

# Len Wein

## Quotes

*Lenses, Writing, Character, Art, Stories, Thinking, Editors, Trying, Book, Way,  
People, Years, Differences, Dad, Teacher, Ideas, Worry, Ancient, Laughing,  
Wanted*

A true friend is someone who is there for you when he'd rather be anywhere else.

~Len Wein

Art is always in the eyes of the beholder. Only posterity has the right to point out our mistakes.

~Len Wein

When I'm my own editor, there's very little difference between the first draft and the final. I write what feels right to begin with. I rarely make any major changes.

~Len Wein

It all depends on which side of the desk you're sitting on.

~Len Wein

I always wanted to fire rays out of my fingertips.

~Len Wein

I think jazz and comic books are probably the two uniquely American art forms.

~Len Wein

A writer writes. Period. No matter if someone is buying your work or not.

~Len Wein

Unfortunately, there are writers whose only concern is how good they could make themselves look on a title.

~Len Wein

In general, shorter is better. If you can encapsulate your idea into a single captivating sentence, you're halfway home.

~Len Wein

I realized the only thing I owed my audience was my own judgment and my own best effort.

~Len Wein

I've had editors over the years who couldn't find a clue if it was stapled to their butt.

~Len Wein

I would like immortality.

~Len Wein

People who were more concerned with themselves and looking good to their readers than they were with the characters sacrificed a series for the sake of a story.

~Len Wein

I'm a neurotic New York Jew by birth. Creating characters is second nature to me.

~Len Wein

These days, it seems that if you're not already in place, you can't get there from here.

~Len Wein

I try not to violate what came before me and to leave lots of wiggle room for those who will follow.

~Len Wein

The bottom line always remains the same: What is the basic humanity of the character? How do I make them resonate with the reader?

~Len Wein

I try to find what makes even the worst, most despicable character sympathetic at his or her core.

~Len Wein

There is an ancient legend which warns that, should we ever learn our true origin, our universe will instantly be destroyed.

~Len Wein

It's all about who's where on the food chain. When I'm the story editor, I expect my writers to follow my vision. When I'm working for another editor, I'm obliged to follow their vision.

~Len Wein

I think there's something inherently dishonest in trying to go back and mess with the past.

~Len Wein

What makes a story is how well it manages to connect with the reader, the visceral effect it has.

~Len Wein

Lord of the Rings, I think, is far and away the most brilliantly done stuff.

~Len Wein

In these litigious times, if you're a beginner, it's becoming harder and harder to get your work to the people who might actually be able to hire you.

~Len Wein

If a story isn't working, I'm simply unable to finish it. That's what usually tells me something is wrong.

~Len Wein

I hate the crazy, neurotic characters beyond a certain point.

~Len Wein

I've never sat down and thought about the difference between plot and theme. To me, that's never been important.

~Len Wein

I've always thought of myself as an organic writer, rather than a cerebral one. I feel my way along as I go, hoping I'll get to the place I intend to reach.

~Len Wein

When someone writes to tell me something I've written made them laugh or cry, I've done my job and done it well. The rest is all semantics.

~Len Wein

When I got my first glimpse of Hugh Jackman as Wolverine, my breath caught. In that single instant, he was Wolverine.

~Len Wein

You can read a dozen different textbooks or how-to manuals that will tell you the basic rules of what makes a story - a beginning, a middle, and an end.

~Len Wein

Were there stories I wrote along the way that were terrible clinkers? God, yes. But they were all a product of their time, and I did the best I could.

~Len Wein

I was a very sickly kid. While I was in the hospital at age 7, my Dad brought me a stack of comic books to keep me occupied. I was hooked.

~Len Wein

I became an art major, took every art class my school had to offer. In

college, I majored in Advertising Art and Design.

~Len Wein

I had never really thought of myself as a writer; any writing I had done was just to give myself something to draw.

~Len Wein

I've always been the audience that I wanted to reach, so I write for myself.

~Len Wein

I've never had to work out of the arts. I've always either been a writer or an editor, or something where I've made my living from doing what I love. You can't get any better than that.

~Len Wein

Never be embarrassed by the things you cannot do. Be embarrassed by the things you can do and don't do well.

~Len Wein

I think every time you take a female character, a black character, a Hispanic character, a gay character, and make that the point of the character, you are minimalizing the character.

~Len Wein

The villain is always more entertaining because he has fewer limitations. The hero is bound by honor, by justice and by the law, sometimes.

~Len Wein

I consider myself the luckiest man in the world. I have spent a lifetime doing what I love.

~Len Wein

The curse of comic book adaptations, when I was younger, was that the director or producer would go, "Don't worry about it, it's just a comic book."

~Len Wein

There are very few of us, who reach my advanced age, who are still working in the business, as writers. As artists, people can hang out longer.

~Len Wein

I'm still a fanboy geek. I always will be. In many ways, if my work still resonates with the audience, it's because I'm still writing from the point of view of the fan, so I'm geeked out constantly.

~Len Wein

My father brought me my first stack of comics, when I was seven years old and in the hospital. I was not a well child. And that's where my love for comics began.

~Len Wein

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