

Ernest Gaines

Quotes

*Writing, Men, Dying, People, Believe, Thinking, Trying, May, Differences,
Wanted, Would Be, Past, Reading, Singing, Mean, Pieces, Years, Said, Heart,
Eye*

Why is it that, as a culture, we are more comfortable seeing two men holding guns than holding hands?

~Ernest Gaines

Sometimes you got to hurt something to help something. Sometimes you have to plow under one thing in order for something else to grow.

~Ernest Gaines

I have no more to say except this: We must live with our own conscience.

~Ernest Gaines

Question everything. Every stripe, every star, every word spoken. Everything.

~Ernest Gaines

I want you to show them the difference between what they think you are and what you can be.

~Ernest Gaines

I write to try to find out who I am. One of my main themes is manliness. I think I'm trying to figure out what manliness really is.

~Ernest Gaines

Words mean nothing. Action is the only thing. Doing. That's the only thing.

~Ernest Gaines

Without love for my fellow man and respect for nature, to me, life is an obscenity.

~Ernest Gaines

Nietzsche said without music, life would be a mistake. To me, without books, life would be a mistake.

~Ernest Gaines

The Six Golden Rules of Writing: Read, read, read, and write, write, write.

~Ernest Gaines

We all have much more in common than we have difference. I would say that about people all over the world. They don't know how much in common that they have

~Ernest Gaines

You've got to bend with the wind or you're broken.

~Ernest Gaines

I believe that the writer should tell a story. I believe in plot. I believe in creating characters and suspense.

~Ernest Gaines

There will always be men struggling to change, and there will always be those who are controlled by the past.

~Ernest Gaines

In all my stories and novels, no one ever escapes Louisiana. Maybe that is because my soul never left Louisiana, although my body did go to California.

~Ernest Gaines

I think I'm a very religious person. I think I believe in God as much as any man does. I don't only believe in God, I know there's God.

~Ernest Gaines

Everything's been said, but it needs saying again.

~Ernest Gaines

He told us that most of us would die violently, and those who did not would be brought down to the level of beasts.

~Ernest Gaines

A myth is an old lie that people believe in. White people believe that they're better than anyone else on earth - and that's a myth.

~Ernest Gaines

I like the sound of people's voices, and I think what a man says can very well tell what he's thinking, whether he's lying or not.

~Ernest Gaines

The sharecropper may lower his eyes, but not because he's less of a man. That's just a condition of society that such things exist.

~Ernest Gaines

I have learned as much about writing about my people by listening to blues and jazz and spirituals as I have by reading novels.

~Ernest Gaines

Anytime a child is born, the old people look in his face and ask him if he's the One.

~Ernest Gaines

I had to see and feel and be with the thing that I wanted to write about.

~Ernest Gaines

When I'm sitting in the church alone, I can hear singing of the old people. I can hear their singing and I can hear their praying, and sometimes I hum one of their songs.

~Ernest Gaines

If I were to give one piece of advice, I would say to never accept anything that you hear or see at face value. As a general rule of thumb,

then the more you question, the better.

~Ernest Gaines

"You going back," she said. "You ain't going to run away from this, Grant."

~Ernest Gaines

Only when the mind is free has the body a chance to be free. Yes, they must believe, they must believe. Because I know what it means to be a slave. I am a slave.

~Ernest Gaines

All writers write about the past, and I try to make it come alive so you can see what happened.

~Ernest Gaines

I wanted to be a writer. I wanted to say something about home.

~Ernest Gaines

I try to write something that would interest anybody and keep them turning the page. You must have a plot and good storyline.

~Ernest Gaines

...my heart may have been in it but my soul was not.

~Ernest Gaines

The mark of fear is not easily removed.

~Ernest Gaines

I suppose I started writing seriously at 16 years old. I thought I wrote a novel at 16 and sent it to New York! They sent it back because it wasn't novel.

~Ernest Gaines

I knew I wanted to be a writer and I knew if I had a wife and family, I would neglect something, and I was afraid it wouldn't be the writing.

~Ernest Gaines

I write with as much objectivity as I can.

~Ernest Gaines

Today I must write a paragraph or a page better than I did yesterday.

~Ernest Gaines

We wait till now? Now, when we're old men, we get to be brave?

~Ernest Gaines

How do people come up with a date and a time to take life from another man? Who made them God?

~Ernest Gaines

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