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Uglies



Synopsis

The Uglies series has more than 3 million books in print, has been translated into twenty-seven languages, and spent more than fifty weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. Now all four books feature fresh new covers and will reach an even wider audience. Tally's adventures begin in Uglies, where she learns the truth about what life as a Pretty really means.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770 (What's this?)

Series: Uglies

Paperback: 432 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 1,226 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,209 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > New Experiences #49 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Dystopian #641 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Playing on every teen's passionate desire to look as good as everybody else, Scott Westerfeld (Midnighters) projects a future world in which a compulsory operation at sixteen wipes out physical differences and makes everyone pretty by conforming to an ideal standard of beauty. The "New Pretties" are then free to play and party, while the younger "Uglies" look on enviously and spend the time before their own transformations in plotting mischievous tricks against their elders. Tally Youngblood is one of the most daring of the Uglies, and her imaginative tricks have gotten her in trouble with the menacing department of Special Circumstances. She has yearned to be pretty, but since her best friend Shay ran away to the rumored rebel settlement of recalcitrant Uglies called The Smoke, Tally has been troubled. The authorities give her an impossible choice: either she

follows Shay's cryptic directions to The Smoke with the purpose of betraying the rebels, or she will never be allowed to become pretty. Hoping to rescue Shay, Tally sets off on the dangerous journey as a spy. But after finally reaching The Smoke she has a change of heart when her new lover David reveals to her the sinister secret behind becoming pretty. The fast-moving story is enlivened by many action sequences in the style of videogames, using intriguing inventions like hoverboards that use the rider's skateboard skills to skim through the air, and bungee jackets that make wild downward plunges survivable -- and fun. Behind all the commotion is the disturbing vision of our own society -- the Rusties -- visible only in rusting ruins after a virus destroyed all petroleum. Teens will be entranced, and the cliffhanger ending will leave them gasping for the sequel. (Ages 12 and up) --Patty Campbell --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review. Grade 6 Up – Tally Youngblood lives in a futuristic society that acculturates its citizens to believe that they are ugly until age 16 when they'll undergo an operation that will change them into pleasure-seeking "pretties." Anticipating this happy transformation, Tally meets Shay, another female ugly, who shares her enjoyment of hoverboarding and risky pranks. But Shay also disdains the false values and programmed conformity of the society and urges Tally to defect with her to the Smoke, a distant settlement of simple-living conscientious objectors. Tally declines, yet when Shay is found missing by the authorities, Tally is coerced by the cruel Dr. Cable to find her and her compatriots – or remain forever "ugly." Tally's adventuresome spirit helps her locate Shay and the Smoke. It also attracts the eye of David, the aptly named youthful rebel leader to whose attentions Tally warms. However, she knows she is living a lie, for she is a spy who wears an eye-activated locator pendant that threatens to blow the rebels' cover. Ethical concerns will provide a good source of discussion as honesty, justice, and free will are all oppressed in this well-conceived dystopia. Characterization, which flirts so openly with the importance of teen self-concept, is strong, and although lengthy, the novel is highly readable with a convincing plot that incorporates futuristic technologies and a disturbing commentary on our current public policies. Fortunately, the cliff-hanger ending promises a sequel. – Susan W. Hunter, Riverside Middle School, Springfield, VT --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Tally dreams of being pretty. All of her friends have already had the operation and now live in pretty town but Tally still has a month to go before her operation and live change. Now she is stuck in Uglyville waiting until the day she turns sixteen. She is all alone so she sneaks over to Pretty Town

to see her bff Peris who is already pretty. She wants to make sure they are still friends because since his operation he hasn't contacted her. She finds Peris and he assures her that once she becomes Pretty it will be just like old times together. Tally becomes a legend before she even becomes pretty when she has to escape New Pretty town without getting caught, she meets a new Ugly friend Shay in the process of escaping and at least she isn't alone anymore before her operation. Shay has strange ideas, she doesn't want to become pretty. She knows of a way out and tries to convince Tally to come with her. Tally refuses but Shay leaves anyway and Tally is alone again. On the day Tally has waited for her whole life, the day of her surgery, she is whisked away to Special Circumstances to learn that they know of all the tricks she has played and that her friend Shay went to live in the 'Smoke' so that she never has to become Pretty and live in normal society. Tally is given a choice, be ugly forever or find the 'Smoke' and signal Special Circumstances. This book had a lot of social ideas. How do you keep a society in line, who decides what is beautiful, can you be beautiful to someone even if you are imperfect. There was also some environmental preachiness I think the story could have done without. I liked the way things were reused in the wilderness but some of the things they abhorred were really weird. I didn't get how all the building and hovercrafts and stuff in the city were made so that they were environmentally sound and didn't use trees or animals. It was a small part of the story though so it didn't matter a lot. The contrast between city life and pretty life was great to see. All and all the story is interesting and moves along at a nice pace. You quickly pick up on the language and the end has a slight cliffhanger so I wanted to read the next book in the series right away. Solid writing and plot line even if it was a little preachy at times.

I absolutely recommend *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld. I found it highly entertaining and thought provoking as well. It possessed a suspenseful, exciting plot that captures the reader's attention. The novel tells a story about a teenage girl named Tally Youngblood who is an "ugly" and anxiously counts down the days until she turns sixteen and can transform into a "pretty". Her daring personality leads her on exhilarating adventures to places beyond the city's boundaries. Through people and events her life changes drastically and so do her opinions about becoming pretty. The reader experiences a small part of Tally's journey through life and as the reader you become connected with her. Through the course of the book Tally blossoms from a rebellious teenager to a mature and selfless young adult within a few months. The reader is able to witness all the relationships that influence Tally and how they transform her and change her views. *Uglies* encourages readers to reflect on their own lives and society and what effect the

standard of pretty has on humans. The book expresses internal beauty's importance and that there should be no standard for how people look. Looking at our own society similarities may appear concerning humanity's obsession with pretty. You should read this book to see what revelation Tally makes, what Tally discovers about herself, and how this changes her life. (MQM)

As members of a society that flourishes with different types of people, it's hard to imagine a world where everyone is "pretty". To us, it's an opinion, our different features are appealing or unappealing depending on who is looking. But to Tally and her society, it's a way of life. It's matter of fact that everyone becomes pretty at the age of 16. That is, until she meets Shay, who changes her outlook on things. Shay tells her about an outside community, where no one turns pretty. Once Tally reaches that outside community, the Smoke, she realizes there's much more to life than just being pretty. Westerfield, in this dystopian novel, does a great job at informing readers that this may be what our world turns out to be if we continue to focus on the way we look on the outside. With stunning imagery, agonizing suspense, and relatable characters, Westerfield creates an undeniable page turning novel that no one can put down. And even when the book is back on its bookshelf collecting dust, the message of the story is carried with readers wherever their next adventure takes them.

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