

Matthew Specktor

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Writing, Book, Feelings, Fiction, Literature, Giving, Culture,
Ideas, Self, Believe, Next, Scene, Sometimes, Teenager, Los Angeles, Cities,
Hate, Decision*

Sacrificing one's life on the altar of literature is in some ways like sacrificing a goat to some malicious spirit. It's not always a humane or necessary decision.

~Matthew Specktor

I thought, writing is everything, it's so much more important than this or that. If only I could give that young man a stern talking to. Having a child changes things quite a bit.

~Matthew Specktor

Even though I think writers can sometimes thrive from being misread. It can give them something to push off of.

~Matthew Specktor

I've always found too that somewhere in whatever you've just written lies the seed of what you're going to write next.

~Matthew Specktor

A Good Soldier is one of my favorite novels, for various reasons. But the class question is a good one, because it's not always easy to empathize with privileged people.

~Matthew Specktor

Usually when people say they have mixed feelings about something, it's a sort of euphemistic way of saying they hate it.

~Matthew Specktor

I do have complicated feelings about Hollywood, but I also have tremendously affectionate ones.

~Matthew Specktor

My parents were very patient with my pretentious little adolescent snobberies. It took me awhile to accept them.

~Matthew Specktor

My mom was a screenwriter. I saw a lot of people who didn't seem very fulfilled creatively or otherwise by their roles in the motion picture industry.

~Matthew Spektor

When I moved to SF in my early 20s, I loved it, but I was absolutely astonished to discover that people there hated L.A. I was just like why? Really? I had no idea.

~Matthew Spektor

Sometimes it seems to me that the celebration of a person is really just a prelude to ridicule.

~Matthew Spektor

Our need to identify with representative figures is something that never goes away. We still find those in novels. We find those in television. We find them in movies. We find them all over the place.

~Matthew Spektor

I was so very interested in literature and so relatively uninterested in the movies when I was a teenager.

~Matthew Spektor

100 million dollars used to be the limit of what a movie might cost; now they routinely cost 300 million. Sooner or later, spectacle is just going to have to find a new way to exist.

~Matthew Spektor

People will continue to make movies. But I do think the economic model of the studio movie is closing in on a kind of systemic collapse.

~Matthew Spektor

The feature film business, the studio film business, feels to me like there's just nowhere else to go. It's like a record that's just skipping at

the end, with the needle stuck in the run-out groove.

~Matthew Specktor

The 90s were the decade in which studio filmmaking became a much more purely corporatized process, when their crassness ceased to operate on such a relatively individual scale.

~Matthew Specktor

I've always felt that the basic unit of writing fiction is the sentence, and the basic unit of the screenplay is the scene.

~Matthew Specktor

I think writers can gain a lot of vitality from being misread.

~Matthew Specktor

I like writing sentences. It's tactile and exciting. Whereas working at the level of the scene is a more cerebral pleasure.

~Matthew Specktor

The novelist is frequently considered to be an impediment.

~Matthew Specktor

I don't feel like I'm self-conscious about what's next. I don't care. I know what it's like to be ignored, and I know what it's like not to be.

~Matthew Specktor

I'm going to write what I feel like writing, which is a great place to be. But it can be hard to get there. It's so easy to get stricken with one kind of self-consciousness or another.

~Matthew Specktor

We go to literature because it shows us some set of humane values. It is showing us how to live.

~Matthew Specktor

There's a kind of perverseness or betrayal in that idea that art is somehow superior to life. Or that it's more important to write well than it is to take out the garbage.

~Matthew Spektor

Hollywood is famous for breeding monsters, and having worked in the business, I've known a lot of them. But only intermittently have I ever found them monstrous. They have many other qualities.

~Matthew Spektor

Much to my surprise, there's a sense for people in the cable industry that fiction writers might actually be good at script writing. You can write dialogue!

~Matthew Spektor

It's hard enough to make a novel a novel. I wouldn't know how to make it something else at the same time

~Matthew Spektor

I sometimes get asked if I think about film stuff while I'm writing fiction, and the answer is, of course not.

~Matthew Spektor

These are the kind of movies that only a real apparatchik, someone who thinks that corporations are people, could love.

~Matthew Spektor

During the 90s, I watched a lot of people getting fat and prosperous, and I thought, culture itself is the casualty of this.

~Matthew Spektor

There was a moment when the Berlin Wall came down and some people felt, "Oh capitalism won. That's the ideology we can believe in now."

~Matthew Specktor

It's hard to imagine there's a place for great writing inside a multinational conglomerate.

~Matthew Specktor

Everybody says, TV is great, the writer has so much power. I'm still trying to convince myself that's true. When do the writers ever have power? Ever? They don't. Even in the book industry.

~Matthew Specktor

I don't want to say that having power is overrated, but powerlessness can give rise to a different kind of authority, and that's the kind of authority that writes books.

~Matthew Specktor

People don't seem to have a problem with a romanticized New York, in fact that's almost all they ever do, in some sense, is romanticize that place. Los Angeles deserves the same courtesy.

~Matthew Specktor

I think it's what fiction is for: to illuminate that gap between our secret selves and our more visible and apparent ones.

~Matthew Specktor

Good fiction necessarily encompasses our limited understandings of one another, and of ourselves.

~Matthew Specktor

Great books are written from a sense that there is nothing to lose.

~Matthew Specktor

I think the publishing industry is dismayingly like the movie business. It grows more corporate by the day.

~Matthew Specktor

I think being central to the culture is overrated. Who really gives a damn if something is popular? Jay-Z isn't actually any better than James Joyce even though more people understand him.

~Matthew Specktor

One of the weird things about L.A. is that there's always a set of negative perceptions that attaches itself to this city.

~Matthew Specktor

I have very mixed feelings about the movie business, and about Los Angeles in general.

~Matthew Specktor

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