



Cum Laude

By Cecily von Ziegesar

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They're here for a higher education . . .

and you won't believe how far they'll go. Dexter College is a small liberal arts college in the quiet town of Home, Maine. But it won't stay quiet for long with this group of freshmen. There's Shipley--blonde and beautiful, the object of envy and more than a little lust. Determined to assert herself and to shed her good-girl image, she buys cigarettes and condoms, because that's what every self-respecting college girl does. Her edgy roommate, Eliza, came to Dexter to get noticed, and she has the attitude and the mouth to prove it. Then there's Tom. Handsome, privileged, used to getting his own way, he's a jock-turned-artist who thinks his paintings will change the world. Sensitive Nick, Tom's wake-and-bake pot-smoking roommate, wants to follow in the footsteps of his boarding-school hero. And then there are brother and sister Adam and Tragedy Gatz. The freckle-faced farm boy lives at home with his parents and his little sister, who does all she can to stop him from being a wuss. As Shipley, Eliza, Tom, Nick, and Adam find out, that first year of college is more than credits and cramming. Between the lust and the love, the secrecy and the scandal, they'll all receive an unexpected education. It's a time of shifting alliances, unrequited crushes, and coming of age. *Find Yourself* is Dexter's motto. And they are determined to do just that.

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Cum Laude By Cecily von Ziegesar Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Gossip Girl goes to college in this tart satire of the class of 2014, centering on four mixed-up Dexter College freshmen who stumble through their first semester trying on life, love, and drugs. There's pretty rich girl Shipley, rebel-without-a-cause Eliza, repressed-artist Tom, and hippie-spawn Nick. With a total population of only nineteen hundred, Dexter was a small college in a small town, but it still felt overwhelming compared to high school, the kids discover, but the really scary bit is the newfound freedom—from families, histories, and their adolescent identities. In real life, this might be where the adults come in handy, but at Dexter, teachers (other than lesbian Professor Rosen) are nearly nonexistent, and the folks at home are distracted, disillusioned, or dolts. Plenty of *Animal House* antics and wiseacre banter keep this light and breezy, but von Ziegesar, whose *Gossip Girl* novels spawned the megahit TV series, adds a crisp and surprisingly steely edge that keeps the precocious teens from devolving entirely into smug knuckleheads. (June)

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From [Booklist](#)

Adult fans of von Ziegesar's *Gossip Girl* novels for Young Adults and the spin-off TV series will want to pack up their mini-fridges and trade in their business casual for their old university sweatshirts because the over-the-top story lines they've come to know and love have grown up (a little) and gone to college. The fictional Dexter College in Maine is full of collegiate stereotypes presented so lightheartedly it's hard not to crack a smile of recognition, and von Ziegesar's choice to set the scene in 1992 leaves room for entertaining throwback anecdotes (Bill Clinton is elected president! No one has an iPod . . . or even a cell phone!). A motley handful of protagonists remain semi-relatable despite their penchant for taking the fork in the road of decision making clearly marked "wrong" more times than not. Enter von Ziegesar's ability to create enough scandal that the pages practically propel themselves, only to leave you hanging when the novel ends abruptly. Closing her novel as the crew heads home for winter break after only one semester at school, von Ziegesar just might have another series up her sleeve . . . --Annie Bostrom

About the Author

Cecily von Ziegesar is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Gossip Girl* novels, upon which the hit television show is based. She lives in Brooklyn with her family.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carol Smith:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or even read a book entitled Cum Laude? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have some other opinion?

Junior Price:

As people who live in often the modest era should be update about what going on or info even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era and that is always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know which you should start with. This Cum Laude is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Penny Stout:

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William Rockwood:

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