

Colm Toibin

Quotes

*Writing, Book, Barcelona, Thinking, Sleep, World, Mean, Country, Intelligent,
Strong, Play, Song, Long, Men, Ideas, Notebook, Age, Real, Insane, Art*

Writing tends to be very deliberate. A novelist could probably run a military campaign with some success. They could certainly run a country.

~Colm Toibin

All writing is a form of manipulation, of course, but you realize that a plain sentence can actually do so much.

~Colm Toibin

I have to write a first draft with a fountain pen before I type it up as a second.

~Colm Toibin

Life has a funny way of becoming ordinary as soon as it can.

~Colm Toibin

Suffering is too strong a word, but writing is serious work. I pull the stuff up from me - it's not as if it's a pleasure.

~Colm Toibin

I wrote every day between the ages of 12 and 20 when I stopped because I went to Barcelona, where life was too exciting to write.

~Colm Toibin

I suppose one should have an integrated personality, but I've never really seen the point.

~Colm Toibin

If you have to read to cheer yourself up, read biographies of writers who went insane.

~Colm Toibin

Three of my novels and a good number of my short stories are told from the point of view of men. I was brought up in a house of women.

~Colm Toibin

She was lonely without Blunt, but she was lonelier at the idea that the world went on as though she had not loved him.

~Colm Toibin

I live in words. I like looking at things, but I don't have a strong visual imagination.

~Colm Toibin

The old Victorian laws against homosexuality were still on the statute books until the early 1990s. As a gay man living in Ireland, I and people like me found it easy to feel less than citizens.

~Colm Toibin

in skies of deepening blue the moon, heaven's queen was now afloat

~Colm Toibin

Between the ages of 8 and 12 it was difficult to know what my father was saying, and he moved very slowly, and then he died.

~Colm Toibin

“One Minus One” and “Barcelona, 1975” are more or less autobiographical.

~Colm Toibin

I think you can get a sort of intensity and an edginess offering nine stories in a book. Competing versions of things.

~Colm Toibin

I think fiction lends itself to messiness rather than the ideal, and plays well with the ironies surrounding what happens versus what should happen.

~Colm Toibin

It really matters to writers to find and treasure readers, all the more when they're on the other side of the world.

~Colm Toibin

Writer's block! It doesn't exist. You just long for ideas to go away so you have an idea of peace.

~Colm Toibin

Anyone who works in the arts knows, if you're writing a novel or a play or anything, you have to be ready for someone to say, 'Your time is up.'

~Colm Toibin

It is important to find a publisher and equally important not to be noticed until your third or fourth book.

~Colm Toibin

John McGovern taught me that it's OK to write repeatedly about the same things.

~Colm Toibin

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