

Peter Watts

Quotes

*Brain, Survival, Self, Thinking, Ends, Dancer, Reality, Boss, Skin Tone, Axes,
Fit, Fighting, Perfect, War, Speech, Teeth, Odds, Knowing, Jazz, Kicking*

People aren't rational. We're not thinking machines, we're - we're feeling machines that happen to think.

~Peter Watts

There's no such things as survival of the fittest. Survival of the most adequate, maybe. It doesn't matter whether a solution's optimal. All that matters is whether it beats the alternative.

~Peter Watts

Science is so powerful that it drags us kicking and screaming towards the truth despite our best efforts to avoid it.

~Peter Watts

This is how you communicate with a fellow intelligence: You hurt it, you keep on hurting it, until you can distinguish the speech from the screams.

~Peter Watts

The most altruistic and sustainable philosophies fail before the brute brain stem imperative of self-interest.

~Peter Watts

I am the bridge between the bleeding edge and the dead center. I stand between the Wizard of Oz and the man behind the curtain. I am the curtain.

~Peter Watts

What's the difference between being dead, and just not knowing you're alive?

~Peter Watts

But when the flash flood crosses your path, when the lion leaps at you from the grasses, advanced self-awareness is an unaffordable indulgence. The brain stem does its best.

~Peter Watts

But pattern-matching doesn't equal comprehension.

~Peter Watts

I really wanted to talk to her. I just couldn't find an algorithm that fit.

~Peter Watts

Radar is too long in the tooth for fine detail.

~Peter Watts

Humans didn't really fight over skin tone or ideology; those were just handy cues for kin-selection purposes. Ultimately it always came down to bloodlines and limited resources.

~Peter Watts

If believing absurd falsehoods increase the odds of getting laid or avoiding predators, your brain will believe those falsehoods with all its metaphorical little heart.

~Peter Watts

If the rest of your brain were conscious, it would probably regard you as the pointy-haired boss from Dilbert

~Peter Watts

Stars, everywhere. So many stars that I could not for the life me understand how the sky could contain them all yet be so black.

~Peter Watts

How do you say 'We come in peace' when the very words are an act of war?

~Peter Watts

You are. I'm just fatalistically cheerful. We all come into the story

halfway through, we all catch up as best we can, and we're all gonna die before it ends.

~Peter Watts

It's not in the nature of the lamb to mourn the lion.

~Peter Watts

Brains are survival engines, not truth detectors.

~Peter Watts

Property damage is so much easier to live with than murder.

~Peter Watts

What's the survival value of obsessing on a sunset?

~Peter Watts

Are you kidding? That's the music of the spheres, commissar. It's beautiful. Like old jazz.

~Peter Watts

We are not thinking machines.

~Peter Watts

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