

# Thomas Keneally

## Quotes

*Australia, Art, Church, Schindler's List, Writing, Lists, Men, School, Children, Believe, Mother, Wisdom, Lasts, World, Past, Peace, Names, Passion, Trying, Christian*

So I was very close to ordination. I was delighted to be ordained a deacon, which is the last step between, before becoming a priest. But then it all fell apart.

~Thomas Keneally

Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire.

~Thomas Keneally

The List is Life.

~Thomas Keneally

But I was also a brat. I used to belong to a gang that went looking for fights with other gangs.

~Thomas Keneally

But in practice Australia - the pluralism of Australia - sorry the sectarianism to an extent stopped at the time you took your uniform off after coming home from school.

~Thomas Keneally

I must apologise because I know all writers have memories of being on the outer because it's the children on the side of the playground who become the dangerous writers.

~Thomas Keneally

Power is when we have every justification to kill, and we don't.

~Thomas Keneally

The principle was, death should not be entered like some snug harbor. It should be an unambiguous refusal to surrender.

~Thomas Keneally

It's only when you abandon your ambitions that they become possible.

~Thomas Keneally

You know, so I was a weird eccentric kid but I did believe in the power of the word and of the word being made flesh I suppose, which again I suppose came from my temperament as well as my upbringing.

~Thomas Keneally

In a way Australia is like Catholicism. The company is sometimes questionable and the landscape is grotesque. But you always come back.

~Thomas Keneally

I was never any good at cricket thought I love it as a, as a sort of mystery.

~Thomas Keneally

The list is an absolute good. The list is life. All round its cramped margins lies the gulf.

~Thomas Keneally

Fatal human malice is the staple of narrators, original sin the mother-fluid of historians. But it is a risky enterprise to have to write of virtue.

~Thomas Keneally

And it is a folly to try to craft a novel for the screen, to write a novel with a screen contract in mind.

~Thomas Keneally

And I think my sexuality was heavily repressed by the church, by the, you know, the design of the mortal sins.

~Thomas Keneally

And I found both literature and the church very dramatic presences in the world of the 1950s.

~Thomas Keneally

Um, what I found though about the Christian Brothers is this: that they were certainly muscular.

~Thomas Keneally

Personal finances are like people's personal health, crucial and tragic to the sufferer but tedious to the listener.

~Thomas Keneally

Thomas was my true name but everyone knew me as Mick, except my mother, who knew me as definitely Michael.

~Thomas Keneally

And I definitely wanted to be a writer, but I felt a duty now, having used up those educational resources, I felt a duty to the church and my parents to become a priest.

~Thomas Keneally

Coitus is random, children are definite.

~Thomas Keneally

And I liked pluralist Australia. I got a taste for pluralist Australia. I like, I like Australians and I can't believe that they're going to go to hell because they tell a good dirty joke, you know.

~Thomas Keneally

I thought I'd definitely be a writer, whatever I did.

~Thomas Keneally

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