

Paolo Bacigalupi

Quotes

Writing, Stories, Reading, Men, Fighting, Cities, Ugly, Culture, Hazards, Two, World, Ocean, Military, Law, Stupid, Real, Stranger, Gold, Looks, Leadership

An untrampled scorpion troubles no one.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Laws are a fine thing on paper, but painful when no bribery can ease their bind.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

The problem with surviving was that you ended up with the ghosts of everyone you'd ever left behind riding on your shoulders.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Suicide is not something I owe you or yours.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Knowledge is simply a terrible ocean we must cross, and hope that wisdom lies on the other side.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

The surfeit of bad trends pushes me to set my stories in worlds which are often diminished versions of our own present.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Killing isn't free. It takes something out of you every time you do it. You get their life; they get a piece of your soul. It's always a trade.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

'I'm a chess piece. A pawn,' she said. 'I can be sacrificed, but I cannot be captured. To be captured would be the end of the game.'

~Paolo Bacigalupi

The future looks a bit bleak to me.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Food should come from the place of its origin, and stay there. It

shouldn't spend its time crisscrossing the globe for the sake of profit.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Sex and hypocrisy. They go together like coffee and cream.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

For pleasure, I'll read military sf, or Elmore Leonard capers, anything that's fast and fun. Otherwise, I mostly pick at books, without any clear focus.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

We write dust epitaphs for our vanquished enemies and watch them blow away in the desert wind.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Men are loyal when you lead from the front.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Life is exponential. Two becomes four, becomes ten thousand, becomes a plague.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Blood is not destiny.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Knowledge is always two-edged. For every benefit, there is hazard. For every good, evil.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

She smiles at him, too young to know him for a stranger, and too innocent yet to care.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

They say in the military that a good battle plan can last as long as five

minutes in real fighting. After that, it comes down to if the general is favored by fate and the spirits.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Nature has become something new. It is ours now, truly. And if our creation devours us, how poetic will that be?

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Debts are a heavy burden. Throw them off, and you walk free.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

When I read, I'm either reading to learn, or I'm reading to switch off.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

If I cared for human approval, I would have been dead long ago.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

I like fast plots with things that explode.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

What I'm hoping to do though is to ground my extrapolations in specificity, and to make sure that the story I tell is deliberately and honestly told.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

They'd blame a castoff just for breathing. You could be good as gold and they'd still blame you.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Some things, it was better not to think about. It just made you mad and angry.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

But then, that was the problem with pretty toy stitches. When real life

got hold of them, they always tore out.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

When you were alone in the rising ocean, you grabbed whatever raft passed by.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Take three different Thai writers and ask them to extrapolate their county's future, and one hopes that you'll get three very different - but all deeply honest - versions.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

I do not fight battles that cannot be won. Do not confuse that with cowardice.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Laws are confusing documents. They get in the way of justice.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Never beg for mercy. Accept that you have failed. Begging is for dogs and humans.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

The more you read about and immerse in a culture, the more it comes alive, and the more textured and nuanced and detailed and unsterotypable it becomes.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Politics is ugly. Never doubt what small men will do for great power.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

It's human nature to tear one another apart. Be glad you come from such a successful line of killers.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

Most of the news about the state of the environment is pretty ugly. This is frightening for me personally, but actually motivational for me artistically.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

The main reason I want someone to read a story of mine is so they can enjoy it and feel like they got something interesting out of it.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

A desert's a stupid place to put a river.

~Paolo Bacigalupi

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