

Harold Brodkey

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Writing, New York, Memories, Past, Knows, Long, Young,
Way, Mind, Events, Spring, Sorry, Ifs, Mother, Real, Self, Home, Prayer*

God is an immensity, while this disease, this death, which is in me, this small, tightly defined pedestrian event, is merely and perfectly real, without miracle or instruction.

~Harold Brodkey

I look upon another's insistence on the merits of his or her life - duties, intellect, accomplishment - and see that most of it is nonsense.

~Harold Brodkey

It is like visiting one's funeral, like visiting loss in its purest and most monumental form, this wild darkness, which is not only unknown but which one cannot enter as oneself.

~Harold Brodkey

Memory, so complete and clear or so evasive, has to be ended, has to be put aside, as if one were leaving a chapel and bringing the prayer to an end in one's head.

~Harold Brodkey

I am in an adolescence in reverse, as mysterious as the first, except that this time I feel it as a decay of the odds that I might live for a while, that I can sleep it off.

~Harold Brodkey

Public radio is alive and kicking, it always has been

~Harold Brodkey

Death and I are head to head in a total collision, pure and mutual distaste.

~Harold Brodkey

Being ill like this combines shock - this time I will die - with a pain and agony that are unfamiliar, that wrench me out of myself.

~Harold Brodkey

I awake with a not entirely sickened knowledge that I am merely young again and in a funny way at peace, an observer who is aware of time's chariot, aware that some metamorphosis has occurred.

~Harold Brodkey

True stories, autobiographical stories, like some novels, begin long ago, before the acts in the account, before the birth of some of the people in the tale.

~Harold Brodkey

Me, my literary reputation is mostly abroad, but I am anchored here in New York. I can't think of any other place I'd rather die than here.

~Harold Brodkey

I feel sorry for the man who marries you... because everyone thinks you're sweet and you're not.

~Harold Brodkey

It is death that goes down to the center of the earth, the great burial church the earth is, and then to the curved ends of the universe, as light is said to do

~Harold Brodkey

Often writing is like a struggle to get back to a kind of belated, quite impure virginity.

~Harold Brodkey

I have thousands of opinions still - but that is down from millions - and, as always, I know nothing.

~Harold Brodkey

The disparity between what people said life was and what I knew it to be unnerved me at times, but I swore that nothing would ever make me say life should be anything.

~Harold Brodkey

Almost the first thing I did when I became ill was to buy a truly good television set.

~Harold Brodkey

But death's acquisitive instincts will win.

~Harold Brodkey

I am startled when people are themselves and are not my thoughts of them.

~Harold Brodkey

I have the sense that if I push too hard or too far into memory I'll come apart.

~Harold Brodkey

I often thought men stank of rage; it is why I preferred women, and homosexuals.

~Harold Brodkey

Nothing I have ever written has been admired as much as the announcement of my death.

~Harold Brodkey

Death is not soft-mouthed, vague-footed, nearby. It is in the hall.

~Harold Brodkey

My protagonists are my mother's voice and the mind I had when I was thirteen.

~Harold Brodkey

In New York one lives in the moment rather more than Socrates advised, so that at a party or alone in your room it will always be difficult

to guess at the long term worth of anything.

~Harold Brodkey

You really can't write unless you read. You have to know what the game is all about.

~Harold Brodkey

I'm sixty-two, and it's ecological sense to die while you're still productive, die and clear a space for others, old and young.

~Harold Brodkey

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- Spring Quotes
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