

Ken Follett Quotes

*People, Writing, Book, Men, Stories, War, Thinking, Character, Research, Love
You, Want, Thrillers, Cutting, Church, Editors, Drama, Firsts, Voice, Fear,
Mistake*

Without books I would not have become a vivacious reader, and if you are not a reader you are not a writer.

~Ken Follett

Why do you have to be the same as the others? ...Most of them are stupid.

~Ken Follett

She loved him because he had brought her back to life. She had been like a caterpillar in a cocoon, and he had drawn her out and shown her that she was a butterfly.

~Ken Follett

When you've lost everything, you've got nothing to lose.

~Ken Follett

Having faith in God did not mean sitting back and doing nothing. It meant believing you would find success if you did your best honestly and energetically.

~Ken Follett

The CIA's research program is described in a book called "The Search for the Manchurian Candidate."

~Ken Follett

Trusting someone was like holding a little water in your cupped hands - it was so easy to spill the water, and you could never get it back.

~Ken Follett

The degradation to which you subject others comes back, sooner or later, to haunt you.

~Ken Follett

In my books, women often solve the problem. Even if the woman is not

the hero, she's a strong character. She does change the plot. She'll often rescue the male character from some situation.

~Ken Follett

In both cases, weakness and scruples had defeated strength and ruthlessness.

~Ken Follett

The duck swallows the worm, the fox kills the duck, the men shoot the fox, and the devil hunts the men.

~Ken Follett

For success, the author must make the reader care about the destiny of the principals, and sustain this anxiety, or suspense, for about 100,000 words.

~Ken Follett

Hard work should be rewarded by good food.

~Ken Follett

Proportion is the heart of beauty.

~Ken Follett

The most expensive part of building is the mistakes.

~Ken Follett

She wanted to say 'I love you like a thunderstorm, like a lion, like a helpless rage'.

~Ken Follett

President Wilson says a leader must treat public opinion the way a sailor deals with the wind, using it to blow the ship in one direction or another, but never trying to go directly against it.

~Ken Follett

We all now tell stories by cutting from one dramatic scene to the next, whereas Victorian novelists felt free to write long passages of undramatic summary.

~Ken Follett

you should first follow the plow if you want to dance the harvest jig.

~Ken Follett

I use a professional researcher in New York who does all the legwork, all that stuff which would take me days and weeks of calling, waiting for people to call back.

~Ken Follett

Fear could paralyse. Action was the antidote.

~Ken Follett

But the lesson of Abraham's story is that God demands the best we have to offer, that which is most precious to us.

~Ken Follett

Man who betrayed you once would betray you twice.

~Ken Follett

James Bond is quite serious about his drinks and clothing and cigarettes and food and all that sort of thing. There is nothing wry or amused about James Bond.

~Ken Follett

A very good editor is almost a collaborator.

~Ken Follett

But desperate people find courage.

~Ken Follett

I don't think there's any great mystery to writing female characters, so long as you talk to them. If you lived in a monastery and never met any women, maybe it would be difficult.

~Ken Follett

There is a real connection between Philosophy and fiction.

~Ken Follett

It was the most romantic plane ever made.

~Ken Follett

I could fall for you in a heartbeat

~Ken Follett

Knotty theological questions are the least worrying of problems to me. Why? Because they will be resolved in the hereafter, and meanwhile they can be safely shelved.

~Ken Follett

Hunger is the best seasoning.

~Ken Follett

Culture clash is terrific drama.

~Ken Follett

I wanted to be some kind of captain of industry. Then I wanted to be in advertising, and then I wanted to be a newspaper reporter.

~Ken Follett

I imagined it. I wrote it. But I guess I never thought I'd see it.

~Ken Follett

My favorite period is World War II, and I'm in the middle of writing my fourth novel set in that era.

~Ken Follett

Thrillers have been traditionally very masculine books; the women characters often rather decorative.

~Ken Follett

The thriller is the most popular literary genre of the 20th century.

~Ken Follett

When you're thinking, please remember this: excessive pride is a familiar sin, but a man may just as easily frustrate the will of God through excessive humility.

~Ken Follett

There is no point in asking a man a question until you have established whether he has any reason to lie to you.

~Ken Follett

I like to create imaginary characters and events around a real historical situation. I want readers to feel: OK, this probably didn't happen, but it might have.

~Ken Follett

Why did people manufacture trouble when there was already so much of it in the world?

~Ken Follett

I want to tell a story that makes the reader always want to see what will happen next.

~Ken Follett

After a certain point, most people, including editors, will tell you everything you do is great.

~Ken Follett

When I'm writing a woman character, I don't think, 'What would a woman do?' I just think, 'What would this character do in this situation?'

~Ken Follett

An awful lot of thriller writers write women rather badly. So just doing it OK gets a lot of credit.

~Ken Follett

The research is the easiest. The outline is the most fun. The first draft is the hardest, because every word of the outline has to be fleshed out. The rewrite is very satisfying.

~Ken Follett

One of the hardest things for me, now that I'm famous, is finding people who can read my stuff and give me an honest critique.

~Ken Follett

I am very fond of Edith Wharton. She's quite high brow but also a great storyteller. My favorite is 'The House of Mirth.' I also like 'The Reef.'

~Ken Follett

I aim to be translucent, so you don't notice the words, just their meaning. I haven't much insight into people's motivations.

~Ken Follett

Jack Reacher is a brilliant movie

~Ken Follett

To someone standing in the nave, looking down the length of the church toward the east, the round window would seem like a huge sun exploding into innumerable shards of gorgeous color.

~Ken Follett

It was an odd thing to do, to stand in a street in the hope of seeing

someone who hardly knew him, but he did not want to move.

~Ken Follett

It's great that in the German language I've sold almost 30 million books. Isn't that amazing?

~Ken Follett

I enjoy learning technical details.

~Ken Follett

I started writing stories in my spare time.

~Ken Follett

What she needs,' Tom said aloud 'is a husband.' Agnes said crisply, 'Well, she can't have mine.

~Ken Follett

I read mostly fiction, a lot of 19th-century novels.

~Ken Follett

I like reading history, and actually most authors enjoy the research part because it is, after all, easier than writing.

~Ken Follett

Most of my stories have some basis in fact.

~Ken Follett

What news? There's nothing to tell. I'm a nun.

~Ken Follett

Everybody takes what they life from the teachings of the church, and ignores the parts that don't suit them.

~Ken Follett

He had been granted his life's wish-but conditionally.

~Ken Follett

Movies have influenced all writers, not just thriller writers.

~Ken Follett

The boundary between philosophy and fiction is not as clear cut as you may think and the two definitely interact.

~Ken Follett

His aim was the glory of God, but the glory of Philip pleased him too.

~Ken Follett

A baby was like a revolution, Grigori thought: you could start one, but you could not control how it would turn out.

~Ken Follett

Why was it, Lloyd wondered, that the people who wanted to destroy everything good about their country were the quickest to wave the national flag?

~Ken Follett

I might not be a good socialist, any more than I'm a good Christian, but I am one.

~Ken Follett

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