

J. G. Ballard

Quotes

Thinking, Reality, People, Dream, Writing, Technology, War, Car, Art, Sex, World, Imagination, Soul, Cities, Mean, Race, Memories, Space, Fiction, Moving

A widespread taste for pornography means that nature is alerting us to some threat of extinction.

~J. G. Ballard

The advanced societies of the future will not be governed by reason. They will be driven by irrationality, by competing systems of psychopathology.

~J. G. Ballard

Any fool can write a novel but it takes real genius to sell it.

~J. G. Ballard

Fiction is a branch of neurology: the scenarios of nerve and blood vessels are the written mythologies of memory and desire.

~J. G. Ballard

Sooner or later, all games become serious.

~J. G. Ballard

Unhappy parents teach you a lesson that lasts a lifetime.

~J. G. Ballard

Memories have huge staying power, but like dreams, they thrive in the dark, surviving for decades in the deep waters of our minds like shipwrecks on the sea bed.

~J. G. Ballard

Everything is becoming science fiction. From the margins of an almost invisible literature has sprung the intact reality of the 20th century.

~J. G. Ballard

Science and technology multiply around us. To an increasing extent they dictate the languages in which we speak and think. Either we use those languages, or we remain mute.

~J. G. Ballard

In a completely sane world, madness is the only freedom.

~J. G. Ballard

I admired anyone who could unsettle people.

~J. G. Ballard

I work for three or four hours a day, in the late morning and early afternoon. Then I go out for a walk and come back in time for a large gin and tonic.

~J. G. Ballard

An arts degree is like a diploma in origami. And about as much use.

~J. G. Ballard

Art exists because reality is neither real nor significant.

~J. G. Ballard

Fiction is a branch of neurology

~J. G. Ballard

After being bombarded endlessly by road-safety propaganda it was almost a relief to find myself in an actual accident.

~J. G. Ballard

I suspect that many of the great cultural shifts that prepare the way for political change are largely aesthetic.

~J. G. Ballard

A visit to PÃre Lachaise in Paris adds a year to one's life

~J. G. Ballard

I think the enemy of creativity in the world today is that so much

thinking is done for you.

~J. G. Ballard

The chief role of the universities is to prolong adolescence into middle age, at which point early retirement ensures that we lack the means or the will to enforce significant change.

~J. G. Ballard

Put a higher value on yourself. Being hyper-realistic about everything is too simple a get-out.

~J. G. Ballard

Selfish men make the best lovers. They're prepared to invest in the women's pleasures so that they can collect an even bigger dividend for themselves.

~J. G. Ballard

I wanted to rub the human race in its own vomit, and force it to look in the mirror.

~J. G. Ballard

They thrived on the rapid turnover of acquaintances, the lack of involvement with others, and the total self-sufficiency of lives which, needing nothing, were never dissatisfied.

~J. G. Ballard

Surrender to a logic more powerful than reason.

~J. G. Ballard

Sooner or later, everything turns into television.

~J. G. Ballard

If I don't write, I begin to feel unsettled and uneasy, as I gather people do who are not allowed to dream.

~J. G. Ballard

Hell is out of fashion --institutional hells at any rate. The populated infernos of the 20th century are more private affairs, the gaps between the bars are the sutures of one's own skull. . .

~J. G. Ballard

All you do is get on and start pedaling . . .

~J. G. Ballard

The ultimate concept car will move so fast, even at rest, as to be invisible.

~J. G. Ballard

Given that external reality is a fiction, the writer's role is almost superfluous. He does not need to invent the fiction because it is already there.

~J. G. Ballard

God was a clever idea ... The human race came up with a winner there.

~J. G. Ballard

Our lives today are not conducted in linear terms. They are much more quantified; a stream of random events is taking place.

~J. G. Ballard

Perhaps violence, like pornography, is some kind of an evolutionary standby system, a last-resort device for throwing a wild joker into the game?

~J. G. Ballard

In his mind Vaughan saw the whole world dying in a simultaneous automobile disaster, millions of vehicles hurled together in a terminal

congress of spurting loins and engine coolant.

~J. G. Ballard

Lysenkoism: A forlorn attempt not merely to colonize the botanical kingdom, but to instill a proper sense of the puritan work ethic and the merits of self-improvement.

~J. G. Ballard

Pop artists deal with the lowly trivia of possessions and equipment that the present generation is lugging along with it on its safari into the future.

~J. G. Ballard

I find wholly baffling the widespread belief today that the dropping of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs was an immoral act, even possibly a war crime to rank with Nazi genocide.

~J. G. Ballard

A ton of Proust isn't worth an ounce of Ray Bradbury.

~J. G. Ballard

Across the communication landscape move the specters of sinister technologies and the dreams that money can buy.

~J. G. Ballard

Psychiatrists the dominant lay priesthood since the First World War.

~J. G. Ballard

The Enlightenment view of mankind is a complete myth. It leads us into thinking we're sane and rational creatures most of the time, and we're not.

~J. G. Ballard

Au revoir, jewelled alligators and white hotels, hallucinatory forests,

farewell.

