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## **Shocking New Discovery: The Elusive Elderly Teenager**

by

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Researchers in Ontario, Canada believe they have discovered a new species that, until now, has been living among us undetected. New evidence suggests that homo sapiens are not the only surviving species of the human genus, as scientists had originally thought. Logs belonging to 17-year-old Lauren Radigan reveal astonishing traits that were previously recognized as exclusive to senior citizens. The leading theory at this point in the investigation claims that despite having the appearance of a teenager, Radigan actually possesses the mindset of an elderly woman. Some excerpts from her logs are provided below. Warning: the following content may be disturbing.

### **Entry #1**

“I work from 12:00pm to 8:00pm tonight. I’ll be bringing a novel and the latest issue of *Psychology Today* with me, since there is rarely any new material in the break room. You see, sometimes I think of myself as a teenager, but that illusion shatters the second I get excited over a current newspaper shining gloriously on the table.”

## **Entry #2**

“I forgot to take my medicine again this morning. God dammit. Other than that, class is going alright. I just wish I had some fresh batteries so I could listen to my Discman as I worked. The music would be nice, but as a bonus, it would also drown out the high-pitched drone of my classmates. Does anyone know why teenagers are so loud? It may not bother me so much if their vocabulary went beyond ‘like’, ‘literally’, and ‘oh my god’. I, like, *literally* want to slap them with a dictionary.”

## **Entry #3**

“I miss the days when cell phones were not allowed in the classroom. There, I said it. I’m sick and tired of seeing this generation bury their faces in their phones when they should be listening to a teacher, or heaven forbid, doing work. They are already on their phones every other minute of the day doing god knows what. Just recently, I watched someone walk down a flight of stairs while looking at their phone. I wanted to smash it. Perhaps they think if they look hard enough, they’ll find an original personality. Speaking of opinions that would get me beaten up, I miss writing out full notes, too.”

## **Entry #4**

“I can’t remember why, but my friends and I were laughing quite hard during lunch. Hard, but not hard enough to pee. Not that teenagers would pee when they laughed, anyways. Well, alright, I’ve peed a little in the past. Twice. In middle school. But, at least I don’t fart when I walk or stretch. That’s a lie. I actually slip out little fart puffs on a daily basis. In fact, I think my flatulence has begun to control me more than I control it. What were we laughing about, anyways? I probably just misinterpreted some sort of slang or sexual innuendo again.”

## **Entry #5**

“I’m too tired to get any work done. The sun is flooding into the living room, and I’m curled up under a blanket with a full stomach. If only I could take a nap...I

shouldn't let my guard down though, or else the others might discover my true identity. Somehow my obsession with cats, tea, and scented candles hasn't given me away just yet."

### **Entry #6**

"My mother has been texting her sister, Terri, for hours now. I'm not sure how she handles it – that must be exhausting! It starts when her phone dings once, twice, and when she replies...Terri has trapped her. There is no foreseeable escape, just an endless stream of emojis and missing punctuation. Is being polite really worth it? Don't get me wrong, I hate to be rude, but I constantly put off answering any texts. I just don't see the appeal. It seems like people are in such a hurry that they toss their public school education out the window. How long does it take to add a comma or a period? When I do respond, it's in full, proper sentences...six hours after I was messaged."

### **Entry #7**

"Today, like usual, I began my spare period by going to the washroom. As I sat there, I couldn't help but notice that someone had the nerve to write 'your a whore' on the stall interior. It was wrong. It was unacceptable. So, I took out a pencil and fixed the eyesore. That wall now reads, 'you're a whore'."

These entries are indeed eye-opening, but the surprises do not stop there. Other characteristics discovered thus far include: using blankets in summertime, finding joy in scratch tickets, cursive writing, an inability to participate in amusement park rides, and a liking to organizational objects, such as baskets. An interview with Colleen MacDonald, Lauren's mother, also exposes shocking details. She reports that, when she told her daughter she wanted a tattoo, Radigan lectured her. She was in grade seven at the time of the incident.

Researchers are continuing their work in the Kawartha Lakes region, and are currently working on constructing a formal description and scientific name for the new species. All that is certain is that we are being forced to rethink youth and humanity as we know it.