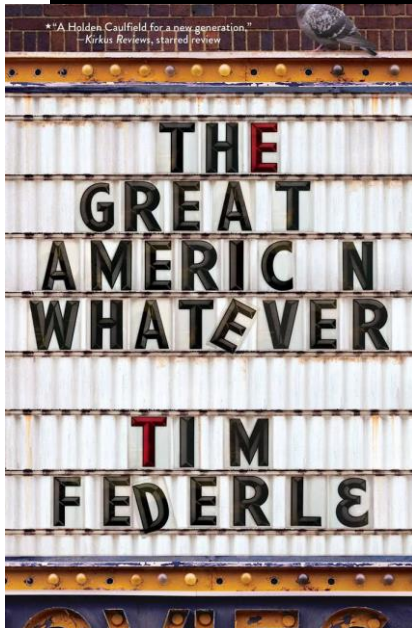


THOSE GAY SUMMER NIGHTS



Do you remember those summers in high school where it dragged on for about ten years and after two weeks being out of school you were ready to go back to math class? That's a little how this book starts, slow and ready to be put down. Once Quinn Roberts leaves the house, however, it's like when you start to party. Life becomes interesting and you meet new people.

[Tim Federle](#) didn't quite capture a masterpiece that would be put in bookstores next to the [greats](#), but he spun a story that was intriguing, finally focusing on a LGBTQ+ main character.

The background is:

Quinn writes scripts and his sister Annabeth directs the films. It was the perfect combination, Q and A Productions. They were going to apply for the LASYP Filmmakers Competition, Quinn writing the script and Annabeth directing.

The twist is:

The car accident.

*Anyway, you know what's a really stupid name? Q Productions.
Just that. Because what is Q without an A?*

The story line is:

Six months later, application untouched for the LASYP Filmmakers Competition, mother and son are alike in a constant struggle to find normality. That's when Quinn's best friend, Geoff, drags him to a college party. Quinn begins to emerge from the shell of grief and searches for the Quinn Roberts who must exist in the world as a single child. As he grows, he learns how he is not alone with skeletons in the closet, and how even those who seem the most wonderful struggle with demons.

Tiny little good moments that you catch like a firefly, and just like fireflies, you have to release them, because the whole point is that they're tiny and little and need to be with other fireflies. They aren't a pet. They aren't yours to keep, they're just moments. They're just fireflies.

Federle conquers the voice of a sarcastic but witty teenager. Subjects of death and sex are kept lighthearted, and directs the readers to note the small things in our lives, like fireflies. Federle also conveys the struggles of a wandering mind; for example, when our friends or professors are talking but the words do not settle correctly in the mind. The [writing](#) style fits a young adult fictional novel, easy to understand yet hiding the truth of the world that as we grow, we tend to forget those truths. This book is a nice fit for those looking for an easy read that has a comedic relief from the actuality of a monotonous life.

On my way home, I pull over and look for fireflies, but all I see is grass and litter, and I'm thinking maybe I never saw a firefly the other day to begin with. That maybe I'm an unreliable narrator of my own life.

THE GREAT AMERICAN
WHATEVER

TIM FEDERLE

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***The Great American Whatever* is a relief to read when compared to other texts that are required in college, chapters remaining short and comprehensible. Federle captures the struggles of when your mind begins to wander. Other writers tend to forget that life is not a scripted story; then make their characters act in such a way that they don't interact with each other as actual humans do. Federle doesn't do this; he gives the characters in his story a touch of reality.**

In all these months I have never once said I am sad, not out loud, maybe because it's so obvious that it seems a little on the nose to verbalize. I hate being ordinary.

Kirsten Staller is a sophomore at SUNY Oswego, majoring in Creative Writing. In her free time, she works on novels and poetry. She hails from Quaker Hill, Connecticut where she farms honey, corn, herbs, and vegetables. However, she is not a farmer all the same.