

# **SACRED AND IMMORAL ON THE WRITINGS OF CHUCK PALAHNIUK READ ONLY**

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## **Sacred And Immoral On The Writings Of Chuck Palahniuk Introduction**

### **Sacred and Immoral**

Sacred and Immoral: On the Writings of Chuck Palahniuk, edited by Jeffrey A. Sartain, combines the efforts of an international list of writers to explore the depths of Chuck Palahniuk's fiction. Scholars have paid attention Palahniuk's premiere novel, *Fight Club*, for years. Sacred and Immoral is the first anthology dedicated to scholarship focused on Palahniuk's work following *Fight Club*, which he has been producing at an average of a book a year for thirteen years. By collecting the work of an interdisciplinary group of scholars under a single cover, Sacred and Immoral extends the reach of Palahniuk scholarship beyond any previous publication. Sacred and Immoral provides the single most comprehensive and useful scholarly resource to date for anyone wishing to examine Chuck Palahniuk's fiction in an academic context. Some of the anthology's chapters situate Palahniuk's work within existing generic conventions, while other chapters are concerned with the theoretical underpinnings of Palahniuk's writing and the philosophical implications of his work. With eleven new critical analyses of Palahniuk's later novels, Sacred and Immoral drastically expands the range and depth of academic inquiry into Palahniuk's fiction commensurate with the prominent and exciting position Palahniuk's work occupies in contemporary culture. Sacred and Immoral also includes a new interview with Chuck Palahniuk, conducted by literary scholar Matt Kavanagh. Finally, Sacred and Immoral boasts the most complete primary and secondary bibliographies of Palahniuk-related materials to date. Sacred and Immoral is not an attempt to have the last word on Chuck Palahniuk's literature. Rather, this volume is a springboard for other projects that relate to Palahniuk's writings. The anthology provides a critical framework for Palahniuk's later literature that students, teachers, and researchers can use in their own classrooms and writing.

### **Chuck Palahniuk**

From trauma to postmodernism and gender theory, this guide surveys a full range of critical perspectives on three of Palahniuk's major novels, including *Fight Club*.

### **Reading the Social in American Studies**

Reading the Social in American Studies offers a unique exploration of the advantages and benefits in using sociological terms and concepts in American literary and cultural studies and, conversely, in using literature—understood broadly—to uncover a microlevel of the social. Its temporal scope ranges from the early 19th to the 21st century, providing a historical dimension that is otherwise often missing from studies on the conjunction of literature and sociology. The contributors' approaches include genre reflections as well as close readings, theoretical discussions of crucial sociological terms, and literary observations backed up by empirical sociological studies. The book will familiarize international readers with ideas on the social from both sides of the Atlantic, including scholarship of such figures as John Dewey, Georg Simmel, Norbert Elias, and Pierre Bourdieu.

## **Chuck Palahniuk, Parodist**

Chuck Palahniuk, America's premier transgressive novelist, enjoys a tremendous readership. Yet he has not necessarily been embraced by critics or academics. His prose is considered vulgar by some, but his body of work addresses a core motivation of 21st-century life: individual self-empowerment. Palahniuk writes about what it means to be on the outside looking in, revising familiar narratives for a contemporary audience to get at the heart of the human condition—everyone wants a chance to win his or her fair share, no matter the cost. In *Haunted*, *Snuff*, *Pygmy*, *Tell-All*, *Damned* and *Invisible Monsters Remix*, he confronts marginalization and disenfranchisement through parodies of various works—*The Decameron*, *The Inferno*, *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*, *The Elephant Man*—as well as Hollywood history, 1970s karate films and the porn industry. This comprehensive study of six novels refutes criticism that Palahniuk's goals are to shock and sensationalize.

## **Chuck Palahniuk and the Comic Grotesque**

With the success of *Fight Club*, his novel-turned-movie, Chuck Palahniuk has become noticed for accurately capturing the exploitation of power in America in the 21st century. With cynicism and skepticism, he satirizes the manipulative aspects of ideologies and beliefs pushing society's understanding of the norm. In this work, Palahniuk's characters are analyzed as people who rebel against the systems in control. Mikhail Bakhtin's theory is applied to explain Palahniuk's application of the comic grotesque; theories from Louis Althusser and Slavoj Žižek help reveal aspects of ideology in Palahniuk's writing.

