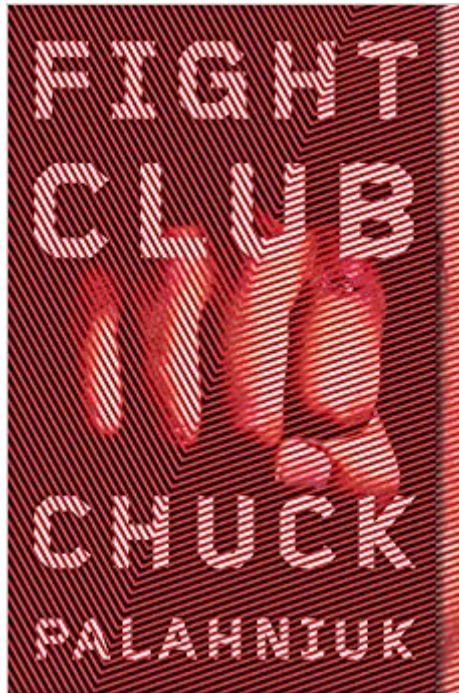




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Fight Club: A Novel



Synopsis

The first rule about fight club is you don't talk about fight club. In his debut novel, Chuck Palahniuk showed himself to be his generation's most visionary satirist. 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 boxing matches in the basement of bars. There two men fight "as long as they have to." A gloriously original work that exposes what is at the core of our modern world.

Book Information

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Fiction > Satire #14 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Men's Adventure

Customer Reviews

The 2008 audio edition of Palahniuk's ground-breaking 1996 novel provides a timely opportunity to contemplate the direction of Generation X and the wider, popular culture over the past dozen years. The white, male, 20-something angst of the story's unnamed protagonist and his mysterious partner in crime, Tyler Durden, may now sometimes seem like slightly dated grunge rock. Also, the themes of domestic terrorism and insurrection certainly play differently in a post-September 11 world. Yet Palahniuk's power to provoke our collective sacred cows remains undeniable. The narrative "with its delusional twists and turns" presents serious challenges on audio. James Colby cleverly plays deadpan cool through much of the early plot exposition so that the chaos that eventually takes hold becomes all the more eerie and surreal. He pulls off the convoluted climactic revelations with emotional authenticity. The listening experience may be too jarring for general audiences merely hoping for a commute diversion. However, the release offers today's crop of young urban hipsters an opportunity to connect with the voices of a previous decade. A W.W. Norton paperback (Reviews, June 3, 1996). (July) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed

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In the world of Fight Club, healthy young people go to meetings of cancer support groups because only there can they find human warmth and compassion. It's a world where young men gather in the basements of bars to fight strangers "just as long as they have to." And it's a world where "nobody cared if he lived or died, and the feeling was fucking mutual." Messianic nihilist Tyler Durden is the inventor of Fight Club. Soon thousands of young men across the country are reporting to their work cubes with flattened noses, blackened eyes, and shattered teeth, looking forward to their next bare-knuckle maiming. The oracular, increasingly mysterious Durden then begins to harness the despair, alienation, and violence he sees so clearly into complete anarchy. Every generation frightens and unnerves its parents, and Palahniuk's first novel is gen X's most articulate assault yet on baby-boomer sensibilities. This is a dark and disturbing book that dials directly into youthful angst and will likely horrify the parents of teens and twentysomethings. It's also a powerful, and possibly brilliant, first novel. Thomas Gaughan --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

A wild read. However, I was a bit disappointed by the author putting himself into the story line. It just seemed a cheap writing trick. The rest of the story is okay, a bit convoluted but easy to follow. I'm glad it was released as a comic book instead of a novel. I don't think the writing would have held up in novel format. I like that the author referenced the original book and poked a bit of fun at the film. (I actually enjoyed the book better than the film, and I loved the film.) That all being said, I'm happy with my purchase, the book is of high quality and I look forward to revisiting it at a later date. So if you're curious as to the future of Tyler Durden... I recommend you pick this up and read it.

There is a couple of things to be said about this book. As far as it concerns the structure of the book, be sure not to miss the afterword, where the author explains it well. Suffice to say that although not a traditional one, it has the virtue of keeping your interest without making you lose the thread very often (sometimes it does get a little confusing). There isn't much to say about the individual characters, aside from the main one, which I will not comment, because I don't want to spoil it. As far as the plot is concerned, it is interesting, and from the very beginning it grabs your attention. There are some inconsistencies, but acceptable ones. The most interesting thing about the book, though, is how it succeeds in approaching the dissatisfaction, the unhappiness and the void in the lives of a large portion of today's society. You don't go to a place where you will beat people up (or, even worst, be yourself beat up) if you have anything else going on in your life. There people don't. A lot of

the fight club members call themselves the "waste of society", etc. The book talks about men who become poison because they don't know what else to be. And it is the plausibility of this feeling that gives the book its impact. It should be interesting to read this book having in mind real life radical organizations, such as neonazis.

I adored this book. I watched the movie a couple days ago and loved it, and immediately afterward decided to purchase and read the book. I'm so glad I did, because the book is 100000000 times better than the movie. The writing style is so engaging and the ending is satisfying. I'll be recommending this book to all of my friends, regardless of how much they enjoy reading.

Based on the fact that there's a movie and lots of hype, I expected a bit more from this book at the very least. As a satire, it offers few insights or thought-provoking ideas. The plot was pretty flat and forgettable. I normally love satires of this sort and was sorely disappointed. It seemed to focus too much on technical, non-vital information. Didn't care for the exploration of soap-making or the guy putting disgusting stuff into food. These parts weren't entertaining at all. Just felt like filler.

Yes, I saw the movie first. Yes, I know the movie almost line by line. Yes, the movie is one of my favorite movies of all time. Given that, you would think that I wouldn't like the book or that somehow it didn't live to my expectations, wow, was I wrong! I've read the book at least three times already, it's that good. I read somewhere that the movie and book are two different animals.. and they are, both of them perfect in their own created world. The movie is not so much about hitting bottom as the book, in the movie there's a sort of coolness about the characters, the book is about how cool it is to not be cool. Marla is very important in the book and you learn to appreciate her character better. There are a lot of similarities and you will find yourself saying "wow, I remember that from the movie" more than once, believe me. The writing style of the author I like but could see other people not digging it as much. The way I describe his writing style is that he writes as we think, the human being does not work in paragraphs, we think in lines, sometimes just in words, and that's how the book is written.

I mean Chuck Palahniuk knew fans would hate this book. He drew himself as a character in the book with fans an angry mob of fans holding nooses standing at his door. That doesn't make what he did okay, of course. But maybe it's part of, I don't know, some art thing he's trying to do? I'm trying to give him the benefit of the doubt here. I feel like at the point where it was so clear to him that

fans were going to hate this book that he was actually going to draw it as a scene within the book itself, he should have stopped and thought "Maybe I've hit a dead end here. Also maybe this is more meta than it is good. Maybe I should reconsider this whole Fight Club 2 business and let the original book continue standing on its own, as it's been doing just fine for the last 20 years. Maybe I should listen to the people in my writing group rather than just writing their objections into the story." Or maybe it's the best thing he's ever written and it just went completely over my head. I don't know. I'm kind of at a loss on this one.

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