

Thomas Harris

Quotes

Home, Thinking, Writing, Book, Giving, Men, Eye, Half, Doe, Skins, Happens, People, Emotion, Serious, Imagination, Starlings, Swans, Mind, Sleep, Lambs

I have no interest in understanding sheep, only eating them.

~Thomas Harris

And be grateful. Our scars have the power to remind us that the past was real.

~Thomas Harris

Human emotions are a gift from our animal ancestors. Cruelty is a gift humanity has given itself.

~Thomas Harris

I ate his liver with some fava beans and a nice chianti

~Thomas Harris

You will not persuade me with appeals to my intellectual vanity.

~Thomas Harris

Whenever feasible, one should always try to eat the rude.

~Thomas Harris

You must understand that when you are writing a novel you are not making anything up. It's all there and you just have to find it.

~Thomas Harris

A census taker tried to quantify me once. I ate his liver with some fava beans and a big Amarone. Go back to school, little Starling.

~Thomas Harris

The tragedy is not to die, but to be wasted.

~Thomas Harris

When the Fox hears the Rabbit scream he comes a-runnin', but not to help.

~Thomas Harris

I'm giving serious thought into eating yor wifeâ€• - Hannibal Lecter

~Thomas Harris

It rubs the lotion on its skin. It does this whenever it is told.

~Thomas Harris

How seldom we recognize the sound when the bolt of our fate slides home.

~Thomas Harris

Nothing made me happen. I happened.

~Thomas Harris

Being smart spoils a lot of things, doesn't it?

~Thomas Harris

We can only learn so much and live.

~Thomas Harris

Over this odd world, this half the world that's dark now, I have to hunt a thing that lives on tears.

~Thomas Harris

It's hard... to shake off something that's already under your skin.

~Thomas Harris

Fear comes with imagination, it's a penalty, it's the price of imagination.

~Thomas Harris

One can only see what one observes, and one observes only things which are already in the mind.

~Thomas Harris

Typhoid and swans - it all comes from the same place.

~Thomas Harris

It's hard to have anything isn't it? Rare to get it, hard to keep it. This is a damn slippery planet.

~Thomas Harris

Hannibal Lecter: We live in a primitive time - don't we, Will? - neither savage nor wise. Half measures are the curse of it. Any rational society would either kill me or give me my books.

~Thomas Harris

He sees very clearly - he damn sure sees through me. It's hard to accept that someone can understand you without wishing you well. At Starling's age it hadn't happened to her much.

~Thomas Harris

Problem-solving is hunting; it is savage pleasure and we are born to it.

~Thomas Harris

Did you ever think, Clarice, why the Philistines don't understand you? It's because you are the answer to Samson's riddle. You are the honey in the lion.

~Thomas Harris

Nothing makes us more vulnerable than loneliness except greed.

~Thomas Harris

In making friends, she was wary of people who foster dependency and feed on it. She had been involved with a few--the blind attract them, and they are the enemy.

~Thomas Harris

The worm that destroys you is the temptation to agree with your critics, to get their approval.

~Thomas Harris

Back at his chair he cannot remember what he was reading. He feels the books beside him to find the one that is warm.

~Thomas Harris

Writing novels is the hardest thing I've ever done, including digging irrigation ditches.

~Thomas Harris

What does he do, Clarice? What is the first and principal thing he does, what need does he serve by killing? He covets. How do we begin to covet? We begin by coveting what we see every day.

~Thomas Harris

It is not healing to see your childhood home, but it helps you measure whether you are broken, and how and why, assuming you want to know.

~Thomas Harris

But the face on the pillow, rosy in the firelight, is certainly that of Clarice Starling, and she sleeps deeply, sweetly, in the silence of the lambs.

~Thomas Harris

Shiloh isn't haunted - men are haunted. Shiloh doesn't care.

~Thomas Harris

The very air had screams smeared on it. He flinched from the noise in this silent room.

~Thomas Harris

He was numb except for dreading the loss of numbness.

~Thomas Harris

You know how cats do. They hide to die. Dogs come home.

~Thomas Harris

Hannibal at eighteen was rooting for Mephistopheles and contemptuous of Faust, but he only half-listened to the climax. He was watching and breathing Lady Murasaki...

~Thomas Harris

Life's too slippery for books, Clarice; anger appears as lust, lupus presents as hives.

~Thomas Harris

We routinely leave our small children in day care among strangers. At the same time, in our guilt we evince paranoia about strangers and foster fear in children.

~Thomas Harris

The most stable elements, Clarice, appear in the middle of the periodic table, roughly between iron and silver. Between iron and silver. I think that is appropriate for you.

~Thomas Harris

It occurred to Starling how much Roden would benefit from an elbow smash in the hinge of his jaw.

~Thomas Harris

There is a common emotion we all recognize and have not yet named -- the happy anticipation of being able to feel contempt.

~Thomas Harris

I am the dragon, and you call me insane.

~Thomas Harris

One quality in a person doesn't rule out any other quality. They can

exist side by side, good and terrible. Socrates said it a lot better.

~Thomas Harris

I'm doing one of three things: I'm writing. I'm staring out the window. Or I'm writhing on the floor.

~Thomas Harris

I expect most psychiatrists have a patient or two they'd like to refer to me.

~Thomas Harris

Gratitude's got a short half-life, Clarice.

~Thomas Harris

When you feel strain, keep your mouth shut if you can.

~Thomas Harris

Because it's his bad luck to be the best.

~Thomas Harris

On a related subject, Signore Pazzi, I must confess to you: I'm giving serious thought to eating your wife.

~Thomas Harris

The advantage of beating a mute is he can't tell on you.

~Thomas Harris

I found, and find, the scrutiny of Dr. Lecter uncomfortable, intrusive, like the humming of your thoughts when they x-ray your head.

~Thomas Harris

Funerals often make us want sex-it's one in the eye for death.

~Thomas Harris

I would not have had that happen to you. Discourtesy is unspeakably ugly to me.

~Thomas Harris

Evil's just destructive? Then storms are evil, if it's that simple. And we have fire, and there there's hail. Underwriters lump it all under 'Acts of God.

~Thomas Harris

Lecter is so lucid, so perceptive; he's trained in psychiatry... and he's a mass murderer.

~Thomas Harris

God's creatures who cried themselves to sleep stirred to cry again.

~Thomas Harris

And your dinner for the orchestra officials." "Haven't you ever had people coming over and no time to shop? You have to make do with what's in the fridge, Clarice. May I call you Clarice?

~Thomas Harris

Good-bye Clarice. Will you let me know if ever the lambs stop screaming?" "Yes." Pembry was taking her arm. It was go or fight him. "Yes," she said. "I'll tell you." "Do you promise?" "Yes.

~Thomas Harris

It's fear, Jack. The man deals with a huge amount of fear.' Because he got hurt?' No, not entirely. Fear comes with imagination, it's a penalty, it's the price of imagination.

~Thomas Harris

Intense fear comes in waves; the body can't stand it for long at a time.

~Thomas Harris

I love myself that much and I will never apologize to you.

~Thomas Harris

You would think such a day would tremble to begin . . .

~Thomas Harris

He moves smoothly and slowly, carrying his concentration like a brimming cup.

~Thomas Harris

You cant reduce me to a set of influences.

~Thomas Harris

There is no murder. We make murder, and it matters only to us.

~Thomas Harris

I'll confess it is pleasant to look at you asleep. You're quite beautiful, Clarice.

~Thomas Harris

Ready when you are, Sergeant Pempbry.

~Thomas Harris

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