

# Iain Banks

## Quotes

*Thinking, People, Writing, Book, Years, Fiction, Men, Character, Stupid, Trying,  
Eye, Looks, Children, Needs, Fun, Mean, Reading, Self, Fall, Stars*

Something in your voice tells me we approach the question of remuneration.

~Iain Banks

Empathize with stupidity and you're halfway to thinking like an idiot.

~Iain Banks

Mr Blawke always reminded me of a heron; I'm not sure why. Something to do with a sense of rapacious stillness, perhaps, and also the aura of one who knows time is on his side.

~Iain Banks

Torture is such a slippery slope; as soon as you allow a society or any legal system to do that, almost instantly you get a situation where people are being tortured for very trivial reasons.

~Iain Banks

There's an old Sysan saying that the soup of life is salty enough without adding tears to it.

~Iain Banks

I've always loved Scotland, and I'm not a huge fan of big cities, to be honest. I like them to dip into for a bit, but I'm not sure I would want to live in one again.

~Iain Banks

My point has always been that, ever since the Industrial Revolution, science fiction has been the most important genre there is.

~Iain Banks

In theory, I work an eight-hour day and a five-day week which means I can socialise with my pals who mostly have normal jobs like teaching and computer programming.

~Iain Banks

I am, as I have always been, of the opinion that while the niceties of normal moral constraints should be our guides, they must not be our masters.

~Iain Banks

I remember being shocked when I discovered some of my school pals didn't have books in their homes. I thought it was like not having oxygen, or hot water.

~Iain Banks

Science fiction is trying to find alternative ways of looking at realities.

~Iain Banks

One should never mistake pattern for meaning.

~Iain Banks

My gratitude extends beyond the limits of my capacity to express it.

~Iain Banks

The trouble with writing fiction is that it has to make sense, whereas real life doesn't.

~Iain Banks

You need to read more science fiction. Nobody who reads science fiction comes out with this crap about the end of history

~Iain Banks

A guilty system recognizes no innocents.

~Iain Banks

After doing extensive research, I can definitely tell you that single malt whiskies are good to drink.

~Iain Banks

I'm an only child so am happy with my own company and I don't really get lonely.

~Iain Banks

As a writer, you get to play, you get alter time, you get to come up with the smart lines and the clever comebacks you wish you'd thought of.

~Iain Banks

One of your American professors said that to study religion was merely to know the mind of man, but if one truly wanted to know the mind of God, you must study physics.

~Iain Banks

An Outside Context Problem was the sort of thing most civilisations encountered just once, and which they tended to encounter rather in the same way a sentence encountered a full stop.

~Iain Banks

...and I confess that, like a child, I cry. Ah, self-pity; I think we are at our most honest and sincere when we feel sorry for ourselves.

~Iain Banks

You have to have something worth saying and then the ability to say it-writing's a double skill, really.

~Iain Banks

Any theory which causes solipsism to seem just as likely an explanation for the phenomena it seeks to describe ought to be held in the utmost suspicion.

~Iain Banks

I'm not a great believer in awards-of course the fact that I've never won one has nothing to do with it at all!

~Iain Banks

Maybe it wasn't anything remotely to do with religion, mysticism or metaphilosophy after all; maybe it was more banal; maybe it was just...accounting.

~Iain Banks

Technology determines the possibilities of society. It doesn't matter whether you start out from a fascist state or a communist state or a free-market state

~Iain Banks

I still find it hard to understand that anyone could argue that you can't have machines that exhibit consciousness.

~Iain Banks

I think the easiest people to fool are ourselves. Fooling ourselves may even be a necessary precondition for fooling others.

~Iain Banks

If this goes badly and I make a crater, I want it named after me!

~Iain Banks

Most mainstream male fiction is littered with heroines, and female characters are basically so great, you want to fall in love with them.

~Iain Banks

The combination of modern ordnance and outdated tactics had, as usual, created enormous casualties on both sides.

~Iain Banks

Perdition awaits at the end of a road constructed entirely from good intentions, the devil emerges from the details and hell abides in the small print.

~Iain Banks

By the usual reckoning, the worst books make the best films.

~Iain Banks

I am not being obtuse. You are being paranoid.

~Iain Banks

There are no gods, we are told, so I must make my own salvation.

~Iain Banks

Political correctness is what right-wing bigots call what everybody else calls being polite

~Iain Banks

I think the future stopped looking American when you think back to Blade Runner and Neuromancer, when it started to look more Japanese.

~Iain Banks

Here, in the bare dark face of night  
A calm unhurried eye draws sight  
We see in what we think we fear  
The cloudings of our thought made clear

~Iain Banks

Experience as well as common sense indicated that the most reliable method of avoiding self-extinction was not to equip oneself with the means to accomplish it in the first place.

~Iain Banks

Half the fun of writing a novel is finding out from other people later on what you actually meant.

