

# James Purdy

## Quotes

*New York, America, People, Thinking, Book, Television, Dope, Broken, World,  
Believe, Poison, Marijuana, Self, Coffee, Wells, Illiterate, Broken Down, Goes  
On, Known, Next*

In a competitive society, the thing people fear the most is love.

~James Purdy

If you're a writer, you have to be an egomaniac. You have to just believe in yourself, which is hard work.

~James Purdy

There are no manners left in America at all, because all you're doing is kicking the person next to you so that you can consume more, see more, and get more.

~James Purdy

I am against all machines. It's no wonder that so many Americans go on dope when they have no other cultural stimulus than a television.

~James Purdy

I think fame is something that you've achieved in your inner self that becomes known to others outside you. There are really very few famous people in history.

~James Purdy

I don't think it's like eastern mysticism, which leaves the person whole. It's really another form of cancer, television.

~James Purdy

The New York Times is the worst newspaper in the world and it's extremely vicious to artists.

~James Purdy

I think America, really, is over.

~James Purdy

Most journalists are broken down alcoholics.

~James Purdy

Publishers seem to be in an alcoholic haze most of the time. Well, the publishers have no idea what a writer is.

~James Purdy

Almost everything official in America is a huge fraud.

~James Purdy

No one looks at a television, and no one hears it. It's a poison.

~James Purdy

I've never been in fashion. Not at all.

~James Purdy

There's the world of the newspapers. They believe that what is happening is happening, which is so naïve. Because they're the first to turn on that.

~James Purdy

I don't have any home. Everyone I grew up with, my family, are all dead. So I feel kind of like a ghost. I'm more interested in the past.

~James Purdy

None of my books are best-sellers. In fact, the only thing that's kept me alive is the books that are in paperback. People find them, they like them, and they pass them on.

~James Purdy

The worse the author, the more he is known.

~James Purdy

The public is totally illiterate in America. It can't read at all. It's absolutely insensitive to words.

~James Purdy

I wish people would call poisons poison. I don't mind people smoking marijuana, but they should admit it's a poison, and coffee's a poison, but the Americans lie so.

~James Purdy

There's really nothing wrong with sentimentality... Nothing I wrote is sentimental.

~James Purdy

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