~J. G. Ballard

What our children have to fear is not the cars on the highways of tomorrow but our own pleasure in calculating the most elegant parameters of their deaths.

~J. G. Ballard

The entertainment medium of film is particularly tuned to the present imaginations of people at large. A lot of fiction is intensely nostalgic.

~J. G. Ballard

E. Klimov's 'Come and See,' about partisans fighting the Germans in Byelorussia, is the greatest anti-war film ever made.

~J. G. Ballard

I thought it was a wonderfully conceptual act actually, to fire a replica pistol at a figurehead - the guy could have been working for Andy Warhol!

~J. G. Ballard

Sleep is an eight-hour peep show of infantile erotica.

~J. G. Ballard

The human race sleepwalked to oblivion, thinking only of the corporate logos on it's shroud.

~J. G. Ballard

All through my career I've written 1,000 words a day - even if I've got a hangover. You've got to discipline yourself if you're professional. There's no other way.

~J. G. Ballard

There is a British pop group called God. At a recent book signing the

lead singer introduced himself and gave me a cassette. I have heard the voice of God.

~J. G. Ballard

I've never suffered from writer's block. I have plenty of ideas, sometimes too many. I've always had a strong imagination. If it dries up I'll stop and look for another career.

~J. G. Ballard

My brief stay at the hospital had already convinced me that the medical profession was an open door to anyone nursing a grudge against the human race.

~J. G. Ballard

Perhaps the future belongs to magic, and it's we women who control magic.

~J. G. Ballard

The residents had eliminated both past and future, and for all their activity, they existed in a civilized and eventless world.

~J. G. Ballard

It's true that I have very little idea what I shall be writing next, but at the same time I have a powerful premonition of everything that lies ahead of me, even ten years ahead.

~J. G. Ballard

People will begin to explore all the sidestreets of sexual experience, but they will do it intellectually. . . . Sex won't take place in the bed, necessarily--it'll take place in the head!

~J. G. Ballard

Elaborate burial customs are a sure sign of decadence.

~J. G. Ballard

A general rule: if enough people predict something, it won't happen.

~J. G. Ballard

Sex times technology equals the future.

~J. G. Ballard

Yes, sometimes I think that all my writing is nothing more than the compensatory work of a frustrated painter.

~J. G. Ballard

If you can smell garlic, everything is all right.

~J. G. Ballard

The history of psychiatry rewrites itself so often that it almost resembles the self-serving chronicles of a totalitarian and slightly paranoid regime.

~J. G. Ballard

Deep assignments run through all our lives; there are no coincidences.

~J. G. Ballard

The future is going to be boring. The suburbanisation of the planet will continue, and the suburbanisation of the soul will follow soon after.

~J. G. Ballard

During the 1960s, the Shanghai of my childhood seemed a portent of the media cities of the future, dominated by advertising and mass circulation newspapers and swept by unpredictable violence.

~J. G. Ballard

Nonetheless, Scranton had travelled in space. He had known the loneliness of separation from all other human beings, he had gazed at the empty perspectives that I myself had seen.

~J. G. Ballard

By the eighteenth book, one has a sense of having bricked oneself into a niche, a roosting place for other people's pigeons. I wouldn't recommend it.

~J. G. Ballard

In the post-Warhol era a single gesture such as uncrossing one's legs will have more significance than all the pages in War and Peace.

~J. G. Ballard

Yet she felt an impostor, and already the mask had begun to bite into her face.

~J. G. Ballard

The suburbs dream of violence.

~J. G. Ballard

The enormous energy of the twentieth century, enough to drive the planet into a new orbit around a happier star, was being expended to maintain this immense motionless pause.

~J. G. Ballard

Most writers flinch at the thought of being completely honest about themselves. So absolute honesty is what marks the true modern.

~J. G. Ballard

Maybe you are a poet and a dreamer, but don't you realize that those two species are extinct now?

~J. G. Ballard

I felt the pressure of imagination against the doors of my mind was so great that they were going to burst.

~J. G. Ballard

The car as we know it is on the way out. To a large extent, I deplore its

passing, for as a basically old-fashioned machine, it enshrines a basically old-fashioned idea: freedom.

~J. G. Ballard

Medicine was certainly intended to be a career. I wanted to become a psychiatrist, an adolescent ambition which, of course, is fulfilled by many psychiatrists.

~J. G. Ballard

A kind of banalization of celebrity has occurred: we are now offered an instant, ready-to-mix fame as nutritious as packet soup.

~J. G. Ballard

But I wouldn't recommend writing. You can be a successful writer and never meet another soul. I'm not sure that's a good thing.

~J. G. Ballard

The endless newsreel clips of nuclear explosions that we saw on TV in the 1960s (were) a powerful incitement to the psychotic imagination, sanctioning *everything*.

~J. G. Ballard

I don't think it's possible to touch people's imagination today by aesthetic means.

~J. G. Ballard

I feel that the surrealists have created a series of valid external landscapes which have their direct correspondences within our own minds.

~J. G. Ballard

The car as we know it is on the way out.

~J. G. Ballard

The only truly alien planet is Earth.

~J. G. Ballard

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