

Donald E. Westlake

Quotes

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Nobody gets everything in this life. You decide your priorities and you make your choices. I'd decided long ago that any cake I had would be eaten.

~Donald E. Westlake

I loved it, but social reality impeded. Now I wander in here at 9 in the morning or so, and come back for a while in the afternoon. I am a very lenient boss.

~Donald E. Westlake

Whenever things sound easy, it turns out there's one part you didn't hear.

~Donald E. Westlake

Who's a boy gonna talk to if not his mother?

~Donald E. Westlake

The trouble with real life is, there's no reset button.

~Donald E. Westlake

In order to hold your faith intact be sure it's kept unsullied by fact.

~Donald E. Westlake

When the phone rang, Parker was in the garage, killing a man.

~Donald E. Westlake

A friend of mine, now retired, was then a major exec at a major bank, and one of her jobs, the last four years, was the farewell interview.

~Donald E. Westlake

What did Jesus Christ say to the Teamsters? 'Do nothing till I get back.

~Donald E. Westlake

Hoke Moseley is a magnificently battered hero. Willeford brings him to

us lean and hard and brand-new.

~Donald E. Westlake

If you think of movie studio executives, say, as society, then I root for the independent producers.

~Donald E. Westlake

All of the changes in publishing since 1960 are significant. There are far fewer publishers.

~Donald E. Westlake

If it weren't for received ideas, the publishing industry wouldn't have any ideas at all.

~Donald E. Westlake

Nothing about it interested me. Or about anything else, except making up stories. If literacy weren't so nearly universal, God knows what I'd be. A drain on the State, I shouldn't wonder.

~Donald E. Westlake

The fictioneer labors under the constraint of plausibility; his inventions must stay within the capacity of the audience to accept and believe. God, of course, working with facts, faces no limitation.

~Donald E. Westlake

I make a note, set it aside, and hope it makes sense when the time comes to look at it again.

~Donald E. Westlake

Everybody in New York is looking for something. Once in a while, somebody finds it.

~Donald E. Westlake

Sorry; I have no space left for advice. Just do it.

~Donald E. Westlake

Christmas shows us the ties that bind us together, threads of love and caring, woven in the simplest and strongest way within the family.

~Donald E. Westlake

I do bookstore signings, and it seems to me that I get a variety of men and women, more women than I'd expect, and grown-ups among my readers.

~Donald E. Westlake

When the guy with asthma finally came in from the fire escape, Parker rabbit-punched him and took his gun away.

~Donald E. Westlake

In a funny way, the stories keep themselves alive by emerging from one another. I like that.

~Donald E. Westlake

It's so difficult, particularly with an antisocial character. It's much easier if he's already a blank page, but once you've written on him, it's hard to keep him that stripped down.

~Donald E. Westlake

Once he became a series character, I made the conscious choice that he would never act like a series character, never wink at the reader, never pull his punches. Better for him, better for me.

~Donald E. Westlake

Eyes wide and blank as the buttons on a first Communion coat.

~Donald E. Westlake

If Chester had a failing, it was that he believed people were what they thought they were.

~Donald E. Westlake

What advice I would give to anybody about anything. Life is a slow-motion avalanche, and none of us are steering." (When asked in an interview about what question he's tired of being asked.)

~Donald E. Westlake

Writing is flat, so if you only have part of one eye working, you still can do the job. It's just that you sit there and you're angry, which doesn't help.

~Donald E. Westlake

The only thing I learned from the architecture is keep the bathroom and the kitchen near each other, so you don't have to run pipes all over the place.

~Donald E. Westlake

My mother believed in all superstitions, plus she made some up.

~Donald E. Westlake

If you leave me here," the guy on the floor said, "he'll kill me tomorrow morning." Parker looked at him. "So you've still got tonight," he said.

~Donald E. Westlake

I have no known marketable skills.

~Donald E. Westlake

The thing that I prefer, when I'm working on a book, is to do a seven-day week, because it's easy to lose some of the details of what you're doing along the way.

~Donald E. Westlake

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