

David Quammen

Quotes

Yellowstone, Land, Evolution, Animal, Needs, Islands, Logic, Identity, Use, Reality, Cheerful, Order, Mean, Monsters, Independent, Novel, Dies, People, Successful, Used

The swallow that hibernates underwater is a creature called yearning.

~David Quammen

The elk are the most abundant large herbivores in the Yellowstone ecosystem. There are thousands and thousands of them. They migrate in and out. And those migration routes need to stay open.

~David Quammen

Nor are we the culmination of evolution, except in the sense that there has never been another species so bizarrely ingenious that it could create both iambic pentameter and plutonium.

~David Quammen

Identity is such a crucial affair that one shouldn't rush into it.

~David Quammen

By the cold Darwinian logic of natural selection, evolution codifies happenstance into strategy.

~David Quammen

Islands are havens and breeding grounds for the unique and anomalous. They are natural laboratories of extravagant evolutionary experimentation.

~David Quammen

Among the earliest forms of human self-awareness was the awareness of being meat.

~David Quammen

I wrote four novels, but then I realized that the world didn't need me to be a novelist, but the world could use me as a nonfiction writer.

~David Quammen

Islands are where species go to die.

~David Quammen

If you are lying in a tent in the Congo jungle, you don't want to be reading about rainforest biology. You want to be in a distant world.

~David Quammen

Mathematics to me is like a language I don't speak though I admire its literature in translation.

~David Quammen

I used to read only fiction. Now I don't read much, only occasionally, such as a Cormac McCarthy or a Jim Harrison novel.

~David Quammen

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