

Christopher Bollen

Quotes

*Writing, People, Book, Running, World, Thinking, Art, Country, Moving, Artist,
Trying, Stories, Beautiful, Done, Mean, Teenager, Wanted, Talking, Video,
Games*

It's always surprised me that mainstream America had the good taste to like R.E.M. It doesn't have the digestible quality the general public tends to look for in its favorite musicians.

~Christopher Bollen

The first horror movie I saw, in first or second grade, was *My Bloody Valentine* [1981], where there's a deranged killer in a miner mask stalking a small coal town.

~Christopher Bollen

I have always wanted to be either a cinematographer or a veterinarian.

~Christopher Bollen

When you create a fence, you keep people out, but you also limit your mobility.

~Christopher Bollen

I was never afraid on stage. That's where I was the least afraid. I could just do what I do and I had the amplification and the lights.

~Christopher Bollen

There's a structure to a detective story that I can easily understand. I understand playing that particular game. It's like solving a puzzle. Or creating a puzzle.

~Christopher Bollen

Secrets are never secure because they are always at risk of being found out.

~Christopher Bollen

I don't think secrets are a bad thing. I think there's this idea that everything needs to be transparent in order for it to be free.

~Christopher Bollen

It's just as political, what you do in the bedroom is just as political as what you do in public.

~Christopher Bollen

There is a value to moving more slowly through a story.

~Christopher Bollen

Looking back, [R.E.M.] videos, by in large, have always been art films. I'm thinking of "Losing My Religion." That's a landmark piece.

~Christopher Bollen

Today, MTV doesn't play videos anymore, but YouTube certainly has become the next MTV.

~Christopher Bollen

We've come under the influence of television, where in all honesty we can follow a show that could just get cancelled midway through the season and the entire plotline never resolves itself.

~Christopher Bollen

Now we're in an age of singles. It's actually always been more about singles for most of music history.

~Christopher Bollen

There's also something sexual about watching the nubile girl in terror. But you do take on her fear as your own.

~Christopher Bollen

I smoke cigarettes when I write, which is disgusting, but it really helps me.

~Christopher Bollen

My strength is character. I'm pretty good at building walking-talking humans with brains like beehives.

~Christopher Bollen

My parents were great parents, but for some bizarre reason they allowed me to watch whatever I wanted on TV, we had cable. And I constantly watched horror movies.

~Christopher Bollen

I feel that I'm solid at description.

~Christopher Bollen

Going out into the country after living in the city is a loss of control.

~Christopher Bollen

I've never even done a residency.

~Christopher Bollen

To this day I still watch tons of horror.

~Christopher Bollen

Every time I try to write on vacation, I fail miserably.

~Christopher Bollen

I had been going out to Orient for several years.

~Christopher Bollen

I had lived in New York since 1996, sometimes in the worst neighborhoods, without even locking my door half the time.

~Christopher Bollen

One day I want to write a full-on horror book.

~Christopher Bollen

I was a very scared child.

~Christopher Bollen

The death drive is parasitic. It runs off of other drives, leeching off of them.

~Christopher Bollen

There's something about fear and aesthetic that go hand in hand.

~Christopher Bollen

I also wonder why is it that so many of the movies and books that are detective stories are also the most aesthetically interesting? From Hollywood noirs to horror movies like *The Shining* [1980].

~Christopher Bollen

I'm convinced I was the only kid ever who had a *Death on the Nile* [1978] movie poster and a *Murder on the Orient Express* [1974] movie poster on his bedroom walls.

~Christopher Bollen

I was obsessed with Agatha Christie in sixth grade.

~Christopher Bollen

Why I love chess and tennis - the volleying aspect, and the fact that your competitors' reactions and motivations and bluffs come into the game itself.

~Christopher Bollen

You find when you're writing a detective story that you're actually not trying to solve anything. You're trying to stop the reader from solving the puzzle.

~Christopher Bollen

There are certain moments where artwork might seem like it's part of someone's career - if you really know the art world - , but I did my best to prevent that overlap.

~Christopher Bollen

I've never had a mentor. I've always wanted one. I'm actually really disappointed that nobody took my under their wing.

~Christopher Bollen

There is something very romantic about the orphan figure in American literature.

~Christopher Bollen

Both my parents were big readers. My dad liked more macho adventure books like Shogun or spy novels. My mother reads murder mysteries. In fact, so does her mother, my grandma.

~Christopher Bollen

In a lot of ways, work was my graduate school.

~Christopher Bollen

We lost so many talented artists and writers from the generations before ours that we're really lacking older figureheads.

~Christopher Bollen

I have to say I do read partly for escapism. Why can't I escape and learn something?

~Christopher Bollen

Talking to all those great writers and artists for the magazine was a form of graduate school for me.

~Christopher Bollen

I'm really much better at asking questions than answering them, since asking questions is like a constant deflection of oneself.

~Christopher Bollen

It's hard for me to figure out where I want to be. But it's definitely in New York. I feel like New York throws different challenges at you and you

can be more creative.

~Christopher Bollen

There seem to be two ways of generating interest from the reader: withholding information or by telling the reader on the first page exactly what's going to happen.

~Christopher Bollen

People aren't doing whodunits anymore.

~Christopher Bollen

Safety, reputation, their lives, their friends, and their world. Writers typically try to avoid that because it's not expedient.

~Christopher Bollen

I just think, as writers, especially with a book that takes years to write, you sort of wake up every morning hoping and praying that you can make it work for the day.

~Christopher Bollen

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