

W. G. Sebald

Quotes

*Memories, Eye, Thinking, Mean, Believe, Reality, Past, Civilization, Men,
Military, Dark, Cities, Heart, Perspective, Experiments, Book, Taken, Moving,
Littles, Giving*

It is thanks to my evening reading alone that I am still more or less sane.

~W. G. Sebald

We take almost all the decisive steps in our lives as a result of slight inner adjustments of which we are barely conscious.

~W. G. Sebald

By all means be experimental, but let the reader be part of the experiment

~W. G. Sebald

I wonder now whether inner coldness and desolation may not be the pre-condition for making the world believe, by a kind of fraudulent showmanship, that one's own wretched heart is still aglow.

~W. G. Sebald

We learn from history as much as a rabbit learns from an experiment that's performed upon it.

~W. G. Sebald

We all have appointments with the past.

~W. G. Sebald

At the time I could no more believe my eyes than now I can trust my memory.

~W. G. Sebald

I believe that the black-and-white photograph, or rather the gray zones in the black-and-white photograph, stand for this territory that is located between life and death.

~W. G. Sebald

Tiny details imperceptible to us decide everything!

~W. G. Sebald

... the current of time slowing down in the gravitational field of oblivion.

~W. G. Sebald

The moral backbone of literature is about that whole question of memory. To my mind it seems clear that those who have no memory have the much greater chance to lead happy lives.

~W. G. Sebald

How I wished during those sleepless hours that I belonged to a different nation, or better still, to none at all.

~W. G. Sebald

Like our bodies and like our desires, the machines we have devised are possessed of a heart which is slowly reduced to embers.

~W. G. Sebald

Only in the books written in earlier times did she sometimes think she found some faint idea of what it might be like to be alive.

~W. G. Sebald

Everything our civilization has produced is entombed.

~W. G. Sebald

Time, that most abstract of humanity's homes.

~W. G. Sebald

How far, in any case, must one go back to find the beginning?

~W. G. Sebald

There is something peculiarly dispiriting about the emptiness that wells up when, in a strange city, one dials the same telephone numbers in vain.

~W. G. Sebald

No one can explain exactly what happens within us when the doors behind which our childhood terrors lurk are flung open.

~W. G. Sebald

And so they are ever returning to us, the dead.

~W. G. Sebald

Human civilization has been no more than a strange luminescence growing more intense by the hour, of which no one can say when it will begin to wane and when it will fade away.

~W. G. Sebald

I have always kept ducks, even as a child, and the colours of their plumage, in particular the dark green and snow white, seemed to me the only possible answer to the questions that are on my mind.

~W. G. Sebald

A tight structural form opens possibilities. Take a pattern, an established model or sub-genre, and write to it. In writing, limitation gives freedom

~W. G. Sebald

Men and animals regard each other across a gulf of mutual incomprehension.

~W. G. Sebald

A wonderful story collection set between one place and another and shaped by a fearless sense of comedy.

~W. G. Sebald

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