

George M. Grow
Twelve Stages
to the Hottest Club in the
World

Young adult novel
Awakening novel
Education novel
Dystopia
The First Generation



Jacket text

Half of young adult trainees suffer from depression, anxiety, sleep and eating disorders according to a number of studies. It is easy to believe that our society and culture has failed them. But simply increasing funding for youth institutions and youth centers and psychological treatment does not necessarily do the job, as past experience has highlighted. The more the government become actively involved in creating culture, the more it determines how we live, driving us even further into despair. Throwing money is not going to help solve a basic problem. Mobbing, discrimination, apathy and mechanization are just the collateral damage caused by economization that has a firm grip on our life and consciousness. It is seen as the measure of all things.

Neither Freud nor Bergson saw the cause for stupidity in the inappropriate application of the principle of economy, that is "overlaying the living with a mechanical process". The economic monopoly of values is having a drastic effect on today's youth, growing up as they are in a crisis-torn era in which the struggle for prosperity grows ever more difficult. Recession, inflation, climate change, overpopulation and class struggle are about to shatter the American Dream. "Young people are our future". Does anyone really believe in this hackneyed slogan anymore? Certainly not the young people themselves. They are growing up with no sense of future at all. Without a functional health-care system, no chance of ever seeing a pension or any sort of prosperity. And they have given up all hope of changing the world around them. The principle of economy has started a cycle that leads to full Idiocracy. The principle is focused on cutting costs while ignoring the concept of creating added value, making independent thought too much effort. Our best scientific and political-social minds are directed at increasing speed and simplicity. And stereotypes, memes and slogans are such efficient time and energy savers when it comes to thinking and interacting that automatism is the inexorable result and public discourse degenerates into a shouting match. And the self-realizing dynamic of the economic principle simply accelerates the rate at which Idiocracy is overtaking us all. No

wonder that depression is so widespread. A value-free society is not worth living in. This development is all the more devastating as a functioning system of common values is the basis of every free and democratic society. This novel is here to help raise awareness of social values and to remind us that European civic society is a product of Greek philosophy, of courtly chivalry and the experiences of the Romantic movement. But this novel does not advocate any return to ancient traditions that have been superceded by modernism. It is here to assist on our way to a new era in which tradition and modernity enhance and complete each other, in which deviation from the norm and the and our understanding of the world and its expectations is a desirable thing. This means that Evolution as a basis to all processes is not fundamentally characterized just by adaptation, but also by mutation. That means it is neither dumb nor stupid to observe the norm and stop at a red light. But when we stop at 2am when there are no cars in sight, then it seems ludicrous, because we fail to understand the reason behind a traffic light. Adaptation and deviation, automtization and creativity, society and individual, values and libertinism – those are the elements that this lighthearted novel told in the language of youth is centered around. Love, obedience, romance, success and not last of all, a healthy relationship to oneself and the world.



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