~Iain Banks

In so much of politics you're not allowed to disagree with what's been agreed.

~Iain Banks

It gripped her hand gently. 'Regret is for humans,' it said. She laughed. 'Really?' The machine shrugged and let go of her hand. 'Oh, no. It's just something we tell ourselves.'

~Iain Banks

You're a wicked man." "Thank you. It's taken years of diligent practice.

~Iain Banks

Escape is a consumer goods like another

~Iain Banks

The History Of The Universe In Three Words CHAPTER ONE Bang!  
CHAPTER TWO sssss CHAPTER THREE crunch. THE END

~Iain Banks

The bomb lives only as it is falling.

~Iain Banks

Even galaxy-spanning anarchist utopias of stupefying full-spectrum civilisational power have turf wars within their unacknowledged militaries.

~Iain Banks

It's a library, only the stupid or the evil are afraid of those

~Iain Banks

Reason shapes the future, but superstition infects the present.

~Iain Banks

All you ever were was a little bit of the universe, thinking to itself. Very specific; this bit, here, right now. All the rest was fantasy.

~Iain Banks

I just think people overvalue argument because they like to hear themselves talk.

~Iain Banks

It was the day my grandmother exploded.

~Iain Banks

You get so caught up in what you're writing - action sequences tend to do that more than anything else because you're living it, and feeling for your characters.

~Iain Banks

"Don't you have a religion?" Dorolow asked Horza. "Yes," he replied, not taking his eyes away from the screen on the wall above the end of the main mess-room table. "My survival."

~Iain Banks

Intellectual achievement. The exercise of skill. Human feeling.

~Iain Banks

'Dead Air' is full of rants; it's a rant-based book. Yes, it's self-indulgence. I plead guilty; mea culpa.

~Iain Banks

I still have some of my old University essays, and I do still have my drawing book from primary year seven.

~Iain Banks

As long as a film stays unmade, the book is entirely yours, it belongs to the writer. As soon as you make it into a film, suddenly more people see it than have ever read the book.

~Iain Banks

I held my crotch, closed my eyes and repeated my secret catechism.



~Iain Banks

There is a quite a lot of effort involved but I find action sequences some of the quickest to write and the most fun.

~Iain Banks

Smell is a very animal thing, almost reptilian, where the more cerebral things like reading less so.

~Iain Banks

He knew all the answers. Everybody did. Everybody knew everything and everybody knew all the answers. It was just that the enemy seemed to know better ones.

~Iain Banks

What's one more meaningless act of violence on that zoo of a planet? It would be appropriate. When in Rome; burn it.

~Iain Banks

I think we need politicians; we need people who want to serve.

~Iain Banks

What is any achievement, however great it was, once time itself is dead?

~Iain Banks

I'm a devoted husband. That must strike you as totally deviant.

~Iain Banks

Even in my side of the world, I've been in publishing for what, 25 or 26 years, and it's gone from being a gentlemen's club to being a few big players, and it's very corporatised.

~Iain Banks

A lot of what the 'Culture' is about is a reaction to all the science fiction I was reading in my very early teens.

~Iain Banks

"You like music, Mr. Gurgeh?" Hamin asked, leaning over to the man. Gurgeh nodded. "Well, a little does no harm."

~Iain Banks

I just come up with the stories and write them as well as I can. There's not really a great deal of strokey-beard thinking going on.

~Iain Banks

I don't really do themes. I might accidentally, but themes are an emergent phenomena of the writing of the book, of just trying to get a story out there.

~Iain Banks

I love writing and can't imagine not being able to do it. I want an easy life and if it had been difficult I wouldn't be doing it. I do admire writers who do it even though it costs them.

~Iain Banks

Soon equates to good, later to worse, Uagen Zlepe, scholar. Therefore, immediacy.

~Iain Banks

Well," he sighed to no one in particular, and looked up into yet another alien sky. "Here we are again.

~Iain Banks

Look at these humans! How could such glacial slowness even be called life? An age could pass, virtual empires rise and fall in the time they took to open their mouths to utter some new inanity!

~Iain Banks

They speak very well of you". - "They speak very well of everybody." -  
"That so bad?" - "Yes. It means you can't trust them.

~Iain Banks

I'm from out of town," he said breezily. This was true. He'd never been within a hundred light-years of the place.

~Iain Banks

I wouldn't like to be a character in one of my books!

~Iain Banks

One of the advantages of having laws is the pleasure one may take in breaking them.

~Iain Banks

I'm saying with very few exceptions nothing lasts forever, and among those exceptions, no work or thought of man is numbered.

~Iain Banks

What is all your studying worth, all your learning, all your knowledge, if it doesn't lead to wisdom? And what's wisdom but knowing what is right, and what is the right thing to do?

~Iain Banks

One should never regret one's excesses, only one's failures of nerve.

~Iain Banks

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