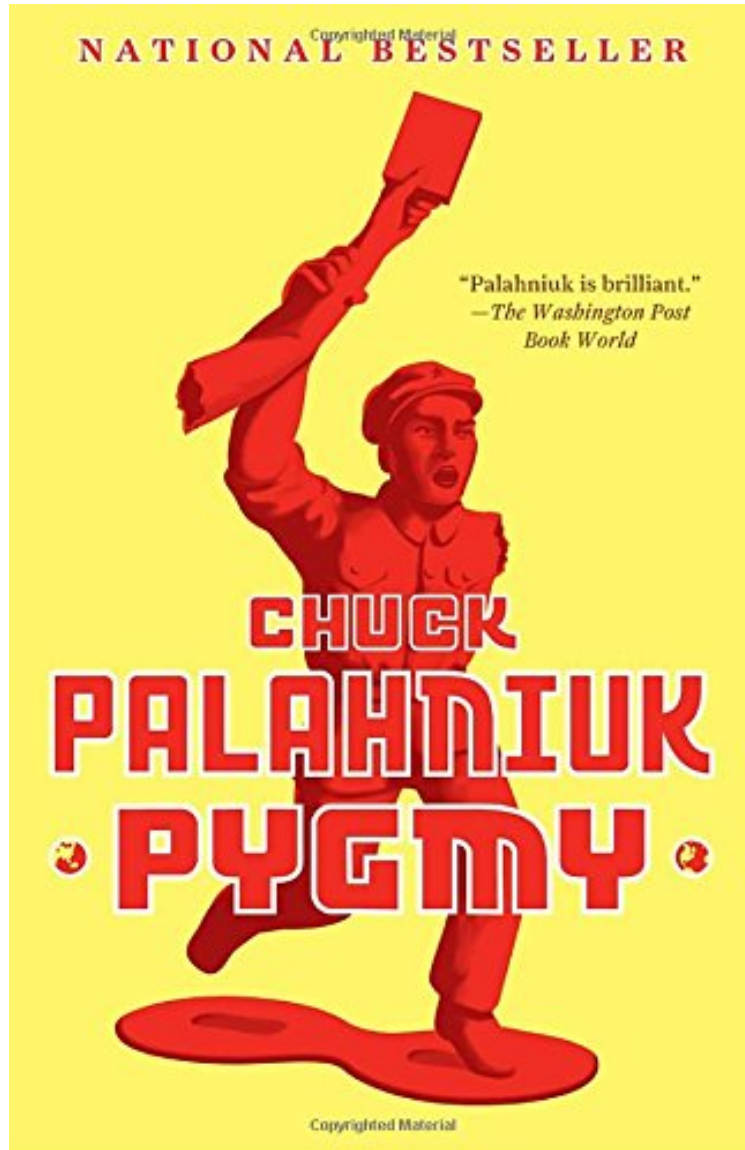


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Pygmy

Chuck Palahniuk

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Chuck Palahniuk : Pygmy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pygmy:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Hard to write a review. I am a huge ...By JAG/BeachHard to write a review. I am a huge fan of Palahniuk. Pygmy is barely readable. Clever energy but dazing reading. I gave up after 2 chapters. Too clever even for P.O of 0 people found the following review helpful. The ugly prose fit the content. Inventive in this ...By Nicholas Alan Tillemans The ugly prose fit the content. Inventive in this way. Takes some

getting used to the Pigeon English, though...a cumbersome read in this respect. I had to go back and read many passages again because of the strained (though purposely-so) narrative. I understand the choice. There is give and take; and Chuck can take artistic license to create a meaningful, refreshing experience. That said, there is something to be said for a smooth reading experience. Not sure you can have it both ways...nor that you cannot. He pushes the boundaries. Definitely four stars. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I love this book by Palahniuk. By Tomasz Samczynski I love this book by Palahniuk. This is a great satire of the way we live and how an outsider may view it; that outsider being a foreign secret agent. Not everything here that is funny is spelled out for you like it was in *Fight Club* or *Choke*. This book is not for everyone; I've given this to people and they hated it; either the crude sexual stuff or the point of view or whatever else. I nonetheless found it entertaining.