## **Literary Depictions of Dangerous Reading**

This book explores how American and European books represent reading as a dangerous act. It studies works that stage depictions of reading in such a way that readers suffer actual harm from the magical or supernatural qualities of a given text. Such dangerous reading fascinates by exaggerating the dangers that inhabit real experiences of reading.

## **Teaching Palahniuk: The Treasures of Transgression in the Age of Trump and Beyond**

While much has been written about Chuck Palahniuk and his body of work, next to nothing has been written about when, where and how it is necessary to teach Palahniuk. This collection will reveal that teaching Palahniuk's work and the discursive dynamic of the classroom interactions create new opportunities for scholarship by both the faculty member and his or her students. Despite early critical success with *'Fight Club'*, *'Invisible Monsters'*, and *'Choke'*, Palahniuk's novels are increasingly dismissed for the very transgressive content that makes them essential pedagogical tools in the Age of Trump where "truth isn't truth," and tribalism is stoked with claims of "fake news". This collection aims to broaden the scholarship by examining under-represented and unrepresented works from his oeuvre and situating them in the context of their pedagogical implications. In both form and content, the transgressive nature of Palahniuk's work demands critical thought and reflection, capacities that are necessary for the preservation of a democratic society. Contributors take various approaches to address what students can learn about writing, literature, and society by reading and analyzing Palahniuk's texts. The collection will discuss the value of teaching Palahniuk, innovations and various disciplinary contexts for teaching his works, and reflections on some of those pedagogical opportunities. Through its multi-faceted discussion of Palahniuk and pedagogy, this collection will legitimize efforts to bring his work onto syllabi and into the classroom, where it can enhance student engagement, create new avenues for inter-disciplinary scholarship, and re-invigorate an expansion of the canon. It will also provide diverse frameworks for incorporating and interpreting Palahniuk's writing across disciplines. Finally, the collection will offer post-mortems from faculty members who have found the "guts" to teach Palahniuk and will offer insight into what students have gained and stand to gain from a more intensive Palahniuk pedagogy.

## **Cities, Borders and Spaces in Intercultural American Literature and Film**

This book examines the spatial morphologies represented in a wide range of contemporary ethnic American literary and cinematic works. Drawing from Henri Lefebvre's theorization of space as a living organism, Edward Soja's writings on the postmetropolis, Marc Augé's notion of the non-place, Manuel Castells' space of flows, and Michel de Certeau's theories of walking as a practice, the volume extends previous theorizations by examining how spatial uses, appropriations, strictures, ruptures, and reconfigurations function in literary texts and films that represent inhabitants of racial-ethnic borderlands and migrational U.S. cities. The authors argue for the necessity of an alternative poetics of place that makes room for those who move beyond the spaces of traditional visibility—displaced and homeless people, undocumented workers, hybrid and/or marginalized populations rendered invisible by the cultural elite, yet often disciplined by agents of surveillance. Building upon Doreen Massey's conceptualization of liminal space as a sphere in which narratives intersect, clash, or cooperate, this study recasts spatial paradigms to insert an array of emergent geographies of invisibility that the volume traverses via the analysis of works by Chuck Palahniuk, Helena Viramontes, Karen Tei Yamashita, Gloria Anzaldúa, Alejandro Morales, and Li-Young Lee, among others, and films such as Thomas McCarthy's *The Visitor*, Steven Spielberg's *The Terminal*, and Alejandro González Iñárritu's *Babel*.

## **Fight Club**

'Hypnotic, pitiless and told brilliantly' Bret Easton Ellis Every weekend, in basements and parking lots across America, young men with good white-collar jobs and absent fathers take off their shoes and shirts and fight each other. Then they go back to those jobs with blackened eyes and loosened teeth and the sense that they can handle anything. *Fight Club* is the invention of Tyler Durden, projectionist, waiter and dark, anarchic genius. And it's only the beginning of his plans for revenge on a world where cancer support groups have the corner on human warmth. Read the subversive, savagely funny novel that defined a generation.

