

# William Boyd

## Quotes

*People, Thinking, Novel, World, Way, Film, Mad, Lasts, Book, Effects, Art,  
Cameras, Glowing, Drunk, Frustration, Views, Two, Veins, About Yourself,  
Instinct*

We never love anyone. Not really. We only love our idea of another person. It is some conception of our own that we love. We love ourselves, in fact.

~William Boyd

Dignity was the first quality to be abandoned when the heart took over the running of human affairs.

~William Boyd

I don't think they'll ever make a retro Bond.

~William Boyd

The last thing you know about yourself is your effect.

~William Boyd

There are things in life we don't understand, and when we meet them, all we can do is let them alone.

~William Boyd

I have taken refuge in the doctrine that advises one not to seek tranquility in certainty but in permanently suspended judgement.

~William Boyd

We keep a journal to entrap that collection of selves that forms us, the individual human being.

~William Boyd

Film is a medium of clear lines and broad strikes - which can be fantastic - but compared to the subtleties and nuances of a novel, it doesn't even get close.

~William Boyd

I have to start my real life soon, before I die of boredom and frustration.

~William Boyd

We talked filth for a pleasant half hour.

~William Boyd

Sometimes limbo is a tolerable place to be stuck.

~William Boyd

I know many older writers who were very successful and whose books are now out of print, so you have to go to antiquarian booksellers to buy their fifth or eighth novel or whatever it is.

~William Boyd

Do we change every time we have a new encounter? Are we endlessly mutable? I think these are fascinating questions: it's a rich vein to tap, and I don't think I have exhausted it fully yet.

~William Boyd

She's half mad and three parts drunk.

~William Boyd

Humankind can tolerate only so much rejection.

~William Boyd

We all possess, like it or not, the people we know, and are possessed by them in turn.

~William Boyd

I let people off the hook too easily.

~William Boyd

There's a sense in all my novels that nothing is certain.

~William Boyd

When you experience bereavement at a youngish age, you suddenly realise that life is unjust and unfair, that bad things will happen, and you

have to take that on board.

~William Boyd

There is a disconnect between the film Bond and the literary Bond which is their contemporaneity. I don't suffer from that.

~William Boyd

In some ways, you could argue, television is doing far more interesting work than the movies. It's more fulfilling.

~William Boyd

The last thing we ever learn about ourselves is our effect.

~William Boyd

To live as an artist requires hard work or some extraordinary good fortune to come your way.

~William Boyd

I have this lock of hair that keeps falling across my forehead. It drives me mad.

~William Boyd

My novels are often about people who are in love or attracted to each other.

~William Boyd

In the broad spectrum of the arts, two worlds rarely overlap - the literary world and the world of rock music.

~William Boyd

I tend to admire dead people more than the living. All too often, human reality diminishes the glowing reputation.

~William Boyd

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