

High School Mass Murderers—Yet Another Boomer Creation

Not only was I raised in the state wherein the tragedy of Columbine High School created a wholly new sort of terror—I was to enter high school the following fall. Since that time, I imagine that the tragedies have been numerous and treacherous. I do not want to specifically look into the numbers as I know this will not be good for my overall mental health (at this time ... there may be a time in the future when I have more psychological strength than while surviving a pandemic). Nevertheless, they typically enter mainstream media whenever they do happen, so I am aware of the fact that they do still happen, and that they are a white disease, and they totally make sense to me.

One of the most irritating irritants, for me, personally (obviously, this is a personal “essay”) is when Boomers (or the like) attempt to shame us mere Millennials for “needing trophies for showing up!” Excuse me? What the fuck. Like seriously. We were children, and you were the adults organizing these things and enrolling us for participation. And YOU WERE THE ONES PROVIDING TROPHIES. As an elementary-aged child, I do not remember spending any of my time shopping trophy-making shops, etc. So, which generation is it, really, who “needs a trophy for showing up”? Amirite? Fuck you.

This is the environment in which we Millennials were raised—one of high competition between parents. Think of ideological lines like, “We invested *everything* in you!” Guilt-driven accusations like, “I sacrificed so much for this family!”

Uh ... no you didn't. If your children are the modicum of success, you got everything you wanted. If you're disappointed by this, you should see a therapist.

[Adele interrupted ... the bodybuddy/lifemate pumps music out of the Tube on some shuffle, and yea, her new single popped on, and suddenly, I was like, “This sounds like Adele.” “It is.” “Oh.” ... where was I?]

My point is that it seems like there are a lot of Boomer moms who feel slighted by their ungrateful children, when the reality of the situation is that White American mothers do not know what sacrifice means, do not know what sacrifice is. Mothers who have succeeded at rearing children in These United States while having been born and grown in a country with fewer privileges, especially those who are going it alone, are the ones who sacrifice ... EVERYTHING ... for their children. I'm not inferring that children of these mothers are more or less grateful. I am simply stating that their demands for gratitude would be more palatable, more deserving, etc. But really, I shouldn't even be speaking to these sorts of dynamics, so I'll get back to whatever I am trying to say.

Right, so, yes, it seems to me as though this whole notion that Millennials are spoiled, ungrateful, lazy, whatever other things are being touted about us, are true, but it's not necessarily our fault ... it's our parents' fault. Like all generational faults—we are the products of the people who reared us. But we were reared by a particularly nasty bunch because now, they are blaming us for all of their problems. It's sick, really, which is why we are putting them all away into nursing homes. If we can afford it, which we will be able to afford because this is really why any of us are working so hard.

Anyway, so when you think of the environment in which privileged Boomers reared their children (Millennials), then it's no wonder that we'd all grow up in a school environment of heavy competition,

heavier resentment, and the absolute feeling of both rejection and failure if you amount to anything less than the best. When thought about in the context of spite (because I just read [a book of the same title](#)), it's easy to see how that pressure and then consequent failure would fuel anyone with any sorta sense of shame or pride to act in spite.

I, personally (which can be assumed since I said "I"), cannot relate to this type of school experience from experience, but I am a person who has felt feelings, so I am capable of empathizing and understanding what that type of feeling must feel like, and when I feel those feelings, I do understand the enormity of the hate, anger, rage, understanding, unfairness and simple AAAAAAHHHHHHH!!!!!!! of it all. Of course, of course, of absolute fucking course, I am not attempting to put thoughts or words or feelings into the beings of those who are capable and willing to end the life of another human being. Nor am I condoning this type of behavior. I find it a symptom of the problematic world that Boomers built. I am relaying the fact that failure is not easy, for anyone under any circumstance. Losing is even worse, somehow. And so, to rear children under these high pressure circumstances is bound to create some high pressure circumstances, not all of which small, young children are capable of tolerating.

And now, if we also take a sneak peek at the context in which Boomers were reared, we can also understand their desire to have the best kid, to make America the greatest country, to want to win. We, Millennials, were not reared in a time where there was fierce international competition. We were reared during some wars, but weren't we all lol. Our parents, however, were reared under great international turmoil that we will never understand, and so, the pull to win, to be great, makes sense to me. I mean, they did it. But at the cost of a lot of our overall well being. And this is the part that makes me sad.

I won enough in high school to not really know what it feels like to be a loser. I don't mean this as some brag—that would be pathetic. High school isn't real. I simply mean it as a fact because it has shaped much of my life's experiences since then, but more importantly, it's created a lot of opportunity.

First and foremost, what academic excellence requires is money and time. Money comes first because money can buy time. This is by design. Hands-on parents get more from the educational system, and so, their children get more from the educational system. This is why I get angry when privileged white mothers (like mine) complain about the sacrifices they made. The reality of the situation is that this entire country was/has been shaped by the Whites who want to privilege their own kind above all else (yea, it gets complicated for me because I am not white but my parents are white, so how can they be racist?, but rest assured, they can be racist; case in point, one day, I described one of my friends as Mexican, and my mother said, "Oh, honey, don't call her that." And I said, "Mom, she's from fucking Mexico." To which she has yet to respond. But to my point, I am of "their kind" as their daughter, despite my race). So when my mom complains about her sacrifice, I call bullshit because her life while rearing me was the "greatest time of [her] life." Because that's the life she wanted. She absolutely, one-hundred percent wanted to be one of those minivan (later, SUV) moms who shuttles their "gifted" child to all of those extracurriculars and application boosters. And I was a winner.

This is all well and good for those who have parents who both have the money to finance all of these academic "boosters" and all of the time to tend to the needs and demands of those "boosters," but

what about everyone else? Since this is hands-down NOT a meritocratic system (and don't fucking come at me that their parents have money so their parents were obviously successful, so don't the kids deserve to be successful? No. That's the opposite of a meritocracy), the system ends up leaving behind kids who were born into challenging, underprivileged circumstances. This leaves them up shit creek. But any kid with educated parents can succeed.

And now I know what you're thinking, "But Tiff, look, these high school shooters are not the 'underprivileged' like you so crassly set them up to be." Yea, no duh. I already called high school shooting a White Disease. My point is that classism runs deep in high school. So, when considering the entitlement of some white parents who have children, the entitlement must be felt by those children, and so, when they see others succeed, it's easier to burn the whole thing down than to simply live with the fact that they are not the best—they are not even good.

Yes, that's right. I'm saying that White Boomers created such an intensive competitive environment, then rigged it because they're entitled to winning, that when their own children didn't measure, they began killing all of their peers and themselves out of spite. If this is not the pinnacle of White Entitlement, I do not, and perhaps, will never know what is.