## **Intertextuality, Intersubjectivity, and Narrative Identity**

*Intertextuality, Intersubjectivity, and Narrative Identity* presents recent findings and opens new vistas for research by mapping the potential interconnections of intertextuality and intersubjectivity across a range of fields. Multidisciplinary in its focus, it incorporates various research foci and topoi across time and space. It is largely orchestrated around issues of identity in the fields of narration, gender, space, and trauma in British, Irish, American, South African, and Hungarian contexts. The contributions here centre on narrative identity, mediality, and spatiotemporality; modernism and revivalism; cultural memory, counter-histories, and place; female Künstlerdramas and war testimonies; and parasitical intersubjectivity, trauma, and multiple captivities in slave narratives. The volume brings together the seasoned insight of established researchers and the vivacious freshness of young scholars, providing an engaging read. Ultimately, it will prove to be relevant to researchers, teachers, and the general public given its unique approaches and the diversity of the topics explored.

## **Understanding Chuck Palahniuk**

An introduction to the fictions of the *Fight Club* author, who is both loved and loathed Ever since his first novel, *Fight Club*, was made into a cult film by David Fincher, Chuck Palahniuk has been a consistent presence on the *New York Times* best-seller list. A target of critics but a fan favorite, Palahniuk has been loathed and loved in equal measure for his dark humor, edgy topics, and confrontational writing style. In close readings of *Fight Club* and the thirteen novels that this controversial author has published since, Douglas Keesey argues that Palahniuk is much more than a "shock jock" engaged in mere sensationalism. His visceral depictions of sex and violence have social, psychological, and religious significance. Keesey takes issue with reviewers who accuse Palahniuk of being an angry nihilist and a misanthrope, showing

instead that he is really a romantic at heart and a believer in community. In this first comprehensive introduction to Palahniuk's fiction, Keesey reveals how this writer's outrageous narratives are actually rooted in his own personal experiences, how his seemingly unprecedented works are part of the American literary tradition of protagonists in search of an identity, and how his negative energy is really social satire directed at specific ills that he diagnoses and wishes to cure. After tracing the influence of his working-class background, his journalistic education, and his training as a \"minimalist\" writer, *Understanding Chuck Palahniuk* exposes connections between the writer's novels by grouping them thematically: the struggle for identity (*Fight Club*, *Invisible Monsters*, *Survivor*, *Choke*); the horror trilogy (*Lullaby*, *Diary*, *Haunted*); teen terrors (*Rant*, *Pygmy*); porn bodies and romantic myths (*Snuff*, *Tell-All*, *Beautiful You*); and a decidedly unorthodox revision of Dante's *Divine Comedy* (*Damned*, *Doomed*). Drawing on numerous author interviews and written in an engaging and accessible style, *Understanding Chuck Palahniuk* should appeal to scholars, students, and fans alike.

## **The Many Lives of The Evil Dead**

One of the top-grossing independent films of all time, *The Evil Dead* (1981) sparked a worldwide cult following, resulting in sequels, remakes, musicals, comic books, conventions, video games and a television series. Examining the legacy of one of the all-time great horror films, this collection of new essays covers the franchise from a range of perspectives. Topics include *The Evil Dead* as punk rock cinema, the Deadites' (demon-possessed undead) place in the American zombie tradition, the powers and limitations of Deadites, evil as affect, and the films' satire of neoliberal individualism.

## **Crisscrossing Borders in Literature of the American West**

In one consequential volume, *Crisscrossing Borders in Literature of the American West* presents the cross-section of a fast-changing and greatly expanded field. Through interdisciplinary essays, this volume on the post-national West challenges the idea of a unified national story sustained by strategic exclusions. Contributors analyze the economic and environmental exploitation depicted in working-class Western literature, emphasize the transnational by approaching both the North/South and cross-Atlantic axes grapple with the role of Mormons, and dissect the new masculinity of \"Silicon Gunslingers.\" Each essay successfully and compellingly models a new and fruitful way of engaging the West.

