



***Generation What?: Dispatches from the Quarter-Life Crisis***

Edited by Bess Vanrenen

With essays by Erika T. Wurth, Matt Farwell, Caitlin Dougherty, Courney E. Martin, Catherine Strawn, Kate Orgovnick, Nick Burd, Justin Maki, Jared Jacang Maher, Joshua M. Bernstein, Hal Niedzviecki, Jennifer Banash, Harmon Leon, Mark Dye, Vince Darcangelo & Rebecca Landwehr

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**Life Is Hard for Twentysomethings**

*New collection of essays bring real issues of the Quarter-Life Crisis to the Forefront*

What better way to listen to what twentysomethings have to say than to read their stories? Given the opportunity to vent, vent they will but rather than reading some whining kid's rant you'll find that these *people* can write. Theirs is prose that friends can relate to, prose that parents will be able to see themselves in, prose that will bridge the gap between generations, and prose that will help a soul in flux ultimately find itself.

The stories contained in this anthology are heartfelt, at times hilarious, sometimes unsettling, but always honest. And according to Vanrenen, there's more that can be done for the quarter-life crisis than psychological analysis—sharing stories, relating to one another, and learning from the experiences of our peers will go a long way towards making the transition from adolescence to adulthood just a bit easier.

Making this compilation a must-read are contributions by accomplished writers such as **Jennifer Banash** author of *Hollywoodland: An American Fairy Tale*; **Mark R. Dye** author of *College and the Art of Partying*; **Harmon Leon** author of *The Harmon Chronicles*, *Republican Like Me*, and *The Infiltrator*; **Jared Jacang Maher** author of *Life and Limb: Skateboarders Write from the Deep End*; **Courtney Martin** author of *Perfect Girls*, *Starving Daughters: The Frightening Normalcy of Hating Your Body*; **Hal Niedzviecki** author of *Hello, I'm Special: How Individuality Became the New Conformity*, *The Program*, and *We Want Some Too: Underground Desire and the Reinvention of Mass Culture*; and **Kate Torgovnich** author of *Making the Castle: A Year in the Extreme World of College Cheerleading*. Essayists also include editors from *Jane* magazine and contributors to *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, *Bust*, *Adbusters*, and *Plenty*.

In the past decade there have been several highly successful books written about the quarter-life crisis but all are self-help in nature. *Generation What?* editor Bess Vanrenen has compiled a literary anthology that is accessible, fun, and an enlightening read for every twentysomething going through a crises of their own and for anyone who recalls that their own path from childhood to adulthood wasn't exactly easy.

Bess Vanrenen lives and writes in Denver. To anyone seeking out a quarter-life crisis she recommends graduate school.

Speck Press is an independent press exploring cultures and subcultures through nonfiction and crime fiction books—revealing scenes that are typically invisible to the casual observer.

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