

## 'Stasiland' Quotes

### Chapter 1 - Winter, 1996 Berlin

"Country spools past in black and white."

"A place lost in time." "

"...grey concrete designed to make people feel small."

The Stasi "...know everything about everyone using any means it chose".

"A bureaucracy metastasised through East German society."

"Obsessed with detail, the Stasi entirely failed to predict the end of Communism, and with it the end of the country."

"Stories from this land gone wrong."

### Chapter 2 - Miriam

"It was an experiment and it failed."

"No one is interested in these people."

"The whole Stasi thing... it's sort of ... embarrassing."

"At that time it was not harmless. It was a crime of sedition."

"...they break you, just like fiction."

### Chapter 3 - Bornholmer Bridge

The wall "cut a strange wound through the city".

"If she had any future it was over there and she needed to get to it."

"She came so close."

"It was very hard to be sure of anything, of anyone."

"Everyone suspected everyone else."

### Chapter 4 - Charlie

"When I got out of prison, I was basically no longer human."

"Perhaps they beat something out of her she didn't get back."

"There was really just the party and its instrument, the Stasi."

"I stopped thinking I would ever get out. They were playing with me like a mouse."

"The deportation came 11 years too late and 6 months too early."

"For Miriam, the past stopped when Charlie died."

"You know, they just want to stop thinking about the past. They want to pretend it all didn't happen."

"She is brave and strong and broken all at once."

### Chapter 5 - The Linoleum Palace

"...continues to contain all the necessities for life, at the same time as it refuses to admit a single thing, either accidentally or arranges, of beauty or of joy. In this, I think, it is much like East Germany itself."

"To remember or to forget. Which is healthier?"

"Massive act of ideological redecoration."

### Chapter 6 - Stasi HQ

"The most perfected surveillance state of all time."

### Chapter 7 - The Smell of Old Men

"What were the dangers of knowing?"

"It was just my job."

"... it took 40 years to create two very different kinds of Germans."

## Chapter 8 - Telephone Calls

"...you were right, Capitalism is even worse than you told us it would be."  
"Does telling your story mean you are free of it? Or that you go, fettered, into the future?"

## Chapter 9 - Julia has No Story

"There were no drunks before the Wall came down... No one was homeless as they are now."  
Julia - "part of the fortunate younger generation which could catch up with its western contemporaries."  
"Behrends were ambivalent about their country."  
"In the GDR people were required to acknowledge an assortment of fictions as fact."  
"East Germans were not the Germans responsible for the Holocaust."  
"The GDR was a multi-party democracy."  
"I think one could count him (Dieter) too as a victim of the regime."  
"...part attached to the world."

## Chapter 10 - The Italian Boyfriend

"I live in a dictatorship, so that's just how it is."  
"GDR logic"  
"Julia Behrend had fallen into the gap between the GDR's fiction and its reality."

## Chapter 11 - Major N

"He knew everything about me."  
"To listen to her is to witness the process, almost mechanical, of pulling things up from the past."  
"...it's the total surveillance that damaged me the worst."  
"I realised for the first time that it wasn't really the good father state you had in the back of your mind."  
"It's not ever, really, over."

## Chapter 12 - The Lipsi

"They're all around us."  
"Good luck in Stasiland."  
"Not a damn turncoat like the rest of them these days."  
"...how this man turned inhumanity into humanity." - Propoganda/ Spin

## Chapter 13 - Von Schni

"It was absolutely necessary."  
"It was the most useful construction in all of Germany history."

## Chapter 14 - The Worse You Feel

"I can't have structure imposed on me."  
"The end of the security state meant the end, too, of her personal security."  
"The system which had imprisoned her had also, somehow, protected her."  
"So, this is orderly chaos."

## Chapter 15 - Herr Christian

"In Berlin they had to know everything."  
"Bunkers for the Stasi to save themselves in and repopulate the earth."

"Anyone can have an affair, but everything must be reported."

## **Chapter 16 - Socialist Man**

"You had to be chosen."

"In the context of my father, and of the propaganda of the Cold War - the GDR was like a religion."

"Almost overnight the Germans in the eastern states... made themselves, innocent of Nazism."

"History was so quickly remade."

## **Chapter 17 - Drawing the Line**

"When the wall was built in 1961 I thought it was something we had to do because they were robbing us blind."

"Koch says his thinking was orthodox for the time."

"The GDR was haemorrhaging."

"Only a small part of the most colourful section remains, like a gaudy headstone."

"...the repeated negative influence of Frau Koch."

## **Chapter 18 - The Plate**

"Working Group on Plate re-Procurement."

"Germany was reunited and East Germany was a place in the past."

## **Chapter 19 - Klaus**

"This society - it was built on lies."

"We are here to inform you today, that you don't exist anymore."

"I didn't let them get to me."

## **Chapter 20 - Herr Bock of Golm**

"Most often people were approached would inform for us. It was very rare that they would not."

"Informers got the feeling that doing it they were somebody."

"We never thought, no one ever thought, that it would all come to an end."

## **Chapter 21 - Frau Paul**

"I'm not your classic resistance fighter."

## **Chapter 22 - The Deal**

"...in less than one generation this scar was invisible."

"It is so hard to know what kind of mortgage our acts put on our future."

## **Chapter 23 - Hohenschoenhausen**

"She had been taken out of time and out of place."

"The picture she had of herself is one the Stasi made for her."

"It's the small things that make you cry."

"R is not suited for an unofficial collaboration with the ministry." - Torsten's Stasi file.

"Maur im Kopf"

Torsten "crooked and crippled and living for the day".

## **Chapter 24 - Herr Bohnsack**

"They were all reduced to playing soldiers."

"For me that was the most terrifying thing. That... we'd have to shoot our own people." - there were similarities with what happened under Hitler.

"I have none [friends]. I've fallen between two stools, you might say."

## **Chapter 25 - Berlin, Spring 2000**

"What good is freedom to travel when I can't afford to go."

## **Chapter 26 - The Wall**

"They had to build the apartments around it [the tower]."

"Herr Koch is a lone crusader against forgetting."

## **Chapter 27 - Puzzlers**

"It is something between a hobby farm for jigsaw enthusiasts and a sheltered workshop for obsessives."

"It gives those affected and insight into their own lives."

"It is about a system that so manipulated people that it drove them to do these things. It shows how people can be used against one another."

"They wanted to put everything into their narrow schema, but life simply didn't fit into it."

"To reconstruct everything it would take 40 workers 375 years."

## **Chapter 28 - Miriam and Charlie**

"Miriam has lost faith in this investigation."

"Underneath the need to know, is the need for justice."

"...children spin on swings and roundabouts I never noticed were there."