

stray things hits

As a matter of fact, all through my period of interment I noticed this tendency on the part of the Germans to start our little expeditions off with a whoop and a rush and then sort of lose interest. It reminded me of Hollywood. When you are engaged to work at Hollywood, you get a cable saying that it is absolutely vital that you be there by ten o'clock on the morning of June the first. Ten-five will be too late, and as for getting there on June the second, that means ruin to the industry. So you rush about and leap into aeroplanes, and at ten o'clock on June the first you are at the studio, being told that you cannot see your employer now, as he has gone to Palm Springs. Nothing happens after this till October the twentieth, when you are given an assignment and told that every moment is precious.

P.G. Wodehouse

Possibly, thought I. But my cursory friend, accustomed to quick transactions and to things accepted "on the nod," had not proved his case to my slower, more literary intelligence.

Max Beerbohm, Seven Men

Forebears lodge deeper in us than we realize. That sentence deserves to be read twice.

Ernst Junger, Aladdin's Problem

A child accepts the codes of behaviour that are presented to it, even when it breaks them.

George Orwell, "Such Such Were the Joys"

Let our positions be polarized so that matters may be confronted. And let us drop the lazy idea that any midpoint is the superior position of vantage. The truth cannot lie, but if it could, it would lie somewhere in between.

Christopher Hitchens