

David Guterson

Quotes

*Writing, Literature, Book, Way, Thinking, Cedars, People, Needs, World, Years,
Real, Heart, Together, Melancholy, Wanted, Children, Feel Better, Used,
Responsibility, Regret*

When it comes time to sit down and write the next book, you're deathly afraid that you're not up to the task. That was certainly the case with me after *Snow Falling on Cedars*.

~David Guterson

The status quo was rote memorization and recitation in classrooms thronged with passive children who were sternly disciplined when they expressed individual needs.

~David Guterson

My father is a practicing criminal law attorney in the Seattle area.

~David Guterson

At one level you're condemned to the voice you have. But within those confines, you have a certain amount of freedom to range among your possible voices.

~David Guterson

There are things in this universe that we cannot control, and then there are the things we can. . . . Let fate, coincidence, and accident conspire; human beings must act on reason.

~David Guterson

What some people interpret as brooding melancholy is serenity. I don't feel required to grasp all the time.

~David Guterson

There's a certain nostalgia and romance in a place you left.

~David Guterson

It's a brooding melancholy that haunts me.

~David Guterson

accident ruled every corner of the universe except the chambers of the

human heart.

~David Guterson

I often heard about his cases and I often sat in on his trials. In the late 1960s when I was growing up I wanted to be a crusader like him but I didn't want to wear a suit and commute.

~David Guterson

I became paralyzed as an artist with writer's block.

~David Guterson

I'm interested in themes that endure from generation to generation.

~David Guterson

I think you have an obligation to share what you know as a writer.

~David Guterson

When I went to college I took a creative writing class and decided in a week to be a writer.

~David Guterson

I have relaxed into my persona as an author, although I used to fight that.

~David Guterson

Everybody has a world, and that world is completely hidden until we begin to inquire. As soon as we do, that entire world opens to us and yields itself. And you see how full and complex it is.

~David Guterson

The strange thing was, he wanted to like everyone. He just couldn't find a way to do it.

~David Guterson

I was born in Washington State and have lived here for 42 plus years.

~David Guterson

Fiction is socially meaningful.

~David Guterson

What sustains me is to be with my family and to write.

~David Guterson

My book is traditional. It runs counter to the post-modern spirit.

~David Guterson

The real question is: How do you react? What do you do next? Evade responsibilities? Bury yourself in work? What do you do? All three of my novels take up that question, although none gives an answer.

~David Guterson

I think of myself as a really happy person.

~David Guterson

That the world was silent and cold and bare and that in this lay its terrible beauty

~David Guterson

A literary achievement of the highest order.

~David Guterson

I grew up in Seattle, but I always knew I wanted to leave.

~David Guterson

Cities produce in me melancholy or a tension I don't need.

~David Guterson

You should learn to say nothing that will cause you regret. You should

not say what is not in your heart - or what is only in your heart for a moment. But you know this - silence is better.

~David Guterson

Post-modernism is dead because it didn't address human needs.

~David Guterson

I'm not an urban person.

~David Guterson

I'm a hypocrite, of course, and I live with that, but I live.

~David Guterson

The best advice on writing I've ever received is to take it seriously, because to do it well is all-consuming.

~David Guterson

I know you'll think this is crazy, but all I want to do is hold you, and I think that if you'll let me do that just for a few seconds, I can walk away, and never speak to you again.

~David Guterson

To persevere is always a reflection of the state of one's inner life, one's philosophy and one's perspective

~David Guterson

Hemingway said the only way to write about a place is to leave it.

~David Guterson

Even though I may not intend it when I set out to write the book, these places just emerge as major players in what I'm doing, almost as if they are insisting on it.

~David Guterson

Don Quixote is one that comes to mind in comparison to mine, in that they both involve journeys undertaken by older men. That is unusual, because generally the hero of a journey story is very young.

~David Guterson

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