

# Tom Clancy Quotes

*Memorable, People, Men, Writing, Country, War, Book, Inspirational, Real,  
Technology, Years, Thinking, Reading, Mean, Simple, Believe, Differences,  
Character, Fighting, Two*

There are people in government who don't want other people to know what they know. It's just another example of elitism. And I spit on elitism. Show me an elitist, and I'll show you a loser.

~Tom Clancy

Helicopters don't fly, they vibrate so badly the ground rejects them.

~Tom Clancy

Fix your eyes forward on what you can do, not back on what you cannot change.

~Tom Clancy

The good old days are now.

~Tom Clancy

The control of information is something the elite always does, particularly in a despotic form of government. Information, knowledge, is power. If you can control information, you can control people.

~Tom Clancy

The tactics...no, amateurs discuss tactics,.... Professional soldiers study logistics.

~Tom Clancy

What the government is good at is collecting taxes, taking away your freedoms and killing people. It's not good at much else.

~Tom Clancy

Man is a creature of hope and invention, both of which belie the idea that things cannot be changed.

~Tom Clancy

The difference between fiction and reality? Fiction has to make sense.

~Tom Clancy

Whenever somebody comes up with a good idea, there's somebody else who has never had a good idea in his life who stands up and says, "Oh, you can't do that..."

~Tom Clancy

Life is about learning; when you stop learning, you die.

~Tom Clancy

The smaller the mind, the greater the ego.

~Tom Clancy

Switzerland is a land where crime is virtually unknown, yet most Swiss males are required by law to keep in their homes what amounts to a portable, personal machine gun.

~Tom Clancy

People live longer today than they ever have. They live happier lives, have more knowledge, more information. All this is the result of communications technology. How is any of that bad?

~Tom Clancy

In the Soviet Union it was illegal to take a photograph of a train station. Look what happened to them. They tried to classify everything.

~Tom Clancy

A lawyer is just like an attack dog, only without a conscience.

~Tom Clancy

Washington D.C. is about 300 square miles surrounded by realty.

~Tom Clancy

I do not over-intellectualize the production process. I try to keep it simple: Tell the damned story.

~Tom Clancy

I am a politician which means I am a liar and a crook. When I am not kissing babies I am stealing their lollypops.

~Tom Clancy

There are two kinds of people: the ones who need to be told and the ones who figure it out all by themselves.

~Tom Clancy

Collaboration on a book is the ultimate unnatural act.

~Tom Clancy

The Only way to do all the things you'd like to do is to read

~Tom Clancy

Information, knowledge, is power. If you can control information, you can control people.

~Tom Clancy

There was a time when nails were high-tech. There was a time when people had to be told how to use a telephone. Technology is just a tool. People use tools to improve their lives.

~Tom Clancy

What do I know about sex? I'm a married man.

~Tom Clancy

I was one of the first generations to watch television. TV exposes people to news, to information, to knowledge, to entertainment. How is it bad?

~Tom Clancy

I wanted to see my name on the cover of a book. If your name is in the Library of Congress, you're immortal.

~Tom Clancy

In battle, you forgive a man anything except an unwillingness to take risks. Sometimes you have to put it on the line.

~Tom Clancy

Wars are begun by frightened men.

~Tom Clancy

Fundamentally, I think of myself as a storyteller, not a writer.

~Tom Clancy

No matter what you or anyone else does, there will be someone who says that there's something bad about it.

~Tom Clancy

We cannot fail to win unless we fail to try.

~Tom Clancy

Probably what pushed the Russians over the edge was SDI... They realized they couldn't beat us...

~Tom Clancy

Colleges typically did not tell you that ninety percent of your education came after you hung the parchment on the wall. People might ask for a rebate.

~Tom Clancy

There used to be this country called the Soviet Union; it's not there anymore. Our technology was better than theirs.

~Tom Clancy

Victory comes only to those prepared to make it, and take it.

~Tom Clancy

Fighting wars is not so much about killing people as it is about finding

things out. The more you know, the more likely you are to win a battle.

~Tom Clancy

I've made up stuff that's turned out to be real, that's the spooky part.

~Tom Clancy

Never ask what sort of computer a guy drives. If he's a Mac user, he'll tell you. If not, why embarrass him?

~Tom Clancy

The point of life was to press on, to do the best you can, to make the world a better place.

~Tom Clancy

Of all human lamentations, without doubt, the most common is if only I had known. But we can't know, and so days of death and fire so often begin no differently than those of love and warmth.

~Tom Clancy

Most things in here don't react well to bullets.

~Tom Clancy

Being a victim is more palatable than having to recognize the intrinsic contradictions of one's own governing philosophy.

~Tom Clancy

(Stereotyping) is only for those without the imagination to see people as they are instead of being like someone else they understand.

~Tom Clancy

Once you stop believing in Santa Claus, the whole world just goes downhill.

