

Robert Caro

Quotes

*Ballet, Writing, Book, Political, Democracy, Years, Believe, Trying, Thinking,
Real, World, People, Important, New York, Feelings, Knows, President,
Sometimes, Cities, Taught*

At the ballet, you really feel like you're in the presence of something outside the rest of your life. Higher than the rest of your life.

~Robert Caro

I never wanted to do biography just to tell the life of a famous man. I always wanted to use the life of a man to examine political power, because democracy shapes our lives

~Robert Caro

The Senate is an unknowing world

~Robert Caro

Power doesn't always corrupt. Power can cleanse. What I believe is always true about power is that power always reveals.

~Robert Caro

Robert Moses wasn't elected to anything. We're taught that in a democracy power comes from being elected. He had more power than anyone, and he held it for 48 years

~Robert Caro

The moment the curtain rose on that first ballet, I knew something wonderful and new had come into my life. I can still see the first scene. The ballet was Divertimento No. 15

~Robert Caro

I deliberately made an effort not to become an expert on the ballet.

~Robert Caro

The New York City Ballet is obviously speaking to a whole new generation and bringing it the same wonder and beauty that it brought previous generations

~Robert Caro

Ballet is sort of a mystery to me. And I don't want to unravel that mystery.

~Robert Caro

Sometimes during a ballet I'll look around and see all these rows of intent faces, concentrating on this beautiful thing up on the stage.

~Robert Caro

Everything seems to be going faster and faster. It's really harder to create something that endures. The New York City Ballet has succeeded in doing that.

~Robert Caro

I never went to a ballet until I was 45 years old. I don't know why.

~Robert Caro

I don't think of my books as being biographies. I never had any interest in doing a book just to write the life of a great man. I had zero interest in that. My interest is in power. How power works.

~Robert Caro

The ballet embodies the notes of music. And sometimes you almost feel like you can see the notes dance up there on the stage.

~Robert Caro

There's a feeling about it. You feel almost like a cabinetmaker, laying planks. There's a real feeling when you know you're getting it right. It's a physical feeling.

~Robert Caro

You come in off the street, through the doors of the theater. You sit down. The lights go down and the curtain goes up. And you're in another world

~Robert Caro

To my mind, the prose in a non-fiction work that's going to endure has to be of the same quality as the prose in a work of fiction that endures.

~Robert Caro

I sometimes feel that if your book sells more than 20 years, then there's something in it that you can say, gee, I did something that endures, that's timeless

~Robert Caro

The right of a minority is so important in a democracy.

~Robert Caro

Lyndon Johnson, as majority leader of the United States Senate, he made the Senate work

~Robert Caro

My predictions are notably inaccurate

~Robert Caro

Herman Brown was a businessman who wanted value for money spent. His relationships with politicians were measured by that criterion.

~Robert Caro

My interest is in power. How power works.

~Robert Caro

There's a theory, and I think the theory is right, that in order to make a change you've got to make the whole language of the page harmonious. Well, that's a lot easier with a computer.

~Robert Caro

You can use a biography to examine political power, but only if you pick the right guy.

~Robert Caro

Every president has to live with the result of what Lyndon Johnson did with Vietnam, when he lost the trust of the American people in the presidency.

~Robert Caro

If things are going well, if the writing's coming along, I jump out of bed happy. And if the previous day has been bad, I get out of bed disgruntled.

~Robert Caro

I like new ballets because they're totally new. As you get older, new experiences are harder and harder to come by, so it's pretty great to have a new experience.

~Robert Caro

I was trying to learn about Lyndon Johnson when he was young and creating his first political machine in the Texas hill country. I moved there for three years. You had to learn that world

~Robert Caro

I trained myself to be organized.

~Robert Caro

Nobody believes this, but I write very fast.

~Robert Caro

I try to have a mood or a rhythm for a chapter.

~Robert Caro

I think President Obama has done more than he is given credit for.

~Robert Caro

I used to work very long hours. Then I started to realize that the stuff that I was writing in the late afternoons, I was generally throwing out.

So I quit earlier than I used to.

~Robert Caro

If it's coming near the end of a chapter and I'm really getting into it, I tend to get up earlier and earlier, just because I'm excited to get to work.

~Robert Caro

Someday a political genius will come along and make the Senate work.

~Robert Caro

As you get older, you sometimes feel that it's harder and harder to get something new and wonderful to come into your life.

~Robert Caro

You have to be an extremely good reader to appreciate what a good writer is. There are some people who are completely insensitive to good writing.

~Robert Caro

I am trying to make clear through my writing something which I believe: that biography- history in general- can be literature in the deepest and highest sense of that term.

~Robert Caro

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