

Clive James Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, Funny, Men, People, Art, Classic, Tennis, Humorous, Looks,
Want, Reading, America, Book, Wisdom, Mean, Balls, Artist, Interesting, Italian*

Whoever called snooker "chess with balls" was rude, but right.

~Clive James

Snooker is just chess with balls.

~Clive James

The British secret service was staffed at one point almost entirely by alcoholic homosexuals working for the KGB

~Clive James

A sceptic finds Dallas absurd. A cynic thinks the public doesn't

~Clive James

It is only when they go wrong that machines remind you how powerful they are.

~Clive James

A life without fame can be a good life, but fame without a life is no life at all.

~Clive James

Fiction is life with the dull bits left out.

~Clive James

Disco dancing is just the steady thump of a giant moron knocking in an endless nail.

~Clive James

They had a... dog called Bluey. A know psychopath, Bluey would attack himself if nothing else was available.

~Clive James

She was good at playing abstract confusion in the same way that a midget is good at being short.

~Clive James

Sick of being a prisoner of my childhood, I want to put it behind me.

~Clive James

Twin miracles of mascara, her eyes looked like the corpses of two small crows that had crashed into a chalk cliff.

~Clive James

When I was young I never believed that Australia was anything else except blessed. I thought it was a little dull when I was young, but that was 'cause I was a snob.

~Clive James

When I finally embraced abstinence it was because of the simple urge to work a longer day. Thus, without joining Alcoholics Anonymous, I was at last able to leave Piss-Artists Notorious.

~Clive James

Generally it is our failures that civilize us. Triumph confirms us in our habits.

~Clive James

As a work of art, it reminds me of a long conversation between two drunks

~Clive James

Arnold Schwarzenegger looks like a brown condom full of walnuts.

~Clive James

Writers quite often starve. And I'm mainly just writing critical prose and poetry, that's a formula for starvation.

~Clive James

If an artist is any good at all, then he or she will have a later phase that's more interesting than the early one.

~Clive James

Stop worrying, nobody gets out of this world alive.

~Clive James

I try to be specific. One thought at a time. Clear. Articulate. And above all, memorable, if you can be. You'd like to write phrases that people can't forget as soon as they read them.

~Clive James

Beyoncé and pathos are strangers. Amy Winehouse and pathos are flatmates, and you should see the kitchen.

~Clive James

Everyone has a right to a university degree in America, even if it's in Hamburger Technology.

~Clive James

On the correctly formed pubescent girl, a Speedo looked wonderful. When it was wet, it was an incitement to riot.

~Clive James

The literary critic, or the critic of any other specific form of artistic expression, may detach himself from the world for as long as the work of art he is contemplating appears to do the same.

~Clive James

I won't have to miss smoking any more. Nobody smokes where I'm going: It's like a row of restaurants in California.

~Clive James

The thing about making a documentary in Las Vegas is there isn't much

to film apart from other people making documentaries about Las Vegas.

~Clive James

Even in moments of tranquility, Murray Walker sounds like a man whose trousers are on fire.

~Clive James

Jack Aubrey is a tremendous tower of strength and you always want to read about him.

~Clive James

In Italy, for the same price as a typical British hamburger meal including sweet, a builder's labourer could eat like a king - rather better in fact, because pasta dishes gain from being kept simple.

~Clive James

All I can do is turn a phrase until it catches the light.

~Clive James

I've only got a fraction of the energy I once had, but I think I probably use it better.

~Clive James

The entr e wasn't tender enough to be a paving stone and the gravy couldn't have been primordial soup because morphogenesis was already taking place.

~Clive James

The key to effective teaching is to remember how you learned.

~Clive James

A traditional fixture at Wimbledon is the way the BBC TV commentary box fills up with British players eliminated in the early rounds.

~Clive James

The Canadian version of Julius Caesar's memoirs? I came, I saw, I coped.

~Clive James

The inevitable effect of a biographer's hindsight is to belittle the subject's foresight.

~Clive James

The first language that I learned was Italian in Italy in the early and middle-'60s and I had to do that to keep up with the young men who were courting my wife.

~Clive James

Every sentence he manages to utter scatters its component parts like pond water from a verb chasing its own tail.

~Clive James

She [Marilyn Monroe] was good at being inarticulately abstracted for the same reason that midgets are good at being short.

~Clive James

I saw the film Pearl Harbour and it made me wish that the Japanese had bombed Hollywood instead!

~Clive James

The British hamburger thus symbolised, with savage neatness, the country's failure to provide its ordinary people with food which did anything more for them than sustain life.

~Clive James

Philosophers are divided on the question of whether the narrative therein unfolded [the Crossman Diaries] is grippingly boring or boringly

gripping.

~Clive James

Like a Volvo, Bjorn Borg is rugged, has good after-sales service, and is very dull.

~Clive James

The Benson and Hedges Cup was won by McEnroe ... he was as charming as always, which means that he was as charming as a dead mouse in a loaf of bread.

~Clive James

I've got life for a subject because as life starts to drain away, you start seeing very clearly what life is, for the first time.

~Clive James

Among artists without talent Marxism will always be popular, since it enables them to blame society for the fact that nobody wants to hear what they have to say.

