

Richard Flanagan Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, Art, Men, Lying, Love Is, Book, People, Heart, Purpose,
Years, Past, Hate, Jobs, Soul, Sex, Expression, Empathy, Sentences, Who You
Are*

A good book ... leaves you wanting to reread the book. A great book compels you to reread your own soul.

~Richard Flanagan

A happy man has no past, while an unhappy man has nothing else.

~Richard Flanagan

There are words and words and none mean anything. And then one sentence means everything.

~Richard Flanagan

Writing about sex at length is a bit like describing mastication at length. It's the causes and the consequences and the meaning of it that are interesting, not the anatomical descriptions.

~Richard Flanagan

We have a very foolish notion in Western countries that progress delivers freedom. But progress doesn't necessarily bring moral virtue.

~Richard Flanagan

Writing is not lying, nor is it theft. It is a journey and search for transparency between one's words and one's soul.

~Richard Flanagan

Is it easier for a man to live his life again as a fish, than to accept the wonder of being human? So alone, so frightened, so wanting for what we are afraid to give tongue to.

~Richard Flanagan

What reality was ever made by realists?

~Richard Flanagan

When forging money, I had always salved my conscience by concluding that I was merely extending the lie of commerce.

~Richard Flanagan

Love is the scent of a sleeping back, death a slight draft of bad breath.

~Richard Flanagan

I think empathy's a terrible danger for a writer.

~Richard Flanagan

Most of us have loved. And the terror for a writer is that readers will forgive you so much, but they won't forgive you one false note about love, about which they too are expert.

~Richard Flanagan

It's a sin for a writer to go looking for camels to put into his or her pages. I only want details that are the story.

~Richard Flanagan

The path to survival was to never give up on the small things.

~Richard Flanagan

Literary prizes serve a purpose if they allow for discussion of books.

~Richard Flanagan

One cannot distinguish between human and non-human acts. One cannot point, one cannot say this man here is a man and that man there is a devil.

~Richard Flanagan

The fallacy is that you have to hold some sort of stake in the grief or horror in order to write about it - I think the opposite is true.

~Richard Flanagan

We live in a material world, not a dramatic one.

~Richard Flanagan

In the end you're not made or broken by prizes. Your relationship is with your readers, not a prize, and you just have to keep on honoring that.

~Richard Flanagan

You have to attempt to find new forms that will force you to write freshly and better and hopefully more truthfully.

~Richard Flanagan

Writing reminds you that you're never alone. Writing and reading is to be optimistic.

~Richard Flanagan

I think sometimes writers must attempt to communicate the incommunicable, because, whether they wish it or not, they're the ones to whom it falls.

~Richard Flanagan

Love is a glimpse of hope. To love is to hope. When we abandon hope, we cease to exist.

~Richard Flanagan

I think writing should be about change.

~Richard Flanagan

The monsters demand less of you as a writer because they're probably closer to who you are.

~Richard Flanagan

I think it's always wrong of writers to make too much of the pains of their labors, because most people have much worse jobs and suffer such indignities and hardships.

~Richard Flanagan

I'm afraid a lot of people have lost a lot of money over the years betting on me.

~Richard Flanagan

Film is the art of turning money into light, and light into money. But it begins with money.

~Richard Flanagan

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