

William Gibson

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Writing, Technology, Book, Fiction, Way, Culture, Years,
Real, Cities, Trying, Interesting, America, Long, Moving, Television, Jobs, Eye,
Cyberspace*

Before you diagnose yourself with depression or low self-esteem, first make sure that you are not, in fact, just surrounded by assholes.

~William Gibson

Time moves in one direction, memory in another.

~William Gibson

And, for an instant, she stared directly into those soft blue eyes and knew, with an instinctive mammalian certainty, that the exceedingly rich were no longer even remotely human.

~William Gibson

Generation X is dead. It has come to mean anyone aged 13 to 55 years old.

~William Gibson

I took Punk to be the detonation of some slow-fused projectile buried deep in society's flank a decade earlier, and I took it to be, somehow, a sign.

~William Gibson

The future has already arrived. It's just not evenly distributed yet.

~William Gibson

When you want to know how things really work, study them when they're coming apart.

~William Gibson

I think that technologies are morally neutral until we apply them. It's only when we use them for good or for evil that they become good or evil.

~William Gibson

Language is to the mind more than light is to the eye.

~William Gibson

People who feel safer with a gun than with guaranteed medical insurance don't yet have a fully adult concept of scary.

~William Gibson

We are that strange species that constructs artifacts intended to counter the natural flow of forgetting.

~William Gibson

The sky above the port was the color of television, tuned to a dead station.

~William Gibson

Cyberspace. A consensual hallucination experienced daily by billions of legitimate operators, in every nation, by children being taught mathematical concepts.

~William Gibson

We see in order to move; we move in order to see.

~William Gibson

The deadliest bullshit is odorless, and transparent.

~William Gibson

The street finds its own uses for things.

~William Gibson

The designers [of the 1930s] were populists, you see; they were trying to give the public what it wanted. What the public wanted was the future.

~William Gibson

You must learn to overcome your very natural and appropriate

revulsion for your own work.

~William Gibson

We're living in a future that's weirder than anybody except possibly.

~William Gibson

Five hours' New York jet lag and Cayce Pollard wakes in Camden Town to the dire and ever-circling wolves of disrupted circadian rhythm.

~William Gibson

It's impossible to move, to live, to operate at any level without leaving traces, bits, seemingly meaningless fragments of personal information.

~William Gibson

Sometimes, I feel like a time traveller, cause the only way that we can really travel in time is just to get older.

~William Gibson

The future is not Google-able.

~William Gibson

The 'Net is a waste of time.

~William Gibson

My problem is that all things are increasingly interesting to me

~William Gibson

I don't have to write about the future. For most people, the present is enough like the future to be pretty scary.

~William Gibson

Stand high long enough and your lightning will come.

~William Gibson

The Internet is part of this ongoing, species-long project we've been working on since we climbed down out of the trees in the savanna. We've been working on it without really knowing it.

~William Gibson

Gadgets are usually the last thing I think about, and if there's something new, I'll get to the store for the final shipment of the first generation when it's on sale. So I have last year's stuff.

~William Gibson

Dreaming in public is an important part of our job description, as science writers, but there are bad dreams as well as good dreams. We're dreamers, you see, but we're also realists, of a sort.

~William Gibson

I think I'd probably tell you that it's easier to desire and pursue the attention of tens of millions of total strangers than it is to accept the love and loyalty of the people closest to us.

~William Gibson

I wanted to make room for antiheroes.

~William Gibson

Laney had recently noticed that the only people who had titles that clearly described their jobs had jobs he wouldn't have wanted.

~William Gibson

If ignorance were enough to make things not exist, the world would be more like a lot of people think it is. But it's not. And it's not.

~William Gibson

Why shouldn't we give our teachers a license to obtain software, all software, any software, for nothing? Does anyone demand a licensing fee, each time a child is taught the alphabet?

~William Gibson

I have friends who go [Tokyo] frequently on business, and it sounds interesting. I've heard that they have for the first time serious drug problems.

~William Gibson

There must be some Tommy Hilfiger event horizon, beyond which it is impossible to be more derivative, more removed from the source, more devoid of soul.

~William Gibson

His teeth sang in their individual sockets like tuning forks, each one pitch-perfect and clear as ethanol.

~William Gibson

Cyberspace. A consensual hallucination.

~William Gibson

The box was a universe, a poem, frozen on the boundaries of human experience.

~William Gibson

A book exists at the intersection of the author's subconscious and the reader's response.

~William Gibson

Upon arriving in the capital-F Future, we discover it, invariably, to be the lower-case now.

~William Gibson

Genuinely ubiquitous computing spreads like warm Vaseline.

~William Gibson

To present a whole world that doesn't exist and make it seem real, we have to more or less pretend we're polymaths. That's just the act of all good writing.

~William Gibson

I only go to Japan when there's someone who can afford to bring me there, and consequently I may never go again!

~William Gibson

I'd always maintained that much of the anarchy and craziness of the early internet had a lot to do with the fact that governments just hadn't realised it was there.

~William Gibson

You needed a new pancreas. The one we bought for you frees you from a dangerous dependency.â€• â€œThanks, but I was enjoying that dependency.

~William Gibson

Secrets...are the very root of cool.

~William Gibson

The future is there... looking back at us. Trying to make sense of the fiction we will have become.

~William Gibson

For years I have been mourning and not for my dead, it is for this boy for whatever corner in my heart died when his childhood slid out of my arms.

