

Overqualified

Von Joey Comeau

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Joey Comeau
March 29.

Dear Goodyear,

I'd like a job, please. You probably don't hire strangers. I used to climb mountains of your tires in my grandfather's salvage yard. My name's Joey Comeau. There, now we aren't strangers anymore.

It's Joey, not Joe or Joseph. My grandfather was Joe Comeau, and Joseph is my mother's name for me, so I have always been Joey. I worry sometimes that it's a childish name. Would a 'Joe' tell jokes in bed, perform puppet shows after sex, and give every body part a different high-pitched voice? It seems unlikely. The names we choose for ourselves aren't beanstaplers. They are self-fulfilling prophecies.

No, I'm Joey and I will never be Joe. When my grandfather died, I lost my chance to know him as anything more than a kiss on the cheek and a drive to the video store. I remember his oxygen tank, and his chair in the living room. Every night at seven or eight o'clock my grandfather would move to the kitchen and pour himself a glass of wine from a box, because it was time for wrestling and the TV was his for hours. Their furniture was all old dark brown, and it hid lost dimes and nickels. My grandmother lives in another city now, with new furniture, and I wonder if every night at seven or eight o'clock, she still finds something else to do. She hated wrestling.

I remember how even after he sold the salvage yard, he ran an alternator rebuilding shop out of the garage. He lost money, and I think it worried my grandmother, but he always had something to do. When we did talk, it was as if I could help him with his parts database on the computer. I remember how excited he was with the features, the index and photographs and how he never seemed frustrated when something went wrong with the program. He would call me and tell me the error message to see if I could help. I was always surprised by the call.

My brother Adrian lived with them for a while, after he was kicked out of our house. Far out in Dartmouth, an hour from the nearest bus stop. Every day he would get a drive in town, or at least to the ferry with our grandfather. When he was living there I'm sure that things weren't perfect, but Adrian formed a closer relationship with my grandmother. That's what I was jealous of at the time. He told me once that she said he was her favourite grandson. I understand that now. How nice would it be, after your children are gone, to have your grandson living with you?

My grandfather was driving Adrian into Halifax a few years ago, and it was either rainy or snowy. I can't remember. A man staggered into the street, drunk, and they hit him. I remember Adrian telling me about sitting quietly in the car, my grandfather crying, while they waited for the ambulance to come.

What a strange thing to be jealous of.


Joey Comeau



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Von Joey Comeau : Overqualified before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Overqualified:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Mit 40 Briefen 1 Geschichte erzählen Von frontsidekante Overqualified ist das erste J. Comeau Buch, das ich die Hand genommen habe. Die kurzen Bewerbungsanschriften kann man in einem Ruck durchlesen oder aber fein dosieren. Ich hatte mich für letzteres entschieden und las nun abends 1-2 davon. Manche fand ich enorm witzig, andere eher bedrückend und viele waren sogar beides. Das Geniale war für mich vor allem die Verdichtung zu einer zusammenhängenden Geschichte, die zwischen den Zeilen der einzelnen Briefe herauszulesen war. Wer gern lustig-traurig-scurrile Geschichten liest, dem sei dieses Buch und Joey Comeau im Allgemeinen empfohlen. Außerdem ein guter Indikator: asofterworld.com - bei wem sich beim Durchsehen der Webcomics ein bitteres Grinsen einstellt, wird die Bcher auch mögen. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren, ich

bin ein Individuum Von Speidamen Ausgezeichnet, einzigartig. Dies ist natrlich keine zusammenhngende Erzhlung im engeren Sinn - der einzige Zusammenhang der Bewerbungsschreiben sind das Leben und die Persnlichkeit des Autors, von dem in jedem Schreiben ein kleines Stck preisgegeben wird. Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren, ich bin ein Individuum, und ich lege keinen Wert darauf in Ihre idiotischen Schablonen zu passen. Mit freundlichen Gren...0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Falsche Erwartungen Von K. P. Ferk Vor einigen Jahren habe ich "A softer world" verfolgt aber irgendwann aus den Augen verloren. Erst durch "Overqualified" bin ich wieder darauf gestoen. "A softer world" ist groartig. Dieses Buch ist es nicht. Die Geschichten selbst sind teilweise ganz gut. Manche lustig, einige zum Nachdenken. Die Verpackung als Bewerbungsschreiben ist allerdings komplett milungen. Immer wieder wartet man auf einen Bezug zur angeschriebenen Firma aber nur selten gibt es ihn (ein guten Tag und eine Geschichte aus dem Leben). Vielleicht wrde das Buch als Kurzgeschichtensammlung funktionieren oder als Geschichten die jemand einem Baarkeeper erzht, so allerdings hinterlst es aber eher eine gewisse Unzufriedenheit. In einer knappen Stunde hat man's dann durch. Wahrscheinlich der Grund, warum ich es fertig gelesen habe. Vielleicht sollte man sich die Geschichten einzeln und stckweise zu Gemte fhren, dennoch: fr mich war es enttuschend und ich kann es wirklich nicht empfehlen.

Kurzbeschreibung A startling work of fiction told through job application cover letters. Looking for work is an exercise in selling oneself, writing cover letter after cover letter, detailing why one is valuable in a buyer's market and leaving any mistakes of the past unmentioned. Maybe, one day, one snaps just a little - but then sends the letter anyway. Funny and outrageous, Overqualified is a truly original work of fiction - a novel like no other. Pressestimmen "There have been spoof letter-writing books in the past, like "The Lazlo Letters" by Don Novello (a.k.a. Father Guido Sarducci) and several that followed. While [this] protagonist in is just as unhinged as his predecessors, he's significantly less giddy. A real story unfolds in these pages, about a departed brother and the sibling left behind. It's sad and fragmented and, in places, funny. This slender epistolary novel is charming." --"Los Angeles Times" Jacket Copy online "Unlike anything you've ever read. Each of Joey Comeau's letters comments, sometimes subtly, sometimes not, on the emptiness of the system . . . while it simultaneously reveals the humor, beauty, and pain that is all else in life." -- About.com "A collection of wry, clever and demoniacal job-application letters, teeming with knife-edged malice and stomach-tearing hilarity . . . Successfully deludes the fear of the faceless corporate entity by empowering the faceless applicant." --"Globe and Mail" "A sometimes-hilarious, sometimes-crushingly sad romp through a man's swelling nihilism and disenchantment. --MonstersAndCritics.com "Joey Comeau's collection of real cover letters, "Overqualified, " is pretty much sui generis. Not to mention sweetly written, bitter and bitterly funny . . . One of the season's most remarkable books." --Macleans.ca "Overqualified"'s cover letters are like a slap in the face, but the slap is hilarious, and you can't stop laughing, and as soon as it's over you want to tell all your friends about the slap. You know the kind?" --Ryan North, Dinosaur Comics "Joey Comeau has made the unreadable not just readable, but beguiling in its digressions and personal revelations." --Eye Magazine "Joey Comeau's "Overqualified" is Judy Blume's "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret" as chewed up and spit out by J. G. Ballard. . . . A book whose melancholy is leavened by a surprising hilarity." --Paul Di Filippo, author, "The Steampunk Trilogy" and "Cosmocopia" Kurzbeschreibung A startling work of fiction told through job application cover letters. Looking for work is an exercise in selling oneself, writing cover letter after cover letter, detailing why one is valuable in a buyer's market and leaving any mistakes of the past unmentioned. Maybe, one day, one snaps just a little - but then sends the letter anyway. Funny and outrageous, Overqualified is a truly original work of fiction - a novel like no other.