

# William Finnegan

## Quotes

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I'm trying to find out what's actually true, which is nearly always something, if not a world of things, that you can't read in books.

~William Finnegan

You're after something - not a story, but a certain, exquisitely intense encounter with beauty - and the only way to find it is to tiptoe past the dragon's cave.

~William Finnegan

Hawaii is the birthplace of surfing, and many Hawaiians or part-Hawaiians surf, but in the rest of the United States it's a pretty white sport.

~William Finnegan

Memoir is a weird genre for a reporter. You end up investigating your own memories, reporting out your past.

~William Finnegan

I remember surfing in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, even Madeira, when local fishermen had never seen a surfboard before, and refused to believe that we could ride a wave on one.

~William Finnegan

The differences between the received wisdom, the standard version of events, and the facts on the ground may be subtle or they may be stark, even profound.

~William Finnegan

I always wanted to write. While I was on a long surf trip, supporting myself with various day jobs, I was working hard on a novel. My third novel, in fact.

~William Finnegan

It's so much harder than it looks - to conjure a fictional world that some

passing wolf of skepticism can't just blow down in one breath.

~William Finnegan

Even wars, big conflicts that have drawn a lot of news coverage, sometimes seem to me to have a center that hasn't been described, that might yet be glimpsed if approached from some odd angle.

~William Finnegan

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