~William Gibson

We have no future because our present is too volatile. We have only risk management. The spinning of the given moment's scenarios. Pattern recognition.

~William Gibson

The most common human act that writing a novel resembles is lying. The working novelist lies daily, very complexly, and at great length.

~William Gibson

There are bits of the literal future right here, right now, if you know how to look for them.

~William Gibson

Things aren't different. Things are things.

~William Gibson

Fiction is an illusion wrought with many small, conventionally symbolic marks, triggering visions in the minds of others

~William Gibson

Dreaming in public is an important part of our job description.

~William Gibson

Damien is a friend. Their boy-girl Lego doesn't click, he would say.

~William Gibson

I've never actually been a collector. I like the learning-curve, but I buy things, sell them to finance other things.

~William Gibson

I'm not a very intentional writer. I try to be as unintentional as possible. What I basically try to do is invite the zeitgeist in to tea.

~William Gibson

Naps are essential to my process. Not dreams, but that state adjacent to sleep, the mind on waking.

~William Gibson

Somewhere, deep within her, surfaces a tiny clockwork submarine. There are times when you can only take the next step. And then another.

~William Gibson

Canadian cities looked the way American cities did on television.

~William Gibson

Enlightenment is "being," and it grows; its end is serenity.

~William Gibson

Every shop in every High Street in Europe is filled with basically the same stuff. There's a street in every city of the world that has a Gap and Benneton's, and the upscale versions of those.

~William Gibson

I don't much live my life as if I was living in a Raymond Chandler novel, which is probably a good thing.

~William Gibson

You can get in a cab in Vancouver and the 20-year-old driver speaks more knowingly of Michael Ovitz than anyone in the industry. They just know! And it's perhaps not unhealthy.

~William Gibson

Cyberspace is where you are when you're on the telephone.

~William Gibson

Time is money, but also money is money.

~William Gibson

He took a duck in the face at 250 knots.

~William Gibson

I've always been interested in people who aren't from anywhere in particular. I think it's all melting. This has been true for as long as I can remember in my adult life.

~William Gibson

It was hot, the night we burned Chrome.

~William Gibson

I don't begin a novel with a shopping list - the novel becomes my shopping list as I write it.

~William Gibson

I started writing short fiction very briefly, as I imagine is the case for some novelists.

~William Gibson

Three in the morning. Making yourself a cup of coffee in the dark, using a flashlight when you pour the boiling water.

~William Gibson

I'm quite good friends with the putative director, Vincenzo Natali, and I'm a big fan of his work, but beyond that, I don't like to talk about other people's work work-in-progress.

~William Gibson

Futurists get to a certain age and, as one does, they suddenly recognize their own mortality.

~William Gibson

I think the least important thing about science fiction for me is its predictive capacity.

~William Gibson

His smile was the nightmare in my back pocket.(Speaking about

Ronald Reagan)

~William Gibson

His eyes were eggs of unstable crystal, vibrating with a frequency whose name was rain and the sound of trains, suddenly sprouting a humming forest of hair-fine glass spines.

~William Gibson

The present tense made him nervous.

~William Gibson

[The currency of being celebrity] used to be only the elect had any manna in the information society and everyone else was a consumer.

~William Gibson

Occasionally if I look back at something I've written I'll find one of those that I don't understand, but that's a bad thing - the unconscious has dealt me a bad hand.

~William Gibson

The experience of celebrity is gradually being democratized.

~William Gibson

I buried everything under layers and layers and layers of code, but the signifiers of my emotionality were there, for me.

~William Gibson

We live in an age of seriously crap mass clothing. They've made a science of it.

~William Gibson

I think with one exception I've never changed an opening sentence after a book was completed.

~William Gibson

I very seldom compose anything in my head which later finds its way into text, except character names sometimes - I'm often very much inspired by things that I misunderstand.

~William Gibson

I realized that everyone in Western society, in some weird way, believes that they've had the experience of producing feature films.

~William Gibson

What we're doing pop culturally is like burning the rain forest. The biodiversity of pop culture is really, really in danger.

~William Gibson

The past is past, the future unformed. There is only the moment, and that is where he prefers to be.

~William Gibson

That's something that tends to happen with new technologies generally: The most interesting applications turn up on a battlefield, or in a gallery.

~William Gibson

I do not think an enormous permanent underclass is a very good thing to have if you're attempting to operate something that at least pretends sometimes to be a democracy.

~William Gibson

I'm embarrassed if I think anyone knows exactly what I paid for something, or even where I got it. I want what I'm wearing to feel good on, wear well, and to be extremely functional.

~William Gibson

Some very considerable part of the gestural language of public places that had once belonged to cigarettes now belonged to phones.

~William Gibson

The written word still enjoyed a certain prestige here. It was a sluggish country.

~William Gibson

She walked on, comforted by the surf, by the one perpetual moment of beach-time, the now-and-always of it.

~William Gibson

I think science fiction gives us a wonderful toolkit to disassemble and reexamine this kind of incomprehensible, constantly changing present that we live in, that we often live in quite uncomfortably.

~William Gibson

Lost, so small amid that dark, hands grown cold, body image fading down corridors of television sky.

~William Gibson

The future is already upon us, it is just unevenly distributed.

~William Gibson

We monitor many frequencies. We listen always. Came a voice, out of the babel of tongues, speaking to us. It played us a mighty dub.

~William Gibson

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