The White Tiger Quotes

I’m a man of action and change. p. 3

I am tomorrow. p. 4

I’d never been given a name. p. 10

I was born and raised in Darkness. p. 11

Understand, now, how hard it is for a man to win his freedom in India. p. 16

My father was a poor man, but he was a man of honor and courage. p. 19

He [the father] chose to fight it. p. 23

Balram’s father: “My whole life, I have been treated like a donkey. All I want is that one son of mine - at least one - should live like a man.” p. 26

He [the poster picture of Balram] could be half the men in India. p. 34

Iqbal: They remain slaves because they can’t see what is beautiful in this world. p. 34

I tried many more times, yet I was such a coward that each time I tried to go up, I lost my nerve and came back. p. 35

I protected his good name when I was his servant, and now that I am (in a sense) his master, I won’t stop protecting his good name. p. 39

I did my job with near total dishonesty, lack of dedication and insincerity - and so the tea shop was a profoundly enriching experience. p. 43

The road is a jungle. p. 48

Halwai, my name, means, “sweet-maker.” That’s my caste - my destiny. p. 53

Why was I lean and dark and cunning, and not fat and creamy-skinned and smiling? p. 53

Above all, I got the thing that we who grow up in the Darkness value most of all. A uniform. p. 57

Kisan had changed....He had become, all of a sudden, my father. p. 73

Ashok: We shouldn’t let him treat us like this anymore - like we’re his slaves. p. 89

A Ticking Mind Resource
Part of me wanted to get up and apologize to him right there...p. 93

In those master’s eyes, I saw the most unexpected emotion. Pity. p. 102

We were like two separate cities - inside and outside the egg [of the car]...I was in some way out of the car too, even while I was driving it. p. 116

My...master...was weak, helpless, absent minded, and completely unprotected by the usual instincts that run in the blood of a landlord. p. 120

People were always taking advantage of him. p. 137

Ashok: She was one of those people. p. 140

A handful of men in this country have trained the remaining 99.9 percent - as strong, as talented, as intelligent in every way - to exist in perpetual servitude. p. 149

Who would have thought...that of the whole family, the lady with the short skirt would be the one with the conscience. p. 153

The landlord inside him wasn’t dead after all. p. 155

Baby, I thought, rubbing his back as he heaved and threw up one more time, you big, pathetic baby. p. 161

Do we loathe our masters behind a face of love - or do we love them behind a facade of loathing? p. 160

Ashok: I had nothing but this driver in front of me for five nights. Now at least I have someone real by my side. p. 161

Once the master of the Honda City becomes corrupted, how can the driver stay innocent? p. 167

Vitiligo-Lips: All the masters are the same. p. 171

Mr. Ashok said nothing - just sat there sucking his whiskey like a boy with soda. p. 185

Mr. Ashok walked behind them and kept looking from side to side, like a guilty boy about to do something very bad. p. 187

Vitiligo-Lips: White skin has to be respected. p. 193

The more I stole from him, the more I realized how much he had stolen from me. p. 196
I am my own master. p. 197

The rich always get the best things in life, and all that we get is the leftovers. p. 198

She gave me a big smile - I knew it well: it was the smile a servant gives a master. p. 199

Ashok: My way of living is all wrong...but I don’t have the courage to change it. I just don’t have the...balls. p. 202

That was when it struck me that there really was no difference between the two of them. They were both their father’s seed. p. 206

The rich have won the war for ten thousand years. p. 217

I saw him take out a thousand-rupee note, put it back, then take out a five-hundred, then put it back, and take out a hundred. Which he handed me. p. 220

These people were building homes for the rich, but they lived in tents covered with blue tarpaulin sheets. p. 222

I can’t live the rest of my life in a cage, Granny. p. 239

I really didn’t want him to think, even in the two or three minutes he had left to live, that I was that kind of driver. p. 243

I was just getting my revenge in advance. p. 245

I don’t insult any of them by calling them “family”...I’m their boss, that’s all. p. 259

Here, if a man wants to be good, he can be good. In Laxmangarh, he doesn’t even have this choice. This is the difference between this India and that India: the choice. p. 263

The assistant commissioner...was the worst kind of man...But he was my scum. p. 264

I don’t like showing weakness in front of my employees. p. 269

I am in the Light now. p. 269

I am just one who has woken while the rest of you are sleeping. p. 270

It may turn out to be a decent city, where humans can live like humans and animals can live like animals. A new Bangalore for a new India. And then I can say that, in my own way, I helped to make New Bangalore. p. 273
Haven’t I succeeded in the struggle that every poor man here should be making - the struggle not to take the lashes your father took....?

Isn’t it likely that everyone who counts in this world...has killed someone or other on their way to the top? p. 273

The Rooster Coop needs people like me to break out of it. It needs masters like Mr. Ashok - who, for all his numerous virtues, was not much of a master - to be weeded out, and exceptional servants like me to replace him. p. 275

I think I am ready to have children. p. 276