

The Undergraduate: A Novel by E. Scott Lloyd

Former Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) Director, Scott Lloyd, recently published a seemingly biographical anti-abortion [novel](#). Lloyd, who was removed from his position at ORR and reassigned to HHS' Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives in November 2018, was working on the book during his [employment](#) at HHS. The book seems to focus on Lloyd's own "spiritual awakening," while promoting the concept of "post-abortion guilt," shaming women who have abortions, and making casual misogynistic and racially insensitive comments.

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Lloyd's Novel Emphasizes The Concept Of "Post-Abortion" Guilt

- **In Lloyd's Book, The Protagonist Will's Sexual Partner, Kristen, Feels Extreme Guilty Following Her Abortion.** "I'm such a bad person." "Kristen, honey, don't do this to yourself," the girl said. "I'm such a bad person. I'm not like them." The lady I was next to—she was married, and her husband beat her up and drank. She didn't want to have any more of his kids, and she wanted to leave him. She said if he found out she was there, he'd kill her. He thought she was looking for a job." **She looked down at her lap. "What did I do?"** [Chapter 33]
- **Will, Being The Hero, Consoles Kristen Post-Abortion, But Is Not Sure If He's Actually Not Angry With Her.** "Kristen." I waited for her to look at me, and she did after a minute. **"I don't think you're a bad person. I don't blame you,"** I said. I looked out the window for a second, then back at her. "I'm not angry at you." **I wasn't sure if I meant it,** on account of being numb. I thought it would be like me to mean that, but it was impossible to tell anymore. I put my hand on her forehead, brushed her brown hair back, and kissed her forehead. "I'll call you later tonight," I said. [Chapter 34]
- **Will Begins To Suffer From A Nervous Breakdown Post-Abortion.** I couldn't talk. I just mumbled, "I'm having a nervous breakdown" a few times. "What's right? Look at me. I didn't want to do that shit. I didn't want to hurt you, or her or me. It's not worth it." **"What's not worth it?" "Me, Kat, life. It might be time to check out. I have nothing to give but hurt. This is a perfect example."** [Chapter 39]

- **Kristen “Locks Herself In Her Room And Cries” “Every Night” Following Her Abortion.** “And then, like something snapped in her brain, she stepped back and started saying, ‘Will, you have to go talk to her....You have to go talk to her.’ She wasn’t slurring anymore or anything. She told me, ‘Every night she locks herself in her room and cries. She won’t talk to anybody, because she says nobody can understand. She’s hurting so much, and we can’t do anything for her.’ She made me promise. I told her I would just so she would stop it. [Chapter 41]
- **Perhaps Due To Karma, Kristen Has To Go To A Baby Shower, Which Makes Her Feel Even More Haunted By What She Had Done.** “What was the summer like?” “It was awful, Will. Awful. A week afterwards we had to go to a baby shower for my cousin, and I couldn’t take it. I locked myself in the bathroom, and I cried the whole time. People kept coming to see if I was okay and I had to pretend like I was sick. I’ve lost a bunch of weight, because I can’t eat. And I cry. Every night.” She started to tear up a little. “I used to have dreams about a girl, and then I woke up and I would be holding my stomach.” [Chapter 42]
- **Kristen Is So Damaged From Her Abortion That She Needs To Seek Out God To Heal.** “The healing that you came here for is going to require God’s help, so you are doing the right thing. And you need to know right now, guys, that although the baby is lost to you, he, or she, is not lost to God. She is not lost to God.” He shifted a little bit and paused. [Chapter 44]

One Major Theme In Lloyd’s Book Is Shaming Those Who Obtain Abortions And Reducing The Importance Of A Woman’s Decision

