

Dan Simmons

Quotes

*Writing, Memories, Pain, Humanity, Book, Life, Art, Real, Way, Reality, Long,
Law, Violence, Evolution, War, Dream, People, Men, Thinking, Ideas*

As for the depiction of the Catholic church, it's not meant to be a prediction

~Dan Simmons

It occurs to me that our survival may depend upon our talking to one another.

~Dan Simmons

The Great Change is when humankind accepts its role as part of the natural order of the universe instead of its role as a cancer

~Dan Simmons

Words are the only bullets in truth's bandolier. And poets are the snipers.

~Dan Simmons

If everyone could understand the working of a psychopath's mind, we undoubtedly would be closer to insanity ourselves.

~Dan Simmons

The future is like smoke from a burning forest, waiting for the wind of specific events and personal courage to blow the sparks and embers of reality this way or that.

~Dan Simmons

Nobody gets beyond a petroleum economy. Not while there's petroleum there.

~Dan Simmons

Seduction... was both a science and art - a blend of skill, discipline, proximity, and opportunity. Mostly proximity.

~Dan Simmons

Poets are the mad midwives to reality. They see not what is, nor what

can be, but what must become.

~Dan Simmons

History viewed from the inside is always a dark, digestive mess, far different from the easily recognizable cow viewed from afar by historians.

~Dan Simmons

The shortest route to courage is absolute ignorance.

~Dan Simmons

Love was as hardwired into the structure of the universe as gravity and matter.

~Dan Simmons

Movie SF is, by definition, dumbed down - there have only been three or four SF movies in the history of film that aspire to the complexity of literary SF.

~Dan Simmons

A token of ecological awareness in a society devoted to self destruction and waste but unwilling to acknowledge its indulgent ways.

~Dan Simmons

Love is nothing but lust misspelled.

~Dan Simmons

The love of violence is an aspect of our humanity. Even the weak wish to be strong primarily so they can wield the whip.

~Dan Simmons

Anticlimax is, of course, the warp and way of things. Real life seldom structures a decent denouement.

~Dan Simmons

In such seconds of decision entire futures are made.

~Dan Simmons

As long as my sixth graders showed an average improvement of five years, the principal and district pretty much left me alone to create my own curriculum and teach whatever I wanted

~Dan Simmons

It started 25 years ago, when I was teaching elementary school in a small town in Missouri

~Dan Simmons

Most of us do know we have no immortality. And when you've found a genius, someone who has already purchased his immortality in musical or literary terms, it's maddening.

~Dan Simmons

It's one of the strangest attributes of this profession that when we writers get exhausted writing one thing, we relax by writing another.

~Dan Simmons

Those who ignore history's lessons in the ultimate folly of war are forced to do more than relive them ... they may be forced to die by them.

~Dan Simmons

A hero. You want to be one of those rare human beings who make history, rather than merely watch it flow around them like water around a rock.

~Dan Simmons

The truth is, it's not a great career move to create a readership and then, in effect, abandon them.

~Dan Simmons

The young remember most deeply.... When we are old and failing, it is the memories of childhood which can be summoned most clearly.

~Dan Simmons

Losing our ignorance can be dangerous because our ignorance is a shield.

~Dan Simmons

We are all eaters of souls.

~Dan Simmons

There's a unique bond of trust between readers and authors that I don't believe exists in any other art form; as a reader, I trust a novelist to give me his or her best effort, however flawed.

~Dan Simmons

The past is dead and buried. But I know now that buried things have a way of rising to the surface when one least expects them to.

~Dan Simmons

Fate and victory shift ... now this way, now that way -- like a line of unarmored men under a hail of enemy arrows.

~Dan Simmons

There is a fullness and calmness there which can come only from knowing pain.

~Dan Simmons

No lifetime is long enough for those ... who simply wish to understand themselves and their lives. It is, perhaps, the curse of being human, but also a blessing.

~Dan Simmons

If there is a true religion in the universe, it must include the truth of

contact or be forever hollow.

~Dan Simmons

Writing, Im convinced, should be a subversive activity - frowned on by the authorities - and not one cooed over and praised beyond common sense by some teacher.

~Dan Simmons

But I think, and hope, that the novels can be understood and enjoyed as science fiction, on their own terms.

~Dan Simmons

Artists recognize other artists as soon as the pencil begins to move.

~Dan Simmons

There is a certain solipsism to serious illness which claims all of one's attention as certainly as an astronomical black hole seizes anything unlucky enough to fall within its critical radius.

~Dan Simmons

Stupidity has a price and it always gets paid.

~Dan Simmons

Life doesn't retreat.

~Dan Simmons

The sum of the crowd's IQ was far below that of its most modest single member. Mobs have passions, not brains.

~Dan Simmons

Its hard to die. Harder to live

~Dan Simmons

Sometimes ... dreams are all that separate us from the machines.

~Dan Simmons

Any allegiance to a deity or concept or universal principal which put obedience above decent behavior toward an innocent human being evil.

