

Karl Marlantes

Quotes

War, Military, Writing, Marine, Thinking, Heart, Kids, Men, Agents, Vietnam, Mean, Wall, Inner Strength, Love, Race, Evil, Literature, Unhappy, Unique, Character

Matterhorn is my metaphor of the Vietnam War - we built it, we abandoned it, we assaulted it, we lost, and then we abandoned it again.

~Karl Marlantes

I began writing 'Matterhorn' in 1975 and for more than 30 years I kept working on my novel in my spare time, unable to get an agent or publisher to even read the manuscript.

~Karl Marlantes

War is society's dirty work, usually done by kids cleaning up failures perpetrated by adults.

~Karl Marlantes

When the peace treaty is signed, the war isn't over for the veterans, or the family. It's just starting.

~Karl Marlantes

It was all absurd, without reason or meaning. People who didn't know each other were going to kill each other over a hill none of them cared about

~Karl Marlantes

It won't hurt you. It's just to kill plants. It's called Agent Orange...and it won't bother humans.

~Karl Marlantes

The Marine Corps taught me how to kill, but it didn't teach me how to deal with killing.

~Karl Marlantes

Once we recognize our shadow's existence we must resist the enticing step of going with its flow.

~Karl Marlantes

Everything is touched by the holy when it is in the presence of death.

~Karl Marlantes

The time for debilitating fear is before and after the mission.

~Karl Marlantes

How could you get mad at someone who neither needed to attack nor was at all worried about being able to defend? It was like getting mad at Switzerland.

~Karl Marlantes

Really important books to me are the classics. I try very hard to read them well - you know, especially once I got serious about writing.

~Karl Marlantes

Quitting is unthinkable and pain is just weakness leaving the body

~Karl Marlantes

This nation should be less worried about putting the Vietnam syndrome behind us than restarting the World War II victory syndrome that resulted in the Vietnam syndrome in the first place.

~Karl Marlantes

Cynicism is no more mature than naïveté. You're no more mature, just more burned.

~Karl Marlantes

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