

Jerry Stahl

Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, People, Reason, Pain, Junkie, Way, Needs, Wanted, Trying,
Jobs, Knows, Dirty, Waiting, Party, Believe, Eye, Bus Driver, Shame, Song*

Heroin spread that soft blanket over everything. But once the blanket was ripped off, it took a layer of skin with it, leaving nothing but nerve ends screaming in the breeze.

~Jerry Stahl

A waft of sweet hash drifted by, and I wanted to float after it like Wimpy levitating at the scent of a hamburger.

~Jerry Stahl

I need - and occasionally love - to write for the same reasons I always did: hard as writing is, it's generally easier than life.

~Jerry Stahl

All of us, at some point in life, choose our cliché.

~Jerry Stahl

It's not like I was an alkie or anything. Alcohol is for cleaning needles

~Jerry Stahl

I don't really know how to do much else besides write.

~Jerry Stahl

I used to say, for me, writing was like walking a high wire, and heroin made me forget there was no net. Which is a fancy way of saying dope made me forget how shitty I felt for being on dope.

~Jerry Stahl

I kept getting high to kill my shame at the fact that I kept getting high.

~Jerry Stahl

I think there's a phenomenon of people who want to be around something that seems "dangerous." It makes them feel more real.

~Jerry Stahl

I always tell myself, when I remember the non-stop self-generated hell party that used to be my life, I wouldn't be here if I didn't go there.

~Jerry Stahl

I didn't really start publishing books until I was 40 because I was busy being a McDonald's employee. So there's always a sense of trying to make up for lost time.

~Jerry Stahl

You can't really compare hells. But I suppose the hell of being strung out on another person's addictive behavior is its own special thing.

~Jerry Stahl

For me there was never a lot of glamor involved in being a junkie, it was about trying to hide the puke and bloodstains on my shirt.

~Jerry Stahl

I always figured I myself would never be lucky enough to die, I'd just live on and on in this increasingly dreary spiral.

~Jerry Stahl

Half the reason I turned into a writer is you didn't have to show up anywhere. You could work naked.

~Jerry Stahl

Rumi will transform you, in ways you didn't know you needed transforming.

~Jerry Stahl

At 17, all I wanted was to be a famous junky. Like all my heroes.

~Jerry Stahl

Creativity is the opposite of TV

~Jerry Stahl

This is, I believe, what happens when people take their own lives. They're not killing themselves, they're killing the world. Either to spare it pain or to cause it some, depending.

~Jerry Stahl

In my family, misery didn't just love company, it wanted hostages.

~Jerry Stahl

I've always wanted to be a guy with a rec room.

~Jerry Stahl

You need an entire drama to construct your life around to avoid living it.

~Jerry Stahl

If you're an asshole, you have an excuse for being an asshole because you're a junkie. But then once you give up the drugs, and you're still an asshole, that's problematic.

~Jerry Stahl

This is what I think: If you had the nerve to live what you lived, you should have the nerve to write it.

~Jerry Stahl

There was a weird intimacy, sitting in a car together. Couples sat in cars. Cops and their partners. Strangers became unstrange, sharing a windshield view of the world.

~Jerry Stahl

All my life I'd gone for women who were a little off.

~Jerry Stahl

Nothing ever turns me on so much in a woman as unhappiness.

~Jerry Stahl

To me, God is like this happy bus driver.

~Jerry Stahl

There's no deodorant for desperation.

~Jerry Stahl

How do you write when you're not miserable? The solution, of course, is to make yourself miserable about not writing.

~Jerry Stahl

Junkies are liars. They have to be professionally.

~Jerry Stahl

The art and act of writing - speaking just for myself - involves getting your proverbial ass in the proverbial chair.

~Jerry Stahl

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- Dirty Quotes
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