy of the decade.

~Charles Stross

Biggest influence: my mother.

~Charles Stross

Starships are all work and no fun.

~Charles Stross

I don't do flash fiction.

~Charles Stross

If I forget, then it might as well never have happened. Memory is liberty.

~Charles Stross

We are Bay Aryans from Berkeley: prepare to be reengineered in an attractive range of color schemes for your safety and comfort!

~Charles Stross

If I write too much of anything for too long, I burn out on it. So it helps to

vary my output from year to year.

~Charles Stross

Humans are just barely intelligent tool users; Darwinian evolutionary selection stopped when language and tool use converged, leaving the average hairy meme carrier sadly deficient in smarts.

~Charles Stross

A dark-skinned human with four arms walks toward me across the floor of the club, clad only in a belt strung with human skulls.

~Charles Stross

You'll still get guys with an array of badges to demonstrate their importance, but that just excludes people. I think fandom is more inclusive now.

~Charles Stross

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