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Uglies: Uglies, Book 1



Synopsis

Tally lives in a world where your 16th birthday brings aesthetic perfection: an operation that erases all your flaws, transforming you from an "Ugly" into a "Pretty". She is on the eve of this important event and cannot wait for her life to change. As well as guaranteeing supermodel looks, life as a Pretty seems to revolve around having a good time. But then she meets Shay, who is also 15 - but with a very different outlook on life. Shay isn't sure she wants to be Pretty and plans to escape to a community in the forest - the Rusty Ruins - where Ugliers go to escape "turning". Tally won't be persuaded to join her, as this would involve sacrificing everything she's ever wanted for a lot of uncertainty. When she is taken in for questioning on her birthday, however, Tally gets sent to the Ruins anyway - against her will. The authorities offer Tally the worst choice she could ever imagine: Find her friend, Shay, and turn her in or never turn Pretty at all. What she discovers in the Ruins reveals that there is nothing "pretty" about the transformations...and the choice Tally makes will change her world forever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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 buildings 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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