## **Odisea nº 19**

Anuario dirigido y gestionado por miembros del Área de Filología Inglesa del Departamento de Filología de la Universidad de Almería con el propósito de ofrecer un foro de intercambio de producción científica en campos del conocimiento tan diversos como la lengua inglesa, literatura en lengua inglesa, didáctica del inglés, traducción, inglés para fines específicos y otros igualmente vinculados a los estudios ingleses. Comenzó a publicarse en el año 2001.

## **Choke**

Victor Mancini has devised a complicated scam to pay for his mother's hospital care: pretend to be choking on a piece of food in a restaurant and the person who 'saves you' will feel responsible for you for the rest of their lives. Multiply that a couple of hundred times and you generate a healthy flow of cheques, week in, week out. Victor also works at a theme park with a motley group of losers, cruises sex addiction groups for action, and visits his mother, whose Alzheimer's disease now hides what may be the startling truth about his parentage.

## **Devouring Cultures**

\\"Funded in part by The Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts\\"--Page 4 of cover.

## **Chuck Palahniuk**

\\"Offering a world full of traumatized characters trapped in a consumerist society where men, women, sex and gender have become unstable commodities, Chuck Palahniuk has become one of the most controversial of contemporary novelists. This book is the first guide to bring together scholars from a full range of critical perspectives to explore three of Palahniuk's most widely-studied novels: *Fight Club*, *Invisible Monsters* and *Choke*. Examining these works in light of such key critical themes as violence, masculinity, postmodern aesthetics and trauma, the book also explores the ethical dimension of Palahniuk's work that is often lost in the heat of the controversies surrounding his books. Together with annotated guides to further reading, Chuck Palahniuk also includes section introductions surveying the contexts and reception of each novel, making this an essential guide for students and scholars of contemporary literature\\"--Provided by publisher.

## **Gender and Genre in Sports Documentaries**

This book is about nonfiction films about sports. Articles address questions of gender and sexuality, specifically how masculinity and homosexuality are represented in sports documentaries. Others focus on the characteristics of these films, exploring aspects of aesthetics and narrative. In addition to chapters on basketball, football, baseball, boxing, tennis, and auto racing, this collection features marginalized sports like quad rugby, pro wrestling, live action role playing (LARPing), and bodybuilding.

## **Survivor**

Not since Vonnegut's \\"Mother Night\\" and Kosinski's \\"Being There\\" has there been as dark and telling a satire on the wages of fame and the bedrock lunacy of the modern world.

## **Invisible Monsters**

After an sudden \\"accident\\" leaves her with half a face, no ability to speak, and no self-esteem, a fashion model is approached by Brandy Alexander--who's one operation away from becoming a \\"real woman\\"--who teaches her that reinventing oneself means erasing the past and making up something better.

## **Damned**

Thirteen year old Madison has problems: she's overweight, ignored by her movie star parents, and in love with her adopted brother. She's also dead. But not just dead. Madison is in Hell.

## **Imagining Our Neighbors As Ourselves**

In order to truly love and welcome others, we need to exercise our imaginations and see people more as God sees them instead of according to our own inadequate and ungracious labels. Mary McCampbell examines how narrative art expands our imaginations and, in so doing, emboldens our ability to love our neighbors as ourselves.

## **Not Forever, But For Now**

From the bestselling author of *Fight Club* comes a hilarious horror satire about a family of professional killers responsible for the most atrocious events in history and the young brothers that are destined to take over. Meet Otto and Cecil. Two brothers growing up privileged in the Welsh countryside. They enjoy watching nature shows, playing with their pet pony, impersonating their Grandfather...and killing the help.

Murder is the family business after all. *Downton Abbey*, this is not. However, it's not so easy to continue the family legacy with the constant stream of threats and distractions seemingly leaping from the hedgerow. First there is the matter of the veritable cavalcade of escaped convicts that keep showing up at their door. Not to mention the debauched new tutor who has a penchant for speaking in Greek and dismembering sex dolls. Then there's Mummy's burgeoning opioid addiction. And who knows where Daddy is. He just vanished one day after he and Mummy took a walk in the so called "Ghost Forest." With Grandfather putting pressure on Otto to step up, it becomes clear that this will all end in only two ways: a nuclear apocalypse or just another day among the creeping thistle and tree peonies. And in a novel written by Chuck Palahniuk, either are equally possible.

