



The Great American Whatever

By Tim Federle



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From the award-winning author of *Five, Six, Seven, Nate!* and *Better Nate Than Ever* comes “a Holden Caulfield for a new generation” (*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review).

Quinn Roberts is a sixteen-year-old smart aleck and Hollywood hopeful whose only worry *used* to be writing convincing dialogue for the movies he made with his sister Annabeth. Of course, that was all before—before Quinn stopped going to school, before his mom started sleeping on the sofa...and before the car accident that changed everything.

Enter: Geoff, Quinn’s best friend who insists it’s time that Quinn came out—at least from hibernation. One haircut later, Geoff drags Quinn to his first college party, where instead of nursing his pain, he meets a guy—okay, a *hot* guy—and falls, hard. What follows is an upside-down week in which Quinn begins imagining his future as a screenplay that might actually have a happily-ever-after ending—if, that is, he can finally step back into the starring role of his own life story.

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The Great American Whatever By Tim Federle Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Tim Federle's Movie Song Playlist for *The Great American Whatever*



Do you ever wish your life had a soundtrack? You know, like for violins to come in as you're breaking up with somebody, or drums to thump when you're being chased down an alley? (OK, maybe that's just my life.) My lead character in *The Great American Whatever* is an aspiring filmmaker — his dream is to be the next Spielberg or Tarantino — so I thought it was only fitting that he'd punctuate his own "life soundtrack" with iconic songs from some of his favorite movies. Pop some popcorn and grab your earbuds.

- The "[Flying Theme](#)" from *E.T.* - Probbbbably my #1 most-listened to song for writing inspiration. (I'm biased, because my first novel included *E.T.* as an entire fangirl subplot, but I promise these horns will send you over the moon.)
- "[Mrs. Robinson](#)" from *The Graduate* - Filmmaker icon Mike Nichols famously rejected Paul Simon's first two song efforts for the "Graduate" soundtrack, but three's a charm with the first rock song ever to win a Grammy for Record of the Year.
- "[As Time Goes By](#)" from *Casablanca* - "Nostalgia: the song," basically. In "The Great American Whatever" Quinn looks back on his young life a lot, wondering how things could have gone differently. "As Time Goes By" is a sweet-sounding, slightly-sad song that Quinn would like, because he's 17, and being 17 is all about sweetness and sadness.
- "[Everybody's Talkin'](#)" from *Midnight Cowboy* - This tune basically plays every time a young Jon "Angelina Jolie's Dad" Voight enters a new scene in this movie, which makes me wish I had my own theme song for every time I visit the fridge during a writing session.
- "[Unchained Melody](#)" from *Ghost* - Never has wet clay seemed so dirty. Leave it to a movie about a hot dead guy to bring this old Righteous Brothers song roaring back to haunt modern audiences. FYI if you don't cry you're a ghost.
- "[Goldfinger](#)" from *Goldfinger* - Long is the legacy of a new James Bond theme song topping the charts, but

it's Shirley Bassey's camp classic "Goldfinger" that leaves me shaken AND stirred.

- "[Rainbow Connection](#)" from The Muppet Movie - First of all, Kermit, ARE there "so many songs about rainbows"? Second of all, I forgive you because I'm SOBBING.
- "[9 to 5](#)" from 9 to 5 - The only country singer with her own theme park, Dolly Parton knows a thing or two about putting in a days' work. Blast this one in your corporate cubicle.
- "[Over the Rainbow](#)" from The Wizard of Oz - The next time you're full of doubt, just keep in mind that MGM wanted to cut "Over the Rainbow" from the song for fear it would go over the head of little ones, and I don't mean munchkins.
- "[Let the River Run](#)" from Working Girl - My favorite pop/choral mashup by none other than the daughter of Richard L. Simon: one half of Simon & Schuster, who publishes my books! (OK, "Simon's daughter" is also known as Carly Simon.) I listen to her anthem when I have to face something daunting like cardio or my inbox.

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Aspiring screenwriter Quinn Roberts is practically Hollywood-bound until a car accident takes the life of his sister, soul mate, and creative partner, Annabeth. In his grief and disorientation, Quinn is forced to reexamine everything he thought he knew about his craft, his family, and his heart's desire. A voice-driven story that is sad, funny, endearing, and ultimately uplifting.

Review

"*The Great American Whatever* knocked me out. Tim Federle writes with a rare voice — original, authentic, engaging." (Rob Thomas, author of *Rats Saw God* and creator of *Veronica Mars*)

"A raw nerve of a book—so perfectly tender and funny and true. My heart now belongs to *The Great American Whatever*. Officially. Completely." (Becky Albertalli, author of *Simon Vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda*)

*"Federle's first foray into YA is an accomplished effort, dramatic and distinguished by carefully developed, appealing characters... whimsical, wry, and unfailingly funny." (*Booklist, starred review*)

*"A Holden Caulfield for a new generation." (*Kirkus Reviews, starred review*)

"The mix of vulnerability, effervescence, and quick wit in Quinn's narration will instantly endear him to readers." (*Publishers Weekly*)

*"Even under the weight of grief, Quinn's conversational and charming narrative voice effervesces, mixing humor and vulnerability in typical Federle style." (*School Library Journal, starred review*)

"Recommended for mature teens who want to be inspired." (*VOYA*)

"Federle's YA debut takes its place in the lineage of Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and John Green's coming-of-age tales." (*Horn Book Magazine*)

*"What sets this fantastic novel apart is Quinn's brilliantly realized, often hilarious first-person voice, from laugh-out-loud asides to heart-wrenching admissions...Charming and imaginative." (*Shelf Awareness, starred review*)

"Federle has triumphed. He's written a moving tale about grief that's also laugh-out-loud funny." (*The New York Times Book Review*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Latrice Miller:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled The Great American Whatever. Try to the actual book The Great American Whatever as your close friend. It means that it can to be your friend when you feel alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for yourself. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , let's make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

John Wannamaker:

What do you regarding book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what your own problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't have spare time to complete others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They must answer that question mainly because just their can do that will. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this particular The Great American Whatever to read.

Harold Baughman:

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Teresa Hanson:

As a pupil exactly feel bored to reading. If their teacher expected them to go to the library or make summary for some book, they are complained. Just tiny students that has reading's heart and soul or real their pastime. They just do what the educator want, like asked to the library. They go to generally there but nothing reading critically. Any students feel that reading through is not important, boring and also can't see colorful images on there. Yeah, it is to be complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this period of time, many ways to get whatever we would like. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore this The Great American Whatever can make you really feel more interested to read.

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