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English 2XL
Section 4
PV Movie CM #1

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty

I had no intention of seeing this movie initially, but I went along with my family when we were in Lake Tahoe, and I am sure glad I did. This was surprisingly one of the most poetic movies I've ever seen due to its emphasis on life and the meaning of life. The theme of this movie was discovering the quintessence of life, meaning life in its purest or most concentrated form. In the movie, Walter Mitty embarks on a journey to find lost negative 25, which was described by its photographer as the "quintessence of life." Mitty's journey to find the quintessence of life not only means finding the photograph, but finding what life is and how he should live it.

Walter Mitty has a problem with daydreaming, and he zones out constantly in the middle of conversations. This movie forces him to actually do something adventurous instead of just dreaming about it. Dreams can only get a person so far, and actions and experiences must fulfill those dreams. The theme of fulfilling one's dreams goes along perfectly with trying to discover the meaning of life. At the end of the movie, Walter discovers that negative 25, the quintessence of life, has been in his wallet the whole time. The meaning of life was right in front of his face but he couldn't see it, suggesting that we live for those closest to us.

Walter works for Life Magazine as a negative assets manager, which is why it was such a big deal when he lost negative 25 for the final issue of Life magazine, a cover that was supposed to envelope the quintessence of life. The motto of Life magazine is "To see the world, things dangerous to come to, to see behind walls, draw closer, to find each other and to feel. That is the purpose of life." *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* covers every aspect of this motto, and

thoroughly depicts what could very well be the meaning of life. As a side note, you may be wondering what was on negative 25, the quintessence of life. Well, negative 25 contained a picture of Walter Mitty, sitting down, looking at photos. The last magazine was dedicated to the people who made it.