## **Lullaby**

NATIONAL BESTSELLER • From the author of the New York Times bestseller *Choke* and the cult classic *Fight Club*, a cunningly plotted novel about the ultimate verbal weapon, one that reinvents the apocalyptic thriller for our times. "A harrowing and hilarious glimpse into the future of civilization." —*Minneapolis Star-Tribune* Ever heard of a culling song? It's a lullaby sung in Africa to give a painless death to the old or infirm. The lyrics of a culling song kill, whether spoken or even just thought. You can find one on page 27 of *Poems and Rhymes from Around the World*, an anthology that is sitting on the shelves of libraries across the country, waiting to be picked up by unsuspecting readers. Reporter Carl Streator discovers the song's lethal nature while researching Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and before he knows it, he's reciting the poem to anyone who bothers him. As the body count rises, Streator glimpses the potential catastrophe if someone truly malicious finds out about the song. The only answer is to find and destroy every copy of the book in the country. Accompanied by a shady real-estate agent, her Wiccan assistant, and the assistant's truly annoying ecoterrorist boyfriend, Streator begins a desperate cross-country quest to put the culling song to rest.

## **Beautiful You**

From the author of *Fight Club*, the classic portrait of the damaged contemporary male psyche, now comes this novel about the apocalyptic marketing possibilities of female pleasure. Sisters will be doing it for themselves. And doing it. And doing it. And doing it some more... Penny Harrigan is a low level associate in a big Manhattan law firm with an apartment in Queens and no love life at all. So it comes as a great shock when she finds herself invited to dinner by one C. Linus Maxwell, aka 'Climax-Well', a software mega-billionaire and lover of the most gorgeous and accomplished women on earth. After dining at Manhattan's most exclusive restaurant, he whisks Penny off to a hotel suite in Paris, where he proceeds, notebook in hand, to bring her to previously undreamed of heights of orgasmic pleasure for days on end. What's not to like? This: Penny discovers that she is a test subject for the final development of a line of sex toys to be marketed in a nationwide chain of boutiques called 'Beautiful You'. So potent and effective are these devices that women line up in their millions outside the stores on opening day then lock themselves in their room and stop coming out. Except for batteries. Maxwell's plan for erotically enabled world domination must be stopped. But how?

## **Tell-all**

Marinated in the world of vintage Hollywood, "Tell-All" is a "Sunset Boulevard"-inflected homage to Old Hollywood when Bette Davis and Joan Crawford ruled the roost; a veritable Tourette's syndrome of rat-tat-tat name-dropping, from the A-list to the Z-list; and is vintage Palahniuk.

## **Inside the Mind of Chuck Palahniuk**

Chuck Palahniuk is, of course, best known as the author of the award-winning novel (and subsequent film) *Fight Club*. This story alone shows the uniqueness of Palahniuk's storytelling, and his short stories and novels since have continued to establish him as one of the finest writers of modern times. It is evident from

listening to what Palahniuk has said about himself and other subjects that he is more than just an author; he is a philosopher within in own right. This book brings together some of the best quotes from this literary wonder.

## **Doomed**

The bestselling *Damned* chronicled Madison's journey across the unspeakable (and really gross) landscape of the afterlife to confront the Devil himself. But her story isn't over yet. In a series of electronic dispatches from the Great Beyond, *Doomed* describes the ultimate showdown between Good and Evil. After a Halloween ritual gone awry, Madison finds herself trapped in Purgatory – or, as mortals like you and I know it, Earth. She can see and hear every detail of the world she left behind, yet she's invisible to everyone who's still alive. Not only do people look right through her, they walk right through her as well. The upside is that, no longer subject to physical limitations, she can pass through doors and walls. Her first stop is her parents' luxurious apartment, where she encounters the ghost of her long-deceased grandmother. For Madison, the encounter triggers memories of the awful summer she spent upstate with Nana Minnie and her grandfather, Papadaddy. As she revisits the painful truth of what transpired over those months, her saga of eternal damnation takes on a new and sinister meaning. Madison has been in Satan's sights from the very beginning, as through her and her narcissistic celebrity parents he plans to engineer an era of eternal damnation. For everyone. Once again, our unconventional but plucky heroine must face her fears and gather her wits for the battle of a lifetime. Dante Alighieri, watch your back; Chuck Palahniuk is gaining on you.

