

# Peter Carey Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, Book, People, Real, Past, Art, Character, Stories, Firsts,  
Mean, Home, Littles, World, Royal, Zoologist, Perfect, Father, Actors, Soul*

To know you will be lonely is not the same as being lonely.

~Peter Carey

People do not love those whose eyes show that they are somewhere else

~Peter Carey

The declared meaning of a spoken sentence is only its overcoat, and the real meaning lies underneath its scarves and buttons.

~Peter Carey

I have never begun a novel which wasn't going to stretch me further than I had ever stretched before.

~Peter Carey

I'm interested in where we are, where we're going, where we've come from.

~Peter Carey

Swimming always cleans your soul

~Peter Carey

It's like standing on the edge of a cliff. This is especially true of the first draft. Every day you're making up the earth you're going to stand on.

~Peter Carey

Good writing of course requires talent, and no one can teach you to have talent.

~Peter Carey

Nostalgia is something we think of as fuzzy. But it's pain. Pain concerning the past.

~Peter Carey

My greatest pleasure is to invent. My continual mad ambition is to make something true and beautiful that never existed in the world before.

~Peter Carey

I'm always the one with the activist friends. I've been an activist very little.

~Peter Carey

I went to work in 1962, and by '64 I was writing all the time, every night and every weekend. It didn't occur to me that, having read nothing and knowing nothing, I was in no position to write a book.

~Peter Carey

I think that thing about the destruction of the world is there all the time, it's there every day when we look out the window.

~Peter Carey

I did not know that history is like a blood stain that keeps on showing on the wall no matter how many new owners take possession, no matter how many times we pint over it.

~Peter Carey

I don't think you have the right to shout about other people's private life.

~Peter Carey

All our heroes, all our great stories are about failure.

~Peter Carey

I never base characters on real people. There are people who do that but I really don't know how to do it.

~Peter Carey

I don't separate my books into historical novels and the rest. To me,

they're all made-up worlds, and both kinds are borne out of curiosity, some investigation into the past.

~Peter Carey

Being famous as a writer is like being famous in a village. It's not really any very heady fame.

~Peter Carey

And it's always possible that you will not get a nice review. So - and that's enraging of course, to get a bad review, you can't talk back, and it's sort of shaming in a way.

~Peter Carey

Then I fell in love and everything went to hell.

~Peter Carey

Writers are always envious, mean-minded, filled with rage and envy at other's good fortune. There is nothing like the failure of a close friend to cheer us up.

~Peter Carey

I don't need new boots I got bluchers back down home. Eff the effing bluchers I'll buy you new adjectival effing elastic sided boots.

~Peter Carey

So in the first draft, I'm inventing people and place with a broad schematic idea of what's going to happen. In the process, of course, I discover all sorts of bigger and more substantial things.

~Peter Carey

One has to be able to twist and change and distort characters, play with them like clay, so everything fits together. Real people don't permit you to do that.

~Peter Carey

You could not tell a story like this. A story like this you could only feel.

~Peter Carey

Writers, at least writers of fiction, are always full of anxiety and worry.

~Peter Carey

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