Quarter Life Crisis or How to Get Over College and Become a Functioning Member of Society

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Coming of age -- Fiction

Abstract
As a writer, I feel like dealing with conflict in real life is the best way to deal with conflict in my fiction. Quarter-Life Crisis or How to Get Over College and Become a Functioning Member of Society, while a fictional novel, is very much about many of the conflicts I've experienced over the past few years. Sean Easton is a twenty-five year old college graduate living in Miami, trying to balance out his life in a world that doesn't make as much sense to him as it did when he first graduated college, happy and looking forward to the future. Suffering through the aftermath of a major breakup as well as the death of his best friend, Sean is in the midst of a year-long alcohol binge when we are introduced to him, a period of time characterized by sporadic bouts of self-loathing interlaced with sardonic internal dialogue directed towards the world at large. Sean's story eventually intersects with the second protagonist in Quarter Life Crisis, Lauren Ellis. Lauren is a twenty-four year old college dropout turned pharmacy technician. When we are introduced to her, Lauren's life is characterized by her child—Justin—and her husband Rick. Rick's a mechanic, and he, Lauren, and their son are all living a comfortably mundane life until the day Lauren comes home to find Rick having sex with eighteen year old Natalie, Justin's babysitter. From there, Lauren's entire life is thrown into disarray, forcing her to confront desires and dreams she had previously filed away in the mental category of “lost.” Together, Sean and Lauren represent a large portion of our society, a generation of individuals entering their mid- and late-twenties in the new millennium. Many of them have been told to dream big and aim high throughout their entire lives, that the next four years will be the best of their lives. And then the next four years. A few of us fulfill these dreams. Most don't, and in a time when acquiring a college degree has become more an expectation than an accomplishment, Sean Easton and Lauren Ellis are two of many that are defined by their uncertainty as to where their place in society is. Quarter Life Crisis follows their journey from complete uncertainty to little less uncertain, bringing their lifelong dreams into direct conflict with what they are actually capable of achieving. Though the circumstances of Sean and Lauren's shifts in character are both distinct, their mentality and outlook on love and life are similar. In the end, they both find a balance that gives them hope for happiness which, they both realize, is the most they can really get in the long run. The underlying theme of Quarter Life Crisis or How to Get Over College and Become a Functioning Member of Society is that college has become a fixture in American upbringing. The novel isn't saying this is a good or bad thing, just that it is something that hangs over everybody in the current generation's heads growing up, whether they attend college or not. The novel is an attempt to examine how people function in the new millennium after reaching the point in their life when college is no longer a factor, when they are thrown into the real world and told to fend for themselves. It's the story of how two people end up doing exactly that, and the hellish process they go through to get to that point.

Notes
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Graduation Date
2011

Semester
Summer

Advisor
Rushin, Pat

Degree
Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.)
And became the director of something, or made so much money that they paid off all their loans? Or were able to balance a really successful career and having a huge beautiful family? Why wasn't I married with children and a rewarding career by age twenty-five? If you landed a job out of college, this would become a path towards a career. Well, that's not so today either – many, many studies show that Millennials hold several jobs in furtherance of their career, as opposed to staying in just one place for a long time. Tell us about your Quarter Life Crisis! Or if you don't believe in it, what do you find hard to believe about a Quarter Life Crisis? Do you think I was overly narrow in my categories, or do you agree? Please comment, share your thoughts and let me know what you think. How is Quarter Life Crisis (band) abbreviated? QLC stands for Quarter Life Crisis (band). QLC is defined as Quarter Life Crisis (band) frequently. 

author of Quarter Life Crisis or How To Get Over College And Become A Functioning Member Of Society, has started both a blog and Youtube channel on the subject of post college troubles for recent college graduates, available at http://www. Creative Writing MFA Alumni Patrick Anderson Jr. Uses Humor, Satire You’ve heard of the mid-life crisis, now comes a new social malady - the quarter life crisis. salon talk. A book called Get it Together, which is about how to survive your quarter life crisis. Family Life: Shopping Secrets.