~Clive James

John McEnroe looks as if he is serving round the edge of an imaginary building.

~Clive James

This quality becomes important at a time when almost everyone is a poet. And as I said, we live in an age where almost everybody is a poet, but scarcely anyone can write a poem.

~Clive James

John McEnroe has hair like badly turned broccoli.

~Clive James

My wife and I just started listening to the late Beethoven Quartets

together, an activity I recommend for all married couples, but that doesn't really mean that I'm finished reading.

~Clive James

Mocking Hugh Hefner is easy to do, and in my mind should be made easier.

~Clive James

Reading and writing... are exciting. The most exciting things I can think of. And now, as I reflect... I have to say that I've been lucky in that I'm amused by what I do - sufficiently amused.

~Clive James

The smartest move I ever made in showbusiness was to start off looking like the kind of wreck I would end up as. I was already aged in the wood.

~Clive James

One way or another, all the poets of the thirties and forties reacted to Auden, either by rejecting him or trying to absorb him.

~Clive James

Being young is wonderful. But one of the secrets of being a human individual - a mature human individual shall we put it rather grandly - is that you can see this desire in perspective.

~Clive James

The secret for an artist is to make that a subject and not bang your head against the wall and give up. But to turn it into and treat the new subject matter, which is one's own vanishing.

~Clive James

A loose horse is any horse sensible enough to get rid of its rider at an early stage and carry on unencumbered.

~Clive James

His pear-shaped head, I could now see, was situated on top of a pear-shaped body, which his black gown caused to resemble a piece of fruit going to a funeral.

~Clive James

If we want a book to do more than what it does, that's a condemnation. If we want it to do more of what it does, that's an endorsement.

~Clive James

It's my mission to tell the Australians from abroad in my work that Australia is a wonderful place.

~Clive James

Anyone afraid of what he thinks television does to the world is probably just afraid of the world.

~Clive James

I'm certainly not a linguist. I learned what languages I could learn in order to read books and I can't really speak them. I couldn't have stayed out of jail in most of them.

~Clive James

My niece is - her name is Sasha, is currently learning Russian at Melbourne University and I look forward to the day when I can talk to her about Pushkin.

~Clive James

I taught myself Russian, which was very, very useful, especially for poetry and in fact if you can't read Pushkin in Russian, you're really missing something.

~Clive James

Not everyone who wants to make a film is crazy, but almost everyone who is crazy wants to make a film.

~Clive James

Delivering the State of the Union? That bloke couldn't deliver pizza.

~Clive James

Little books are the things to write at my age, I've decided. Avoid the big ones, go for the little ones.

~Clive James

First-rate science fiction was, and remains, more interesting than second-rate art.

~Clive James

Writing is a performance art for me. They're very closely aligned, writing and performing. But I'm a writer, not a performer.

~Clive James

Roscoe Tanner seems to have found a way of making his service go even faster, so that the ball is now quite invisible, like Stealth, the American supersonic bomber which nobody has ever seen.

~Clive James

People should be stopped from writing poetry. There's far too much of it. And if they're any good, they'll go ahead anyways.

~Clive James

It is a good rule in life to be wary of the company of people who think of themselves in the third person, no matter how well justified they might seem to be in doing so.

~Clive James

One of the virtues of the NHS... it doesn't worry you about money at the

moment when you're least capable of doing anything about it.

~Clive James

You can't be young always. The day will come when everything will fall apart.

~Clive James

I love reading about the sea. I love reading about it a lot more than actually being on the sea, when you think about it.

~Clive James

I work on the assumption, or let it be the fear, that the reader will stop reading if I stop being interesting.

~Clive James

Bjorn Borg looks like a hunchbacked, jut-bottomed version of Elizabeth Scott, impersonating a bearded Apache princess.

~Clive James

A sense of humour is common sense dancing.

~Clive James

Men never sound more stupid than when they're telling you they're a very complex personality.

~Clive James

You should never trust anyone who listens to Mahler before they're forty.

~Clive James

The rattle of plastic keys reminds me of a squadron of butterflies failing to fight their way out of a paper bag.

~Clive James

Experts say men think of sex every 10 seconds... What do they think of in the other nine?

~Clive James

Ban poetry. And make sure that anyone caught reading it is expelled from school. Then it will acquire the glamour.

~Clive James

Television is simultaneously blamed, often by the same people, for worsening the world and for being powerless to change it.

~Clive James

A luxury liner is really just a bad play surrounded by water.

~Clive James

All honest labor becomes easy; it only becomes hard when done with unwillingness.

~Clive James

An education without a Bible education is no education.

~Clive James

You can never get a woman to sit down and listen to a drum solo.

~Clive James

All intellectual tendencies are corrupted when they consort with power.

~Clive James

I was brought up on the proletarian left, and I remain there. The fair go for workers is fundamental, and I don't believe the free market has a mind.

~Clive James

The essence of a class system is not that the privileged are conscious

of their privileges, but that the deprived are conscious of their deprivations.

~Clive James

She wasn't just beautiful. She was like the sun coming up: coming up giggling. She was giggling as if she had just remembered something funny.

~Clive James

Humphrey Searle writes music that sounds like the theme from 'Star Wars' played backwards through a washing machine.

~Clive James

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