~Tom Clancy

If you want to kick the tiger in his ass you'd better have a plan for dealing with his teeth

~Tom Clancy

Suspense is achieved by information control: What you know. What the reader knows. What the characters know.

~Tom Clancy

Morituri non cognant, perhaps. Those who are about to die " just don't know.

~Tom Clancy

I've been telling people for 12 years that if you want to get a nuclear device into the United States, just bring it through the port of Miami disguised as cocaine.

~Tom Clancy

Ice hockey is the closest thing to religion permitted by the Soviet Union.

~Tom Clancy

The difference between me and you is that I do good fiction.

~Tom Clancy

Remember, for every shot you fire, someone, somewhere, is making money.

~Tom Clancy

Every person you meet - and everything you do in life - is an opportunity to learn something.

~Tom Clancy

Success will ruin your life.

~Tom Clancy

I just finished reading the Koran, and there's nothing in there I didn't hear in Sunday school.

~Tom Clancy

Learn to write the same way you learn to play golf. You do it and keep doing it until you get it right.

~Tom Clancy

Liberation and equal-rights issues notwithstanding, it was a man's job to make a woman feel cherished and respected.

~Tom Clancy

Life was such a strange thing, so permanent when one had it, so fleeting when it was lost- and those who lost it could never tell you what it was like, could they?

~Tom Clancy

Things rarely happen for a single reason. Even the cleverest and most skilled manipulators recognize that their real art lies in making use of that which they cannot predict.

~Tom Clancy

Giving your book to Hollywood is like turning your daughter over to a pimp.

~Tom Clancy

An overnight success is ten years in the making.

~Tom Clancy

Courage is being the only one who knows how terrified you are.

~Tom Clancy

There are only two ways we can be beaten: we die or we give up. And we're not giving up.



~Tom Clancy

When you have stopped learning you have begun to die.

~Tom Clancy

Anti-Catholicism is the last respectable prejudice. You can't hate black people anymore, of course, and you can't hate homosexuals anymore, but you can hate all the Catholics you want.

~Tom Clancy

It is a principle of diplomacy that one must know something of the truth in order to lie convincingly.

~Tom Clancy

Surviving is much more painful than death.

~Tom Clancy

If you don't write the book, the book ain't gonna get written.

~Tom Clancy

I'd rather talk to people who do things than complain about other people who do things. I say they're idiots.

~Tom Clancy

The only person who has artistic control is the director, and 'director' is how you spell God in Hollywood.

~Tom Clancy

Books and movies are different art forms with different rules. And because of that, they never translate exactly.

~Tom Clancy

Even true believers had consciences, Too bad.

~Tom Clancy

She didn't strike me as a "crossword in ink" kind of girl

~Tom Clancy

Speak your dialogue out loud. If it sounds like the way people talk, then write it down.

~Tom Clancy

Well, It's a Communist country, and the Communists do not reward personal initiative...except by execution.

~Tom Clancy

My life is a very simple life thank you

~Tom Clancy

To Ronald Wilson Regan, The Fortieth President of The United States:  
The Man Who Won The War.

~Tom Clancy

That's the ultimate pornography. There's nothing more pornographic than glorifying war.

~Tom Clancy

I do not over-intellectualise the production process. I try to keep it simple: Tell the damned story.

~Tom Clancy

I write strictly for fun... as long as it stays fun I'll continue to do it.

~Tom Clancy

The first rumors about Zenith came from the Czechoslovakians.

~Tom Clancy

Wars are begun by frightened men. They fear war, but more than that, they fear what will happen if they don't start one or take equivalent

action, I suppose.

~Tom Clancy

"Literature" is written material that, 100 years after the death of the author, is forced upon high school students.

~Tom Clancy

I'm a spy. It's not really... I worked for the CIA 15 years. The cover was I worked for the insurance business.

~Tom Clancy

I don't discuss works in progress.

~Tom Clancy

When I go to peoples' houses I like to sneak into their bedrooms and try on their underwear.

~Tom Clancy

Civilians listened to officers, which said a lot about the intelligence of civilians.

~Tom Clancy

All field agents have some cowboy in them - even the ones from New York.

~Tom Clancy

It was one thing to use computers as a tool, quite another to let them do your thinking for you.

~Tom Clancy

Every novel begins with the speculative question, What if "X" happened? That's how you start.

~Tom Clancy

The general difference between conservatives and liberals is that liberals like pretty pictures and conservatives like to build bridges that people can drive across.

~Tom Clancy

One thing about flying that he never got used to was that no matter how awful the weather was on the ground, if you flew high enough you could always find the sun.

~Tom Clancy

Bill Clinton is a man who thinks international affairs means dating a girl from out of town.

~Tom Clancy

Privacy and loneliness were the traditional luxuries accorded to a skipper.

~Tom Clancy

The human condition today is better than it's ever been, and technology is one of the reasons for that.

~Tom Clancy

It's not right to say that our loss in Vietnam turned out to be a gain. But lessons were learned. And they were the right lessons.

~Tom Clancy

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