

Invisible Monsters: A Novel

Chuck Palahniuk

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INVISIBLE MONSTERS
CHUCK PALAHNIUK

AUTHOR OF FIGHT CLUB AND LULLABY

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Chuck Palahniuk : Invisible Monsters: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Invisible Monsters: A Novel:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. They love it so muchBy CustomerThis is the 4th time I am buying this book because my friends keep borrowing it and never giving it back. They love it so much. I love it so much. This book is wonderful. I am a literary studies major and I don't think I've loved a book like this in a really long time. Palahniuk takes a real look into what we would become in this woman's situation and twists it in a way I don't think I could ever had thought of. Some of the points brought up by characters that are supposed to be dismissed made me

question my decisions and opinions. It was exceedingly thought provoking and made me very... happy. I recommend it wholeheartedly to anyone who thinks they can handle it. The characters true do become a part of your life.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So many twists.By AubreyI finished this book in one day because I wanted to see where it was going. This is the first book I've read by Mr. Palahniuk and I think I'll definitely take a chance to read more, though I feel a little bit disappointed (with myself) when I spend money on a book and it only takes me a day to read. Usually I like to drag it out, but this book really isn't one to drag out. You might get confused and forget what's going on, and I think it really needs to be read altogether to get the full force of the events and characters (especially with all the name changes).His writing is good and the characters are definitely compelling! I found Brandy Alexander to be my favorite.The only thing that kind of got to me is there was so many freaking twists! After like the third one, I felt a little like it was cheating to keep the story going. If that kind of thing bothers you, I wouldn't suggest this book then. But to me, I enjoyed them even though there was so many. It did keep me reading, so there's that ;)0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The best word to describe this book is meh.By RubyThe best word to describe this book is meh. It's not great, it's not terrible. There are some twists and turns but thanks to the meandering style it is written in, you don't know or care enough about the characters to be shocked or intrigued by them.

Love, betrayal, petty larceny, and high fashion fuel this deliciously comic novel from the author of *Fight Club*. She's a fashion model who has everything: a boyfriend, a career, a loyal best friend. But when a sudden freeway "accident" leaves her disfigured and incapable of speech, she goes from being the beautiful center of attention to being an invisible monster, so hideous that no one will acknowledge that she exists. Enter Brandy Alexander, Queen Supreme, one operation away from becoming a real woman, who will teach her that reinventing yourself means erasing your past and making up something better. And that salvation hides in the last places you'll ever want to look.

.com When the plot of your first novel partially hinges on anarchist overthrows funded by soap sales, and the narrative hook of your second work is the black box recorder of a jet moments away from slamming into the Australian outback, it stands to reason that your audience is going to be ready for anything. Which, to an author like Chuck Palahniuk, must sound like a challenge. Palahniuk's third identity crisis (that's "novel" to you), *Invisible Monsters*, more than ably responds to this call to arms. Set once again in an all-too-familiar modern wasteland where social disease and self-hatred can do more damage than any potboiler-fiction bad guy, the tale focuses particularly on a group of drag queens and fashion models trekking cross-country to find themselves, looking everywhere from the bottom of a vial of Demerol to the end of a shotgun barrel. It's a sort of *Drugstore Cowboy*-meets-*Yentl* affair, or a *Hope-Crosby* road movie with a skin graft and hormone-pill obsession, if you know what I mean. Um, yeah. Anyway, the Hollywood vibe doesn't stop these comparisons. As with *Fight Club* and *Survivor*, the book is invested with a cinematic sweep, from the opening set piece, which takes off like a house afire (literally), to a host of filmic tics sprayed throughout the text: "Flash," "Jump back," "Jump way ahead," "Flash," "Flash," "Flash." You get the idea. It's as if Palahniuk didn't write the thing but yanked it directly out of the Cineplex of his mind's eye. Does it succeed? Mostly. Still working on measuring out the proper dosages of his many writerly talents (equal parts potent imagery, nihilistic coolpeak, and doped-out craziness), Palahniuk every now and then loosens his grip on the story line, which at points becomes as hard to decipher as your local pill addict's medicine cabinet. However *Invisible Monsters* works best on a roller-coaster level. You don't stop and count each slot on the track as you're going down the big hill. You throw up your hands and yell, "Whee!" --Bob MichaelsFrom *Publishers Weekly*Palahniuk's grotesque romp aims to skewer the ruthless superficiality of the fashion world and winds up with a tale as savagely glib as what it derides. Narrator Shannon McFarland, once a gorgeous fashion model, has been hideously disfigured in a mysterious drive-by shooting. Her jaw has been shot off, leaving her not only bereft of a career and boyfriend, but suddenly invisible to the world. Along comes no-nonsense, pill-popping diva Brandy Alexander, a resplendent, sassy, transgendered chick, who has modeled her body rearrangement--the breast implants, the hair, the figure--on what Shannon used to look like. Brandy suggests veils, high camp and no self-pity. Shannon wants revenge[...] Adding to the plot's contrivances are the relentless flashbacks, heralded at the beginning of almost every paragraph with "Jump back to..." and the author's pretentious device of using a fashion photographer's commands ("Flash. Give me adoration. Flash. Give me a break") to signpost the narrator's epiphanies. Palahniuk writes like he's overdosed on *Details* magazine. Though the absurd surprise ending may incite groans of disbelief, this book does have fun moments when campy banter tops the heroine's flat, whiny bathos. (Sept.) FYI: The film of Palahniuk's novel *Fight Club* will star Brad Pitt. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.From *Booklist*This is a wild ride of a novel. The narrator is an unnamed fashion model who's had her lower jaw shot off in an ambush. In the hospital, she meets her new mentor, the Princess Brandy Alexander, who is in the middle of a year-long gender reassignment process. Together, they launch a picaresque voyage of revenge on the narrator's ex-best friend, model Evie, and ex-boyfriend, vice cop Manus, who were having an affair before the shooting. Along the way they pick up Sean, whom they are inexplicably feeding gender-altering pharmaceuticals without his knowledge. The novel opens with its climax, then jumps around the narrator's life,

introducing her crazy parents, her ostensibly dead brother, and the nun-nurse who is trying to fix her up with other patients who have suffered disfiguring accidents. No one is who he or she seems to be, and the challenge is to figure out who is morphing into whom. By the end, most readers will be both exhausted and exhilarated. George Needham