## **Invisible Monsters Remix**

For the first time in hardcover, an expanded, radically refashioned "director's cut" of a favorite Chuck Palahniuk novel. Injected with new material and special design elements, *Invisible Monsters Remix* fulfills Chuck Palahniuk's original vision for his 1999 novel, turning a daring satire on beauty and the fashion industry into an even more wildly unique reading experience. Palahniuk's fashion-model protagonist has it all—boyfriend, career, loyal best friend—until an accident destroys her face, her ability to speak, and her self-esteem. Enter Brandy Alexander, Queen Supreme, one operation away from becoming a bona-fide woman. Laced in are new chapters of memoir and further scenes with the book's characters. Readers will jump between chapters, reread the book to understand the dissolve between fiction and fact, and decipher the playful book design, embarking on a ride they'll never forget.

## **Make Something Up**

Twenty one stories and one novella from Chuck Palahniuk, literature's favorite transgressive author, *Make Something Up* is a compilation that disturbs and delights in equal measure. In "Expedition," fans will be thrilled to find to see a side of Tyler Durden never seen before in a precursor story to *Fight Club*. And in other stories, the absurdity of both life and death are on full display; in "Zombies," the best and brightest of a high school prep school become tragically addicted to the latest drug craze: electric shocks from cardiac defibrillators. In "Knock, Knock," a son hopes to tell one last off-color joke to a father in his final moments, while in "Tunnel of Love," a massage therapist runs the curious practice of providing 'relief' to dying clients. Funny, caustic, bizarre, poignant; these stories represent everything readers have come to love and expect from Chuck Palahniuk. You'll never forget them. Just try.

## **The Routledge Companion to Masculinity in American Literature and Culture**

Recently, the U.S. has seen a rise in misogynistic and race-based violence perpetrated by men expressing a sense of grievance, from "incels" to alt-right activists. Grounding sociological, historical, political, and economic analyses of masculinity through the lens of cultural narratives in many forms and expressions, *The Routledge Companion to Masculinity in American Literature and Culture* suggests that how we examine the stories that shape us in turn shapes our understanding of our current reality and gives us language for

imagining better futures. Masculinity is more than a description of traits associated with particular performances of gender. It is more than a study of gender and social power. It is an examination of the ways in which gender affects our capacity to engage ethically with each other in complex human societies. This volume offers essays from a range of established, global experts in American masculinity as well as new and upcoming scholars in order to explore not just what masculinity once meant, has come to mean, and may mean in the future in the U.S.; it also articulates what is at stake with our conceptions of masculinity.

## **Burnt Tongues**

Transgressive fiction authors write stories some are afraid to tell. Stories with taboo subjects, unique voices, shocking images—nothing safe or dry. *Burnt Tongues* is a collection of transgressive stories selected by a rigorous nomination and vetting process and hand-selected by Chuck Palahniuk, author of *Fight Club*, as the best of The Cult workshop. These stories run the gamut from horrific and fantastic to humorous and touching, but each leaves a lasting impression. Some may say even a scar.

## **'Fight Club' - A Model of a Social Revolution**

Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: Sehr gut, University of Augsburg, language: English, abstract: \"Fight Club - A model of a social revolution\" deals with the conception and the possible impact of the revolutionary overthrow bestowed upon society in Chuck Palahniuk's debut novel. From a top-down perspective it illuminates affected areas, consequences and applicability.

## **Stranger Than Fiction**

Whether discussing his father's murder or encounters with cult figures like Marilyn Manson, each vignette in Palahniuk's first collection of nonfiction offers a unique glimpse into the life of a daring and original literary talent.

