

(Get free) Once I Was Cool: Personal Essays

Once I Was Cool: Personal Essays

Megan Stielstra

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#277379 in Books 2014-05-20Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.75 x 5.50 x .501, .65 #File Name:
194043002X200 pages | File size: 37.Mb

Megan Stielstra : Once I Was Cool: Personal Essays before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Once I Was Cool: Personal Essays:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I wanna be this cool!By Dianna SandoraOnce I Was Cool was such a pleasure to read. It made me laugh, cry and most importantly made me look at essay writing in a new way. Unfortunately, my experience with essay writing up to this point has been pretty terrifying. While reading the essays in Once I Was Cool, I felt as though she had invited me to come over to her house, and pop open a cold one and talk

about her life. Each story was so engaging that I began to think about similar things that I did or wished that I would have done. I imagined what it would have been like growing up with her, the sister we both wanted, but never had. I loved that this book has both humorous and serious stories that captivated me. For example, in "Felt Like Something," it became more than just a story to me, this was my friend Megan sharing her heart with me. I think part of what helped me to be so engaged was that there was just the right amount of description to cause my imagination to fill in the pieces. At first glance, it seems that the order of each essay was random, but after reading them, I believe that they were placed to make me want to know more. By the time I got to "Can I Buy You a Drink," I was emotionally invested in her safety. Each piece helped me to become so engaged with Megan and her life that I wanted to find other books that she had written and to look up Kafka because she spoke so highly of him. I am confident that I would enjoy taking a class with her. I hope that she decides to write an entire book on how to write entertaining essays, because I would buy it. I am glad that I read this book because it helped me to look at my life and my writing differently. While I have not traveled the world like she has, I know that I have my fair share of entertaining and thoughtful stories to tell. During the 2014 Sanibel Writer's Conference in Florida, I had the chance to meet Megan and she was exactly the way that I imagined that she would be.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The humanity in the tiny cracks
By David W. Berner I love this book. Megan is a master storyteller with a razor-sharp wit and a poet's heart. She cuts through the chaff to get to the true essence of each of these marvelously told stories, allowing the reader to feel so viscerally every single emotion - and there are lots of them. Sure, I laughed and cried when I read these essays, but that's the clichéd response, right? What Megan does that makes these so very true stories so very rich is that she finds the subtle nuances in the cracks between the "laughing" and the "crying" -- those wonderfully human moments many of don't look hard enough to see. She's good. Real good.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Visceral, loud, deeply felt.
By Clinton Popetz Every essay reads with a strong voice, an urgent need to communicate something important. The crafting of the essays is lovely but it doesn't substitute for their content, as too often occurs. The pacing is breathless but not rushed...she's not tripping over herself to tell you what she needs to tell you, but just barely, so that the effort of this restraint is palpable and leads to a real sense, as a reader, of needing to listen. They are also really damn funny.

In these insightful, compassionate, gutsy, and heartbreaking personal essays, Stielstra, whose essay "Channel B" was recently featured in *Best American Essays 2013* edited by Cheryl Strayed, explores the messy, maddening beauty of adulthood with wit, intelligence, and biting humor. The essays in *Once I Was Cool* tackle topics ranging from beating postpartum depression by stalking her neighbor, to a surprise run-in with an old lover while on ecstasy, to blowing her mortgage on a condo she bought because of Jane's Addiction. Or, said another way, they tackle life in all of its quotidian richness.

"In *Once I Was Cool*, Megan Stielstra is warm and open and wise. Whether she's writing about the complex loneliness of early motherhood or failing to rise to the occasion or find the right language while living abroad, Stielstra is a masterful essayist. From the first page to the last, she demonstrates a graceful understanding of the power of storytelling. What she's truly offering with her words, is the grandest of gifts." ? Roxane Gay, author of *An Untamed State* "Holy shit. I read this book in two and a half hours. Then I started reading it again." ? Jamie Iredell, author of *I Was A Fat Drunk Catholic School Insomniac* "What an amazing cri de coeur *Once I Was Cool* is. Megan Stielstra tells us in a witty, sympathetic, confident voice who she is and what and whom she cares about most. Reading these essays, I laughed out loud and also found myself on the verge of tears so many times. This book should be read by anyone who's been in love, had a child or thought about having a child. So, probably, that's everyone." ? Christine Sneed, author of *Little Known Facts* "Megan Stielstra's wonderful writing and her storytelling bravery is truly a gift for everyone who reads her. *Once I Was Cool* is refreshing, hilarious, touching, and wise. If she keeps writing like this, I'm going to bet she'll always be cool." ? Kevin Sampson, author of *This Is Between Us* Praise for *Everyone Remain Calm*: "Here's the thing about Megan Stielstra: she has a profound understanding of where we all go in our minds, and the unique ability to turn it into a story that sounds like your new best friend is telling it to you. You know, the kind where you're going "Oh my god that totally happened to me" or "It's like you see inside my head" until she gets to the part where there's suddenly a marching band following her down the street or she's sleeping with the Incredible Hulk or having a three-way which is the part where you go "Okay that didn't happen to me but damn, why does it still seem like it did?" Megan Stielstra brings it to the party and rocks it." Elizabeth Crane, *We Only Know So Much* "Everyone Remain Calm is a rarity: a bold, imaginative, and cunning collection of stories. Spanning a wide variety of styles, forms, and tones, the language here is unapologetically inventive and often humorous, while the sentiments are deeply heartfelt. Ms. Stielstra's inimitable voice is a fiercely unique creation." Joe Meno, *The Great Perhaps and Hairstyles of the Damned* Megan Stielstra's voice is so palpable, so immediate and vibrantly alive, it feels as though she's standing right in front of you, sashaying her hips a little and maybe occasionally breaking into song, making you laugh so hard you don't quite notice when you start to cry. A trickster constantly unpacking and upending what is meant by "fiction," "truth" and "storytelling," Stielstra has ultimately created a charming style wholly her own." Gina Frangello,

A Life in Men and Slut Lullabies "When you read Megan Stielstra's stories, you'll feel like the coolest, most interesting gal in the bar just pulled a seat up next to you?lucky you. She tells tales of dangerous women, broken women, explosive women, real and magical women, all of whom you'll have a hell of a good time getting to know as you watch them get ready to take flight." Claire Zulkey, *An Off Year* "This book gave me a boner." Samantha Irby, author of *Meaty*, creator of *Bitches Gotta Eat*