

Essay-Wettbewerb 2019/20

Alexander Daxer, International School Kufstein, 9. Schulstufe, 5 Jahre Spracherwerb

Essay

25% of the people who are aged between 25- and 29- years live at their parent's home. That is something, which the Canadian writer called Richard Van Camp mentions in the short story "Man babies".

Richard Van Camp

Richard Van Camp was born on the 8th of September 1971 and is a member of the Tlicho Nation from Fort Smith.

He laid the foundation for his career early on, by attending the En'owkin International School of writing. After having finished the university with a Master's Degree in creative writing, he is still teaching the subject at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Richard van Camp also teaches creative writing and storytelling at the Emily Carr Institute.

His career as a professional writer, however, began different to most others. Richard Van Camp started by writing scripts for the television series "North of 60", produced by the CBC. Afterwards, he wrote lots of short stories and published them as well as children's books, poetry and educational graphic novels. At the age of 24, Richard Van Camp published his first successful novel "The Lesser Blessed" in 1996. Another really interesting novel is called "Whistle", which was published by him in 2015.

When he was asked in an interview what he wanted to share with his readers and other writers he responded: "Please read as many books, comics and magazines as you can that inspire you. Please watch a lot of great movies and TV shows that make you happy. Listen to as many stories as you can that speak to your spirit. Ask questions. Be nosy. Listen with your blood for stories that make that ancient soul of yours wake up. Carry a notebook around for sketches, quotes, ideas. I have about 50 of them and each one helped me to remember something precious. Honour those inspirations. They're trying to find a home." (Van Camp, 24.04.2019). So, he really wants us to enjoy life, however, all forms of entertainment not only reading.

Man Babies

The story Man Babies is about a man who is 28 years old and still lives at home. He is not even going to work or helping at home, he is only laying around and doing nothing. Until his Stepdad, Steve, throws him out and tells him to live at his Grandfathers house. There he experiences hard work, which he is clearly not enjoying. The only reason why he is working

at his grandfather's place, in the woods, is because he gets paid a bit and his granddad gives him something to eat. After some time, he leaves the place of his grandfather and starts living in a big city. There he begins to have success. He also starts having a new hobby, boxing. The story does not tell us when everything happened, but after some time he has a massive truck and a beautiful girlfriend. However, the time passes, and he and his mother start e-mailing. It is the first time they get in contact again after he was thrown out. The man baby gets invited to the Christmas dinner of his mother and step-dad. He drives there with his truck and the whole evening goes by without any problems. They enjoy the dinner and even speak a lot, but as they finished eating and his mother goes to do the dishes the man baby asks Steve something. He asks him to come outside of the house to have a private talk. As they arrive outside, the man baby tells him about his time and that he is really good at boxing. Steve gets nervous, knowing he would not stand a chance against the man baby. He tells the man baby that he does not want to involve the police, so nobody out of the two should call them. The second, risky thing he says is that the man baby can have the first punch if he wants to. At this point, everyone would think that the man baby and Steve would get into a fight, but that is not what happened. The man baby, instead, did something really nice: he went to Steve and hugged him.

Interpretation

The man baby did something admirable. Although Steve threw him out and separated him and his mother for a "short" period, but he did not use violence as payback. He showed the world more or less how to solve problems: by accepting. Sure, you cannot accept everything, however people forget that making mistakes or silly actions is pretty much normal. A person cannot always perform on the highest level, neither at work, nor as a professional athlete. It is something our society, although everyone knows it, cannot accept and this makes me think. What can we do to stop this type of thinking? In my opinion, we should all start being a bit nicer to everyone we meet and know. Because if we like the person or have a good relationship with him or her, we will always accept more mistakes and do not have to tell the people that they did something wrong.