~Dan Simmons

Context is to data what water is to a dolphin

~Dan Simmons

No book or poem is ever finished, merely abandoned.

~Dan Simmons

In the end--when all else is dust--loyalty to those we love is all we can carry with us to the grave. Faith--true faith--was trusting in that love.

~Dan Simmons

If our god's work is to be done in our time, we must do it ourselves.

~Dan Simmons

Each heart has its graveyard, each household its dead, And knells ring around us wherever we tread, And the feet that awhile made our pathway so bright Pass on to a land that is out of our sight.

~Dan Simmons

Nothing helps an artist's career more than a little death and obscurity.

~Dan Simmons

His imagination was always more real than the reality of daily life.

~Dan Simmons

All violence flows from the same source ... the need for power. Power is the only true morality ... the only deathless god, and the appetite for violence is its only commandment.

~Dan Simmons

Every age fraught with discord and danger seems to spawn a leader meant only for that age, a political giant whose absence, in retrospect, seems inconceivable when the history of that age is written.

~Dan Simmons

God is found in this Life ... to wait for another is folly.

~Dan Simmons

Life is brutal that way ... the loss of irrecoverable moments amid trivia and distraction.

~Dan Simmons

Prison always has been a good place for writers, killing, as it does, the twin demons of mobility and diversion

~Dan Simmons

The problem with being passionately in love ... is that it deprives you of too much sleep.

~Dan Simmons

Merely to live without a pain Is little gladness, little gain, Ah, welcome joy tho' mixt with grief-- The thorn-set flower that crowns the leaf.

~Dan Simmons

... all good things beyond sleep come precisely because we defy gravity while we live.

~Dan Simmons

The Victorians, they were like the Germans in World War II. They could not stop recording details about their lives and their age.

~Dan Simmons

I loved almost everything about being a teacher, but I was an unusual teacher

~Dan Simmons

Mystery. The strangeness of place so necessary to some creative spirits. A perfect mixture of the classical utopia and the pagan mystery.

~Dan Simmons

I loved you backward and forward in time. I loved you beyond boundaries of time and space.

~Dan Simmons

What, after all, is more real to us than the geography of our childhoods?

~Dan Simmons

Lovemaking seems all too absurd when described.

~Dan Simmons

Once evolution gets a good basic design, it tends to throw away the variants and concentrate on the near-infinite diversity within that design.

~Dan Simmons

Religion seems to have always offered us that false duality ... the silences of infinite space or the cozy comfort of inner certainty.

~Dan Simmons

Speaking as a novelist myself, I know that members of our profession live in our imaginations as much or more as we inhabit what people call 'the real world.'

~Dan Simmons

This is every writer's nightmare - the sudden breakdown of meaning in

the language that sustains and supports us.

~Dan Simmons

The whole planet reeks of mysticism without revelation.

~Dan Simmons

Mobs have passions, not brains.

~Dan Simmons

Doing a life study while drunk and in the process of being seduced is never a formula for quality art.

~Dan Simmons

All of our lives are governed by a certain degree of faith in bullshit.

~Dan Simmons

No one inspired me to write, but writer Harlan Ellison terrified me into getting published.

~Dan Simmons

We are not the only avatars of humanity. Once our computing machines achieved self-consciousness, they became part of this design.

~Dan Simmons

Luckily, even as a young man not yet become himself, John Bridgens had two things besides indecision that kept him from self-destruction - books and a sense of irony.

~Dan Simmons

Words were like objects, making the idea more solid -- less a poisonous gas and more a ... cube of crystallized thought.

~Dan Simmons

Evolution brings human beings. Human beings, through a long and painful process, bring humanity.

~Dan Simmons

War must never be a condition but, rather, a temporary scourge which we suffer as a child does a fever, knowing that health follows the long night of pain and that peace is health.

~Dan Simmons

You treat violence as an aberration ... when in truth it is the norm. It is the very essence of the human condition.

~Dan Simmons

Laws had a bad habit of being ignored or abrogated when societal push came to totalitarian shove.

~Dan Simmons

It no longer matters who consider themselves the masters of events. Events no longer obey their masters.

~Dan Simmons

Barbarians, we call them, while all the while we timidly cling to our Web like Visigoths crouching in the ruins of Rome's faded glory and proclaim ourselves civilized.

~Dan Simmons

Power: a currency that never went out of style.

~Dan Simmons

Human beings have only that confusing mass of chemically driven neurological storage to rely on. They're all subjective and emotion-tinged. How can they trust any of their memories?

~Dan Simmons

How could anyone stay sane with entire lifetimes stored in one human mind?

~Dan Simmons

I knew that I wanted to be a writer even before I knew exactly what being a writer entailed

~Dan Simmons

Words are the light and sound of our existence, the heat lightning by which the night is illuminated.

~Dan Simmons

It's odd how violence and humor so often go together, isn't it?

~Dan Simmons

Pain is an interesting and off-putting thing. Few if any things in life concentrate our attention so completely and terribly, and few things are more boring to listen to or read about.

~Dan Simmons

You have to live to really know things, my love

~Dan Simmons

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