

# Harlan Ellison Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, People, Hate, Responsibility, Stupid, Jobs, Pain, Philosophy,  
Sex, Way, Meaningful, Opinion, Use, Fall, Dream, Three, Real, Years, Art*

You are not entitled to your opinion. You are entitled to your informed opinion. No one is entitled to be ignorant.

~Harlan Ellison

The two most common elements in the universe are hydrogen and stupidity.

~Harlan Ellison

Thank your readers and the critics who praise you, and then ignore them. Write for the most intelligent, wittiest, wisest audience in the universe: Write to please yourself.

~Harlan Ellison

I don't mind you thinking I'm stupid, but don't talk to me like I'm stupid.

~Harlan Ellison

K is for "Kenghis Khan"; He was a very nice person. History has no record of him. There is a moral in that, somewhere.

~Harlan Ellison

In these days of widespread illiteracy, functional illiteracy... anything that keeps people stupid is a felony.

~Harlan Ellison

Love ain't nothing but sex misspelled.

~Harlan Ellison

The world is turning into a cesspool of imbeciles.

~Harlan Ellison

You must never be afraid to go there.

~Harlan Ellison

They minute people fall in love they become liars.

~Harlan Ellison

Posing the question: does the god of love use underarm deodorant, vaginal spray and fluoride toothpaste?

~Harlan Ellison

The trick is not becoming a writer. The trick is staying a writer.

~Harlan Ellison

Now begin in the middle, and later learn the beginning; the end will take care of itself.

~Harlan Ellison

I hate being wrong, but I love it when I'm set straight.

~Harlan Ellison

I will live to piss in the open mouths or the open graves of my enemies, whichever comes first.

~Harlan Ellison

Get a day job, make your money from that, and write to please yourself.

~Harlan Ellison

My philosophy of life is that the meek shall inherit nothing but debasement, frustration, and ignoble deaths.

~Harlan Ellison

I usually say I write for the smartest, cleverest, wittiest audience I know, and that's me.

~Harlan Ellison

People don't die from the old diseases any more. They die from new ones, but that's Progress, isn't it? Isn't it?

~Harlan Ellison

The ability to dream is all I have to give. That is my responsibility; that is my burden. And even I grow tired.

~Harlan Ellison

Don't start an argument with somebody who has a microphone when you don't. They'll make you look like chopped liver.

~Harlan Ellison

I refuse to write the same story twice. I keep experimenting. I keep learning how to work. I've been at it pretty much 50 years, and I'm now beginning to learn how to do the job well.

~Harlan Ellison

You're a writer. And that's something better than being a millionaire. Because it's something holy.

~Harlan Ellison

The real name for 'science' is magic.

~Harlan Ellison

I have no mouth. And I must scream.

~Harlan Ellison

I am not one of these people who instantly takes umbrage when he's corrected or - I love being corrected.

~Harlan Ellison

They change scapegoats at the networks more regularly than some people change socks.

~Harlan Ellison

If you let the image of the messenger get in the way of whatever

message there may be, however large or small, that's your problem, not his.

~Harlan Ellison

In my ugly, elitist opinion we are not all entitled to voice our opinions, we are entitled to pass along our informed opinions.

~Harlan Ellison

[On love:] I have no respect for anyone who says they've given up, or that they're not looking or that they're tired. That is to abrogate one's responsibility as a human being.

~Harlan Ellison

A man may truly live in his dreams, his noblest dreams, but only, only if he is worthy of those dreams.

~Harlan Ellison

I see all. I hear all. I know all. And I spend a great deal of time in the bathroom.

~Harlan Ellison

I've only been an asshole to assholes!

~Harlan Ellison

For the first time we have a weapon that nobody has used for thirty years. This gives me great hope for the human race.

~Harlan Ellison

Writing is a holy chore.

~Harlan Ellison

Any writer who pretends to a disaffection for recognition, I think they're being duplicitous.

~Harlan Ellison

There in the midst of the Amazon Jungle, Simon Haskell has cobbled up for himself a replica of an Art Deco salon.

~Harlan Ellison

I can't picture in my mind three hundred and sixty thousand dollars... When I think of it, all I can see in my mind is a big nickel.

~Harlan Ellison

When belief in a god dies, the god dies.

~Harlan Ellison

Everyone is entitled to an *\*informed\** opinion.

~Harlan Ellison

I think love and sex are separate and only vaguely similar. Like the word bear and the word bare. You can get in trouble mistaking one for the other.

~Harlan Ellison

What I try to write about are the darkest things in the soul, the mortal dreads... The closer I get to the burning core of my being, the things which are most painful to me, the better is my work.

~Harlan Ellison

I'm nothing. Nothing at all without writing. Without truth, my truth, the only truth I know, it's all a gambol in the pasture without rhythm or sense.

~Harlan Ellison

Because the chief commodity a writer has to sell is his courage. And if he has none, he is more than a coward. He is a sellout and a fink and a heretic, because writing is a holy chore.

~Harlan Ellison

Repent, Harlequin," said the Ticktock Man. "Get stuffed," the Harlequin replied.

~Harlan Ellison

When you're a writer, you have to have the passion and the skill and the craft. It's not just enough to have the passion. You've gotta have all three.

~Harlan Ellison

Anyone who can not write should.

~Harlan Ellison

I am responsible for myself. I am exactly who I eventually wanted myself to be, I guess, without consciously knowing what I wanted me to be.

~Harlan Ellison

To say more, is to say less.

~Harlan Ellison

be careful of monsters with teeth

~Harlan Ellison

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