

Ethan Canin

Quotes

*Book, Thinking, Fiction, Writing, People, Art, Smart, Dies, Narrators, Years,
Important, Couple, Character, I've Learned, Like You, Too Much, Nice,
Attention, World, Hate*

Don't write about a character. Become that character, and then write your story.

~Ethan Canin

Nothing is as important as a likable narrator. Nothing holds a story together better.

~Ethan Canin

You can tell within a sentence if something is fiction or non-fiction. You can tell in the artifice of the language or the care of the construction the difference between art and life.

~Ethan Canin

Art is so personal. I'm very comforted by the fact that certain movies that I love, other people hate. Certain books that I love, other people hate. You can't please everybody.

~Ethan Canin

To have too much time is not good, you have to force yourself. And human beings aren't meant for true freedom. I've learned that, having had it.

~Ethan Canin

Writing a book is like an unknown abyss, every time. Every book is different. Contrary to what unpublished writers think, it's horrible to have a book out.

~Ethan Canin

If you write a page a day in couple months you have a good chunk of the book and then after a year you have almost a book. It's not that...hard.

~Ethan Canin

I think fiction is about small ambition, small failed ambition.

~Ethan Canin

I've written five books, a book every three years. I'm fairly lazy and it doesn't take that much...people who are not lazy are Isaac Asimov.

~Ethan Canin

You're never so alive as after you thought you were going to die.

~Ethan Canin

You have to be smart enough to see the world for yourself and honest. The whole book-publicity thing is not really honest, at base.

~Ethan Canin

There are writers who draw immediate attention to the fact that it's fiction. And I like some of that, but it doesn't really have the power.

~Ethan Canin

I work with wood a lot. I like building. I think of building. I would love to buy land on some water somewhere and build a house. That'd be nice.

~Ethan Canin

If someone doesn't like your fiction, it's really insulting.

~Ethan Canin

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