

Donald Ray Pollock

Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, People, Book, Character, Believe, Degrees, Ohio, Years,
Men, Girl, Ohio State, School, Couple, Names, Looks, Trying, Night, Class,
Mean*

Some people were born just so they could be buried.

~Donald Ray Pollock

If a person does this for just a couple of years and discovers that it just isn't for him, that's okay. At least he can move on knowing that he gave it his best shot.

~Donald Ray Pollock

Look, girls don't care how many push-ups you can do. They just want to get high and wear flowers in their hair. Maybe steal a car.

~Donald Ray Pollock

[Degree in English] gave me a little more self-confidence, to know that I'd managed to complete something like that.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I'm not sure what the proper label might be, or the most accurate one, but someone once called my stuff Southern Ohio Gothic and I thought that was fair.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I really have no idea what the French think of my characters, or why *The Devil All the Time* did so well there.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I don't really think the outburst is recent; there have always been writers in Appalachia.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I don't think writing fiction has changed my worldview.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I'm always doubting my work, even when people are kind enough to say good things. I still have a hard time believing I've written some

books, let alone that they've actually done pretty well.

~Donald Ray Pollock

One of the reasons I write about religion is due to my own envy of people who truly feel the presence of god in their lives, good souls who believe devoutly in a supreme being and an afterlife.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I think my characters - well, at least a few of them - are hoping or searching for some kind of contact with god.

~Donald Ray Pollock

When I first started out, I was trying to write stories about nurses and lawyers and a lot of people I didn't know anything about, and they just weren't working.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I've never heard of that anthology [Vance Randolph, Pissing in the Snow], but you can be sure I'll buy it now.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I think the biggest influence on the book, as far as the humor goes, comes, at least indirectly, from the men I worked with in the paper mill. Some of them could make a dog laugh.

~Donald Ray Pollock

As for how I feel about any success I've had, I just feel extremely lucky. Writing is a tough racket, and there are a lot of writers out there better than me who can't seem to catch a break.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I don't think I'd call [mood] a major force, but it is important as far as hitting the right notes or nuances with a character or scene.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I'm not sure I would have ever decided to try to write when I was forty-five if I hadn't already gotten that degree [in English].

~Donald Ray Pollock

I'm beginning to believe that anything I do to extend my life is just going to be outweighed by the agony of living it.

~Donald Ray Pollock

Though there are still many good people out there in the world, it seems that they're vastly outnumbered by the stupid, selfish, violent ones.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I spent thirty-two years in a paper mill in southern Ohio, and before that I worked in a meatpacking plant and a shoe factory.

~Donald Ray Pollock

The Oxys filled holes in me I hadn't realized were empty. It was, at least for those first few months, a wonderful way to be disabled. I felt blessed.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I look upon [writing about religion] as a nice way to get by in this precarious world, though I've never been able to do it myself.

~Donald Ray Pollock

A lot of people get the wrong impression, think there's something romantic or tragic about hitting bottom.

~Donald Ray Pollock

Knockemstiff is a collection of short stories set in the holler of the same name in southern Ohio where I grew up. I tried to link the stories together through the place and some recurring characters.

~Donald Ray Pollock

When I turned fifty, I decided to quit the mill and go to graduate school.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I sort of like writing about weird characters, I guess.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I was always a big reader, even when everything was bad and miserable.

~Donald Ray Pollock

Michael Koryta is an amazingly talented writer, and I rank *The Prophet* as one of the sharpest and superbly plotted crime novels I've read in my life.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I started going to Ohio University when I was in my mid-thirties, ended up with an English degree when I was forty.

~Donald Ray Pollock

J.R. Angelella is a truly gifted writer. *Zombie* is one of the smartest, strangest, and most beautifully crafted coming-of-age stories you will ever encounter.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I'd always been a big reader, and I loved books, and I always thought writing would be a great way to get by in the world.

~Donald Ray Pollock

I've always been a bit of a pessimist in regard to mankind.

~Donald Ray Pollock

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