

Peter Matthiessen

Quotes

*Eye, Men, Light, Writing, Children, Secret, Past, Ideas, Black, Simplicity,
Simple, Reality, Rivers, World, Moving, Feelings, Real, Dark, Thinking, Fiction*

I used to distinguish between my fiction and nonfiction in terms of superiority or inferiority.

~Peter Matthiessen

In this very breath that we take now lies the secret that all great teachers try to tell us.

~Peter Matthiessen

The purpose of our life is to help others through it.

~Peter Matthiessen

Anyone who thinks they can save the world is both wrong and dangerous

~Peter Matthiessen

Have you seen the snow leopard? No! Isn't that wonderful?

~Peter Matthiessen

If we were doomed to live forever, we would scarcely be aware of the beauty around us.

~Peter Matthiessen

Simultaneously I am myself, the child I was, the old man I will be.

~Peter Matthiessen

The concept of conservation is a far truer sign of civilization than that spoilation of a continent which we once confused with progress.

~Peter Matthiessen

How could I say that I wished to penetrate the secrets of the mountains in search of something still unknown that, like the yeti, might well be missed for the very fact of searching?

~Peter Matthiessen

Be light, light, light - full of light!

~Peter Matthiessen

The Zen expression "Kill the Buddha" means to kill any concept of the Buddha as something apart from oneself.

~Peter Matthiessen

Here I am, safely returned over those peaks from a journey far more beautiful and strange than anything I had hoped for or imagined - how is it that this safe return brings such regret?

~Peter Matthiessen

Simplicity is the whole secret of well-being.

~Peter Matthiessen

You do your best work when you're not conscious of yourself.

~Peter Matthiessen

I like to hear and smell the countryside, the land that my characters inhabit. I don't want these characters to step off the page, I want them to step out of the landscape.

~Peter Matthiessen

In fiction, you have a rough idea what's coming up next - sometimes you even make a little outline - but in fact you don't know. Each day is a whole new - and for me, a very invigorating - experience.

~Peter Matthiessen

When I'm in the field, when I'm working, I keep very careful notes. I wear big shirts with big breast pockets, and I carry in them two little spiral notebooks.

~Peter Matthiessen

In nonfiction, you have that limitation, that constraint, of telling the truth.

~Peter Matthiessen

Illuminated by the same joyful curiosity and erudition, lyric writing, and plain love of life that made a classic of Archie Carr's *The Windward Road*.

~Peter Matthiessen

Alec Wilkinson is a spare, clear, and lucid writer who works in stylistic simplicity with material that is not simple at all.

~Peter Matthiessen

In zazen, one is one's present self, what one was, and what one will be, all at once.

~Peter Matthiessen

My eye is fixed not on the ending of the book but on the feeling of that ending.

~Peter Matthiessen

It is said in Java that the tiger's hearing is so acute that hunters must keep their nose hairs cut lest the tiger hear the breath whistle through their nostrils.

~Peter Matthiessen

Figures dark beneath their loads pass down the far bank of the river, rendered immortal by the streak of sunset upon their shoulders

~Peter Matthiessen

This world is painted on a wild dark metal

~Peter Matthiessen

I think in any writing you're paying attention to detail.

~Peter Matthiessen

I have never figured out how women work but I do know that their skin color has no significance. Black or white, every last one is pretty pink on the inside and they are all impossible.

~Peter Matthiessen

Related Links:

- Eye Quotes
- Men Quotes
- Light Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- Children Quotes
- Secret Quotes
- Past Quotes
- Ideas Quotes
- Black Quotes
- Simplicity Quotes
- Simple Quotes
- Reality Quotes
- Rivers Quotes
- World Quotes
- Moving Quotes
- Feelings Quotes
- Real Quotes
- Dark Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Fiction Quotes