- **Will Believes That He Deserves To Be Killed For The Role He Played In The Abortion.** “I don’t know what to say. I think we should put it up for adoption, Kristen.” “Will, I can’t have this baby.” She had been practicing this. There wasn’t even time for her to have registered what I said. I waited a second. I hated arguing, too. “Why not?” “Will, first of all, my father will kill you. Then he’ll kick me out of the house. My mother will disown me. We both have school we have to think of.” I sighed. “Kristen, I’m willing to accept whatever your father does to me. It’s my fault.” I really hadn’t thought about it from the dad angle yet. If I were him, I’d kill me, too. “Will, listen to me. I’m telling you he will literally kill you. You don’t know my father.” “Kristen, I don’t care what your dad does to me. I don’t care. I deserve it.” [Chapter 28]
- **There Is No Doubt In Will’s Mind That The “Right Thing” To Do Is For Kristen To Give Birth, And That The “Wrong” “Easy Thing” Is To Have An Abortion.** “Kristen, the right thing to do here is the hard thing. The wrong thing to do is the easy thing. We have to do the right thing.” The words came out soft and like sighs, and they were everything I had left. “I’m not going to have this baby.” “I can’t go through with this,” I said. [Chapter 31]
- **Kristen Says “[She] Is Such A Bad Person,” For Having An Abortion.** “Are you alright?” It was difficult for me to ask her that right then. “Yeah.” She didn’t look at me and didn’t even seem to hear the question. “Are you alright?” asked Sporty. The question struck me as a little funny, and I chuckled for a breath. He must have felt perverted, standing there watching. This was full penetration. “Yeah.” I looked down at the tar. I was underwater. There was no sound and there were no thoughts; I couldn’t

feel the ground or anything else. "I'm such a bad person," Kristen said to herself. [Chapter 33]

- **Will Is Thankful For Protestors In Front Of An Abortion Facility, Even After They Cause His Pregnant Future Girlfriend To Feel Shame For Pursuing An Abortion.** "Oh, my God, there's protesters!" she said. She put her face in her hands, and her friend put her hand on her back. "It's okay, honey." It was awkward to see that out of the corner of my eye—a young girl comforting her friend going off to abort her baby. It doesn't come naturally. "Oh, my God, there's protesters!" she said. She put her face in her hands, and her friend put her hand on her back. "It's okay, honey." It was awkward to see that out of the corner of my eye—a young girl comforting her friend going off to abort her baby. It doesn't come naturally. I didn't even see the protesters before we took the left, but I was glad they were there. [Chapter 31]
- **Will Says That Paying For An Abortion "Would Mean That I Helped Commit Murder...Of My Own Child," And "Can't Think Of Anything A Person Can Do That's Worse Than That."** "Well, first of all, I paid for the abortion of my baby, which...would mean that I have helped commit murder...of my own child. I can't think of anything a person can do that is worse than that." I took a minute to catch my breath and blink back tears. "Obviously, then, I've had sex before marriage, a few times with a few girls." "How many?" he asked. "Three. I have also done...other...activities that aren't quite intercourse that are close and also probably sinful. And I have done that with many girls. I know that God disapproves of this because it disrespects women and turns them into objects for the purpose of what I can get out of it. I thought I was respecting who they were. [Chapter 45]
- **Will Offers To Forgive Abortion Providers, But Not Himself.** "I know. I mean, I'm not blaming God or Kristen for what happened. I forgive her, and I did from the moment it happened." "What about the abortionist, the workers?" "I forgive them too, although that's harder." "But you don't forgive yourself." "No." [Chapter 47]
- **Will Calls A Woman's Defense Of Deciding To Have An Abortion Was "Self-Evident[ly]" Stupid.** "But this isn't Camie's baby. This is our baby, and I think we should put it up for adoption." "But I have to carry it! This is my choice! I wasn't even going to tell you!" "That's not fair, Kristen! It's my baby, too!" "You can't make me carry this baby for nine months." "It's a life, Kristen. This isn't fair." "I know it's a life! I can feel it inside of me! I saw the ultrasound! You have no idea how hard this is for me!!" She saw our baby. "There are three people we have to think about!" I said. "This is our kid!" "Will, I know there are three lives, but there are two main lives!" I stopped talking, because I couldn't believe what she had just said. "There are two main lives, Will." If I would have said anything at that point, it would have been something well short of charitable. And I couldn't piss her off, because then I would be the enemy. But I figured the stupidity of what she had said was self-evident, so I let it hang out there. She was a smart girl. But I'm not sure she noticed. [Chapter 28]
- **Will Questions How He Can "Make" A Woman Not Have An Abortion, Stating "A Life Is A Life."** "She doesn't want to carry the baby, and I don't know what to do about it, Kat. How do I make her? I can't! Our baby is going to die, Kat. I told her! I told her there's three lives, and she said there's two main lives. What the hell does that mean? A

life is a life. Dammit, if you're going to kill someone, kill me! I don't care! Not our baby! I'm the one who deserves it. I said everything, Kat! [Chapter 29]