A gang of adolescent terrorists, a spelling bee, and a terrible plan masquerading as a science project: This is *Operation Havoc*. Pygmy is one of a handful of young adults from a totalitarian state sent to the US disguised as exchange students. Living with American families to blend in, they are planning an unspecified act of massive terrorism that will bring this big dumb country and its fat dumb inhabitants to their knees. Palahniuk depicts Midwestern life through the eyes of this indoctrinated little killer in a cunning double-edged satire of American xenophobia.

From Publishers Weekly Palahniuk's 10th novel (after *Snuff*) is a potent if cartoonish cultural satire that succeeds despite its stridently confounding prose. A gang of adolescent terrorists trained by an unspecified totalitarian state (the boys and girls are guided by quotations attributed to Marx, Hitler, Augusto Pinochet, Idi Amin, etc.) infiltrate America as foreign exchange students. Their mission: to bring the nation to its knees through *Operation Havoc*, an act of mass destruction disguised as a science project. Narrated by skinny 13-year-old Pygmy, the propulsive plot deconstructs American fixtures, among them church (religion propaganda distribution outlet), spelling bees (forced battle to list English alphabet letters) and TV news reporters (Horde scavenger feast at overflowing anus of world history), before moving on to a Columbine-like shooting spree by a closeted kid who has fallen in love with the teenage terrorist who raped him in a shopping mall bathroom. Decoding Palahniuk's characteristically scathing observations is a challenge, as Pygmy's narrative voice is unbound by rules of grammar or structure (a typical sentence: Host father mount altar so stance beside bin empty of water), but perseverance is its own perverse reward in this singular, comic accomplishment. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Bookmarks Magazine* "What will he think of next?" asked the flabbergasted critic from the *New York Times Book Review*. Indeed, while several reviewers praised the novel as a darkly humorous commentary on American society, most agreed it contained serious flaws. Palahniuk's tenth novel seems designed to flummox readers with its extreme profanity, graphic sexual violence involving minors, and portrayal of adults as either brainless buffoons or shameless perverts. Critics were also split on the author's repeated use of an undefined syntax, reminiscent of pidgin English, throughout. What readers, after all, will have the patience to read sentences like, "Revered soon dying mother, distribute you ammunitions correct for Croatia-made forty-five-caliber, long-piston-stroke APS assault rifle"? Overall, critics acknowledged that diehard Palahniuk fans might savor *Pygmy* but that most folks would find it too stomach-turning. "A cunning mix of advertising copy, leftist sloganeering and teen slang.... *Pygmy* is a dish for those who like their satire well done. And without apology." —*San Francisco Chronicle* "Palahniuk's twisted imagination is still in full bloom." —*The Seattle Times* "[A] hilarious cover-to-cover read." —*The Baltimore City Paper* "Inventive, hilarious, moving and deeply disturbing." —*Playboy* "Palahniuk is brilliant." —*The Washington Post Book World* "Palahniuk's novels have always been driven by black humor. . . . His minimalist, verb-heavy style propels the narratives through the many bizarre, occasionally shocking events. . . . A full portrait of an unforgettable character. *Pygmy* is yet another unique direction for an author who continues to challenge and intrigue readers." —*The Boston Globe* "A rip-roaringly exciting piece of writing, a truly graphic novel. . . . It has moments of poetry within." —*The Telegraph (London)* "Chuck Palahniuk is William S. Burroughs and David Foster Wallace rolled into one." —*San Diego Union-Tribune* "Violent, outrageous, and darkly hilarious." —*National Post* "Palahniuk is brilliant at juxtaposing *Pygmy's* insane background with the madness of contemporary Western society." —*The Washington Post Book World* "Give *Pygmy* to your kid. He'll think you're rad." —*Esquire* "A poignant commentary on culture clash with a sinister and violent twist. It's what one might expect if movie-violence king Quentin Tarantino had written *Borat*." —*The London Free Press* "Palahniuk . . . knows all about escalating action to a thrilling finale. More impressively, he starts to make us feel for *Pygmy*, and introduces a more human side to this previously impenetrable character. . . . Pretty funny." —*The Independent (London)* "A jarring and evocative narrative culminating in something both cruel and humane. . . . Culture clash with a Palahniuk twist." —*Bookreporter* "Think Faulkner writing as a demented Chinese Pinko-Commie youth with a deadly killing stroke and a near constant erection. . . . The apocalypse of the American Dream has never been so entertaining." —*Death + Taxes magazine*