

# Colson Whitehead Quotes

*Writing, Book, Thinking, People, Cities, New York, Children, Kids, Self, Running,  
Ideas, Couple, Technology, Careers, Years, Moving, Jobs, Perfect, Monsters,  
Slavery*

A monster is a person who has stopped pretending.

~Colson Whitehead

It is failure that guides evolution; perfection provides no incentive for improvement, and nothing is perfect.

~Colson Whitehead

You are a New Yorker when what was there before is more real and solid than what is here now.

~Colson Whitehead

Memory is the most malicious cutter of all, preserving, recasting, panning in slow motion across the awful bits so that we retain every detail.

~Colson Whitehead

In other words, fiction is payback for those who have wronged you.

~Colson Whitehead

What isn't said is as important as what is said.

~Colson Whitehead

We never see other people anyway, only the monsters we make of them.

~Colson Whitehead

Sanctimony and self-regard are as American as smallpox blankets and supersize meals.

~Colson Whitehead

Google "brooklyn writer" and you'll get, Did you mean: the future of literature as we know it?

~Colson Whitehead

A society manufactures the heroes it requires.

~Colson Whitehead

If I have three ideas and I'm working on one more than the others, that sort of tells me that I should work on that one.

~Colson Whitehead

Talking about New York is a way of talking about the world.

~Colson Whitehead

New York City in life was much like New York City in death. It was still hard to get a cab, for example.

~Colson Whitehead

Growing up devouring horror comics and novels, and being inspired to become a writer because of horror novels, movies, and comic books, I always knew I was going to write a horror novel.

~Colson Whitehead

New York City does not hold our former selves against us. Perhaps we can extend the same courtesy.

~Colson Whitehead

The city knows you better than any living person because it has seen you when you are alone.

~Colson Whitehead

I write books and either people read them or they don't read them. The rise of Facebook or e-books doesn't change the difficulty level of writing sentences and thinking up new ideas.

~Colson Whitehead

As I get older and write more books I'm definitely allowing the humorous side of my personality more rein in my work.

~Colson Whitehead

I think each book has its own way of accommodating my concerns, whether it's about race, America, technology, the city.

~Colson Whitehead

The fallout from slavery is ongoing. I am not sure the issue of race in America will ever be completely solved.

~Colson Whitehead

For years I felt that I wasn't ready to take on slavery. It's a huge topic, and I didn't want to mess it up.

~Colson Whitehead

Pain could be killed. Sadness could not, but the drugs did shut its mouth for a time.

~Colson Whitehead

It had been a humdrum couple of days, reaffirming his belief in reincarnation: everything was so boring that this could not be the first time he'd experienced it.

~Colson Whitehead

I'm an African-American writer, I'm a lazy writer, I'm a writer who likes to watch *The Wire*, I'm a writer who likes to eat a lot of steak.

~Colson Whitehead

There will be no redemption because the men who run this place do not want redemption. They want to be as near to hell as they can.

~Colson Whitehead

### **Related Links:**

- Writing Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- People Quotes
- Cities Quotes
- New York Quotes
- Children Quotes
- Kids Quotes
- Self Quotes
- Running Quotes
- Ideas Quotes
- Couple Quotes
- Technology Quotes
- Careers Quotes
- Years Quotes
- Moving Quotes
- Jobs Quotes
- Perfect Quotes
- Monsters Quotes
- Slavery Quotes