Lloyd's Book Uses Several Misogynistic Phrases And Scenarios

- **A Male Character Tells Will That "Girls Get Hornier When They're Fertile."**
"Remember that girl Kristen from school?" "You got her PREGnant?" I stared at him and took a swig of the Gatorade. He stared at me for a minute, mouth open. "Willie, don't you know that girls get hornier when they're fertile?" Tony was a suspect source of information, especially when it came to sex. It made sense, though. "Tony, why are you telling me this now?" "I don't know. What are you going to do?" "I have no idea. I think she wants...to get an abortion." [Chapter 13]
- **Will References A Misogynist Mantra Which Tells Men To "Get Drunk And Get A Chick Naked."** I sat down and my whole body ached. I had managed to get drunk and get a chick naked, as the cheer went. Complicating this most complicated of situations was the fact that she was Kat's ex-girlfriend, Alice. I prayed. [Chapter 39]
- **Will's Friend Tells Him To "Squeeze Them Knockers Once For Me" As He Leaves To Meet His Future Wife.** "I'm going to see Lily." "Squeeze them knockers once for me," Khan yelled as I closed the door. [Chapter 41]
- **Will Refers To Women Who Cook For Men And Buy Them Gifts As "Girlfriend Material."** The night before, the girls had a Christmas party that required a tie. It was an excuse for them to get out nice dresses. It was a small get-together, and they actually cooked for it and bought us gifts. They were girlfriend material. [Chapter 47]
- **Will Pities "Hookers," And Ponders What "Led Them" To "Sell Their Bodies."** This was Via Nazionale, the street where the hookers hung out. I always felt so bad for them, wondering what had led them to finally decide to sell their bodies. My guess was that my stay at the hotel and the hookers were unrelated, because if I had gotten horizontal at any point the night before, I would have stayed that way. [Chapter 55]
- **Will Tells His Future Father-In-Law That He Is "Hoping For The Opportunity To Impregnate [His] Daughter," To Which The Father In Law Responds By Laughing.** "That's true, Mr. Marconi. I am hoping for the opportunity to impregnate your daughter." I was trying to be inappropriate back to him, but regretted saying that the second I said it. Mrs. Marconi started laughing immediately, though. Lily was very red in the face. [Chapter 55]
- **A Male Character Flirts With A Woman By Offering Her A "Hot Beef Injection."** "Thanks, Dudley. It's the beef. I've been eating a lot of beef lately." "Getting your hot beef injection?" "Yeah." "Perhaps I could help out with that." "Perhaps," she responded. [Chapter 56]
- **Will Tried To Convince A "Hooker" To "Stop This Life."** "Excuse me." "Yes, handsome?" "Stop this life." "What?" "This life. It is not good. You must stop. Do another something." She stopped and looked at me with interest and puzzlement, like I was a talking cat. "Excuse me?" "I don't know. You are a good person. You are pretty. You should not do this...I don't know what the word is. Do another something. [Chapter 56]

- **Will Objectifies His Future Wife.** The first items she took a look at were the bathing suits. She tried on a couple and asked what I thought. **I thought a lot, but just said they were great.** She settled on a light blue one with orange edges, and it was quite the sight on her with her dark hair. She moved on to birthday outfits, and tried several of them on. Many of them were a little more daring than she was used to, and that was something I could get used to. [Chapter 60]

Lloyd Uses Stereotypical And Unnecessary Adjectives To Describe Women Of Color In His Book

- **Will Describes A “Latina Woman” As “Not Overweight.”** A **Latina woman** about chest high with sleepless eyes came in with her brown curly hair pulled back loosely, wearing a nurse’s smock with flower patterns on it. She looked to be in her late thirties and **was not overweight.** She was carrying a clipboard. [Chapter 32]
- **Will Describes A “Black Girl” As “A Little Pudgy.”** I heard the blonde doors burst open and slam against the walls, and **a black girl of about seventeen, a little pudgy,** ran to the front door. Halfway across the lobby, she started sobbing. A group of four or five other kids got up and scrambled after her, but she was already out the double doors. [Chapter 32]

Lloyd Uses Alarmist Anti-Abortion Rhetoric Throughout The Book

- **Alarmist “Late-Term Abortion” Rhetoric Is Celebrated Throughout The Book.** He was probably an Evangelical Christian, but he never said anything overtly in that regard. He did, however, overtly show a documentary over the first three classes, chronicling the abortion debate. It was a little dated, but showed in-utero development through birth, footage of protests and clinic bombings, **a press conference where an activist had gotten hold of a late-term aborted fetus and held it up before a crowd of reporters,** and a segment with a mother giving birth and breastfeeding. [Chapter 40]