## **Reading Chuck Palahniuk**

Reading Chuck Palahniuk examines how the author pushes through a variety of boundaries to shape fiction and to question American identity in powerful and important ways. Palahniuk's innovative stylistic accomplishments and notoriously disturbing subject matters invite close analysis, and the new essays in this collection offer fascinating insights about Palahniuk's texts, contexts, contributions, and controversies. Addressing novels from *Fight Club* through *Snuff*, as well as his nonfiction, this volume will be valuable to anyone with a serious interest in contemporary literature.

## **Horror Literature through History [2 volumes]**

This two-volume set offers comprehensive coverage of horror literature that spans its deep history, dominant themes, significant works, and major authors, such as Stephen King, Edgar Allan Poe, and Anne Rice, as well as lesser-known horror writers. Many of today's horror story fans—who appreciate horror through movies, television, video games, graphic novels, and other forms—probably don't realize that horror literature is not only one of the most popular types of literature but one of the oldest. People have always been mesmerized by stories that speak to their deepest fears. *Horror Literature through History* shows 21st-century horror fans the literary sources of their favorite entertainment and the rich intrinsic value of horror literature in its own right. Through profiles of major authors, critical analyses of important works, and overview essays focused on horror during particular periods as well as on related issues such as religion, apocalypticism, social criticism, and gender, readers will discover the fascinating early roots and evolution of horror writings as well as the reciprocal influence of horror literature and horror cinema. This unique two-



volume reference set provides wide coverage that is current and compelling to modern readers—who are of course also eager consumers of entertainment. In the first section, overview essays on horror during different historical periods situate works of horror literature within the social, cultural, historical, and intellectual currents of their respective eras, creating a seamless narrative of the genre's evolution from ancient times to the present. The second section demonstrates how otherwise unrelated works of horror have influenced each other, how horror subgenres have evolved, and how a broad range of topics within horror—such as ghosts, vampires, religion, and gender roles—have been handled across time. The set also provides alphabetically arranged reference entries on authors, works, and specialized topics that enable readers to zero in on information and concepts presented in the other sections.

## **Invisible Monsters: A Novel**

"A harrowing, perverse, laugh-aloud funny rocket ride of catastrophes...Gutsy, terse and cunning, *Invisible Monsters* may emerge as Palahniuk's strongest book." —Greg Berkman, *Seattle Times* 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 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.

## **Fight Club**

The first rule about fight club is you don't talk about fight club. Chuck Palahniuk showed himself to be his generation's most visionary satirist in this, his first book. *Fight Club*'s estranged narrator leaves his lackluster job when he comes under the thrall of Tyler Durden, an enigmatic young man who holds secret after-hours boxing matches in the basements of bars. There, two men fight "as long as they have to." This is a gloriously original work that exposes the darkness at the core of our modern world.

## **Rant**

'Rant' takes the form of an oral history of one Buster 'Rant' Casey, in which an assortment of friends, enemies, admirers, detractors and relations have their say on this evil character, who may or may not be the most efficient serial killer of our time.

## **Violence and Consumerism in Bret Easton Ellis's *American Psycho* and Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club***

Examination Thesis from the year 2009 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,5, University of Heidelberg, language: English, abstract: "Art has always reflected society. [...] *Fight Club* examines violence and the roots of frustration that are causing people to reach out for such radical solutions. And that's exactly the sort of discussion we should be having about our culture. Because a culture that doesn't examine its violence is a culture in denial, which is much more dangerous." This assessment of *Fight Club* by Edward Norton, who plays the narrator in the novel's movie adaptation, explains the reasoning behind this thesis, which examines the basic principles of today's consumer culture, its connection to aggression and violence, and the way these topics are presented in two contemporary novels: Bret Easton Ellis's *American Psycho* and Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club*. In these books, the respective protagonists face similar deadlocks connected to life in the consumerist world of the 1980s and 1990s. Despite, evidently, having everything a person could ask for, both main characters' lives remain unfulfilled, leaving them frustrated and dissatisfied. As it turns out, acts of violence become the only thing that lets them get away from the boredom of their daily routine and gives them a sense of satisfaction.

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