



Twentysomething Essays by Twentysomething Writers: The Best New Voices of 2006

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Selected as the winners of Random House's national contest, a stunning collection of essays ranging from comic to poignant, personal to political, by the newest, brightest young writers you haven't heard of . . . yet.

Here, for the first time, current twentysomethings come together on their own terms, in their own words, and begin to define this remarkably diverse and self-aware generation. Tackling an array of subjects—career, family, sex, religion, technology, art—they form a vibrant, unified community while simultaneously proving that there is no typical twentysomething experience.

In this collection, a young father works the late-night shift at Wendy's, learning the finer points of status, teamwork, and french fries. An artist's nude model explains why she's happy to be viewed as an object. An international relief worker wrestles with his choices as he starts to resent the very people who need his help the most. A devout follower of Joan Didion explains what New York means to her. And a young army engineer spends his time in Kuwait futilely trying to grow a mustache like his dad's.

With grace, wit, humor, and urgency, these writers invite us into their lives and into their heads.

Twentysomething Essays by Twentysomething Writers is a rich, provocative read as well as a bold statement from a generation just now coming into its own.

Praise for *Twentysomething Essays by Twentysomething Writers*

“Being in your twenties is weird. The world tells you you’re a grown-up, but damn if you feel like one. With 29 sharply observant and well-written snapshots of life between the ages of 19 and 30, *Twentysomething Essays by Twentysomething Writers* couldn’t have captured this more perfectly.”

—*Nylon*

“You’ll devour this compilation of essays by funny, smart, insightful young writers in just a few hours.”

—*Jane Magazine*

“[*Twentysomething Essays by Twentysomething Writers* offers] a wide variety of experience. . . . If we are still looking for a voice for this generation, I’d nominate this eclectic choir instead.”

—*Orlando Sentinel*

“[Ranging] from playful and absurd to poignant and earnest . . . [*Twentysomething Essays by Twentysomething Writers* is] a bold reminder that this generation is extremely diverse and very capable. . . . These essays will speak to you no matter your age.”

—*Austinist.com*

“Delightful . . . Whether admitting they are only just beginning to see their own parents as people or struggling to balance graduate study and parenthood, the essayists blend morbid irony and idealism. . . . This highly readable collection of voices is more assured and memorable than one might have expected from such a venture.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“Earnest, honest, and well-written . . . a propitious look at writers coming of age right now, and it’s a pleasant surprise.”

—*The Phoenix* (Boston)

“A slice of Gen Y life: everything from OCD, rape, and depression to a nude-art-class model, online communities, and how to find (and keep) a drummer. Pick up your copy.”

—*stuff@night* (Boston)

“The essays . . . have an urgency, an immediacy, even as the subject matter runs the gamut from sex to death.”

—*Los Angeles Times Book Review*

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