

James Salter

Quotes

Writing, Book, Real, Believe, People, Men, Past, Thinking, Dream, World, Long, Ideas, Trying, Character, Feelings, Moving, Lying, Want, Important, Successful

There comes a time when you realize that everything is a dream, and only those things preserved in writing have any possibility of being real.

~James Salter

Love must wait; it must break one's bones.

~James Salter

Women fall in love when they get to know you. Men are just the opposite. When they finally know you they're ready to leave

~James Salter

Sometimes you are aware when your great moments are happening, and sometimes they rise from the past. Perhaps it's the same with people.

~James Salter

I deem as heroic those who have the harder task, face it unflinchingly and live. In this world women do that.

~James Salter

Hope but not enthusiasm is the proper state for the writer.

~James Salter

I'm a frotteur, someone who likes to rub words in his hand, to turn them around and feel them, to wonder if that really is the best word possible.

~James Salter

Dresscodes are for styleless people.

~James Salter

What is the ultimate impulse to write? Because all this is going to vanish.

~James Salter

I like aristocracy. I like the beauty of aristocracy. I like the hierarchical feeling.

~James Salter

The whole joy of writing comes from the opportunity to go over it and make it good, one way or another.

~James Salter

A light snow, a snow so faint and small-bodied that it seems nothing more than a manifestation of the cold.

~James Salter

Events need their invitation, dissolutions their start.

~James Salter

In 1957, I decided: write or perish.

~James Salter

Life passes into pages if it passes into anything.

~James Salter

One alters the past to form the future but there is a real significance to the pattern which finally appears, which resists all further change.

~James Salter

I don't hold myself dictated to by what everyone is saying, by the tabloids or popular opinion. I don't like bourgeois values. I say you find your own way to live.

~James Salter

It is always an accident that saves us. It is someone we have never seen.

~James Salter

You're so American. You believe everything is possible, everything will come. I know differently.

~James Salter

Dialogue's a method of revelation, of course. A few words of dialogue can reveal worlds about a character.

~James Salter

There is no complete life. There are only fragments. We are born to have nothing, to have it pour through our hands. And yet, this pouring, this flood of encounters, struggles, dreams...

~James Salter

The summer has ended. The garden withers. The mornings become chill. I am thirty, I am thirty-four -the years turn dry as leaves.

~James Salter

We were moderate, we will never know what it is to spill out our lives.

~James Salter

Not necessarily narrow so much as impatient, intense.

~James Salter

The normal economic system works itself.

~James Salter

I'd say the biggest relationship is the repetition of certain themes. I don't want to say "topics," but certain points of interest.

~James Salter

Lots of scripts are written and not made, even scripts that people want to make.

~James Salter

I don't fear death. I'm not obsessed with it the way everybody else seems to be.

~James Salter

ONE OF THE LAST GREAT REALIZATIONS is that life will not be what you dreamed.

~James Salter

I'd given up everything to be a writer, and if I didn't then go on to do that - to write - then I didn't know what would happen to me.

~James Salter

Normally, what you're envious of is a book, not a writer: standards, ideas, levels â€” almost nonexistent things.

~James Salter

It's just that it's hard to believe in greatness.

~James Salter

On the Internet, everyone is writing. There is a great flowering of writing.

~James Salter

Life is weather. Life is meals.

~James Salter

Now they are lovers. The first, wild courses are ended. They have founded their domain. A satanic happiness follows.

~James Salter

As I look back, I see that life is like a game of solitaire and every once in a while there is a move.

~James Salter

A film writer is very much like a party girl. While you're good-looking and still unlined, the possibilities seem endless. But your appeal doesn't last long and you're quickly discarded.

~James Salter

But that isn't my life. I have said many times I don't want to be considered one who once flew fighters. That's not who I am. I devoted the subsequent 50 years - more - to writing.

~James Salter

One should not believe too strongly in a life which can easily vanish.

~James Salter

I like to write about certain things that if they are not written about are not going to exist.

~James Salter

Solitude. One knows instinctively it has benefits that must be more deeply satisfying than those of other conditions, but still it is difficult.

~James Salter

God is the God of the people who are at their wits end, who are right up against it with their backs to the wall, and He delights to come to our help when we need Him most.

~James Salter

I am afraid of him, of all men who are successful in love.

~James Salter

Happiness is often at its most intense when it is based on inequality.

~James Salter

It's tremendous: this world, this life. Take it while you have it.

~James Salter

I always knew writing a novel was a great thing.

~James Salter

If you write enough, you begin to learn to do things. But in a way, you do start from zero each time.

~James Salter

I write down portions, maybe fragments, and perhaps an imperfect view of what I'm hoping to write. Out of that, I keep trying to find exactly what I want.

~James Salter

You are perfectly entitled to invent your life and to claim that it's true.

~James Salter

The dreams are the skeleton of all reality.

~James Salter

In a certain sense, a writer is an exile, an outsider, always reporting on things, and it is part of his life to keep on the move. Travel is natural.

~James Salter

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