


Diary: A Novel

By Chuck Palahniuk

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Misty Wilmot has had it. Once a promising young artist, she's now stuck on an island ruined by tourism, drinking too much and working as a waitress in a hotel. Her husband, a contractor, is in a coma after a suicide attempt, but that doesn't stop his clients from threatening Misty with lawsuits over a series of vile messages they've found on the walls of houses he remodeled.

Suddenly, though, Misty finds her artistic talent returning as she begins a period of compulsive painting. Inspired but confused by this burst of creativity, she soon finds herself a pawn in a larger conspiracy that threatens to cost hundreds of lives. What unfolds is a dark, hilarious story from America's most inventive nihilist, and Palahniuk's most impressive work to date.

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Diary: A Novel By Chuck Palahniuk Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Although this work is a departure from Palahniuk's previous dark, urban novels *Fight Club*, *Lullaby* and *Choke*, it contains many of the author's signature elements: complex, tortured characters; eyebrow-raising descriptions of people and places; and an imaginative story line that bursts with color and drama. Misty Marie Kleinman, an art student-turned-hotel maid, has enough on her plate with a husband, Peter, in a coma after attempting suicide. But when she learns that Peter earlier had scribbled incomprehensible messages all over the houses he'd been remodeling, and people start reporting that rooms in those houses have vanished, her world tilts off center. To cope with this bizarre development, Misty starts painting again and pens a diary. Stage and screen actor Plimpton narrates Misty's journal in a plain, almost coma-like voice, stultifying her tone with boredom and nonchalance. As a result, Palahniuk's creative, unusual tale seems devoid of feeling or character. Alas, while the story is fresh, Plimpton's unenthusiastic reading is not.

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From [Booklist](#)

Palahniuk's sixth novel takes the form of a so-called coma diary written for Peter Wilmot, who is comatose after a running-car-in-garage suicide attempt (he started with the gas tank half-empty, proving his inability to do anything well). While Peter wastes away in a hospital, his family and friends waste away on Waytansa Island ("Everyone's in their own personal coma," Palahniuk writes with his trademark optimism). Peter's art-school-prodigy-turned-bitter-waitress wife, Misty, can't afford the family mansion anymore. Tourists have overrun the whole island, and the old-money families have spent all of their old money. But no one on the island seems to care about their community-wide coma. They just want Misty to *paint*. She refuses--until she begins to suffer tortuous headaches that only abate when she paints. The islanders seem suspiciously keen on seeing Misty's work continue, and the only way to keep her painting is to keep her miserable. Palahniuk's fans haven't seen plot twists this good since *Fight Club*, but this book lacks the manic humor that makes his better novels so engrossing. The fantastically grotesque premise propels the story, but the writing lacks the satirical precision that made Palahniuk a hero to young nihilists everywhere (see his take on the travel book, reviewed on p.1858). Instead, it often reads like a self-indulgent complaint about the terrible suffering of artists. Still, excellent plotting and a compelling allegory will satisfy the majority of Palahniukites. *John Green*

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Review

"Some of his best work is here. . . . When it's on, it's on, and it could be Palahniuk's most ambitious novel to date, certainly the most ambitious since **Fight Club**." --*The Washington Post Book World*

"Madly inventive. . . . It simply, exuberantly, escapes literary categorization." --*Los Angeles Times*

"Palahniuk's pacing is impeccable. . . . He draws from a strange palette of worldly nihilism and supernatural conspiracy to paint a compelling portrait of the artist as an unwitting conduit of evil." --*The Boston Globe*

"Palahniuk is a bracingly toxic purveyor of dread and mounting horror. He makes nihilism fun." --*Vanity Fair*

"To read a Chuck Palahniuk novel means being shocked, enlightened, disturbed, buoyed, horrified, delighted and perplexed--sometimes on a single page." --*Pittsburgh Tribune Review*

“Palahniuk delightfully pushes **Diary** into the ludicrous, but his restless intelligence coheres plotwise, and as always he makes his ideas *move*. . . . The pleasure here resides in his awesome ability to transform gleeful absurdities into a well-sculpted riddle.” —*The Village Voice*

“This is a book you won’t soon forget.” —*Hartford Courant*

“*Diary* is far more inspired and philosophical than one would expect even from a top-drawer horror novel.” —*Seattle Times-Post Intelligencer*

"Palahniuk has never sounded more like a latter-day Kurt Vonnegut than he does here . . . Life and art may not be that unfair, on the evidence of watching Palahniuk hitting his stride." --*The New York Times*

“The closest thing to a plain old mystery Palahniuk has ever written. . . . Stunning, funky stuff.” —*Entertainment Weekly*

“Daring. . . . Palahniuk’s inspiration comes from a love of the vernacular of subcultures, a black but not cynical sense of humor, and a fondness for unusual plot twists. . . . Ominous, shocking.” —*Chicago Sun-Times*

“Intriguing. . . . Must reading for art lovers and those who love a good puzzle.” —*Baltimore Sun*

“Palahniuk continues to redefine ‘scary’ for his readers. Recalling such classic horror tales as Shirley Jackson’s **The Lottery**, **Diary**’s dark side reveals itself slowly, quietly. . . . Unraveling the mystery that [Misty’s] life has become is as eye-opening for us as it is for her.” —*Chicago Tribune*

“In his inimitable style, Palahniuk has forged another chilling tale out of our deepest fears and given readers a **Rosemary’s Baby** for the new millennium. . . . **Diary** is Palahniuk at his harrowing best.” —*BookPage*

“An inventive page-turner that fuses eccentric elements of suspense with supernatural overtones to create a modern symphony of psychological horror. . . . A refreshing shot of adrenaline to the intellect.” —*Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*

“Palahniuk [is] a master storyteller. The dizzying twists and turns to this tale keep you smirking and shaking your head, guessing and thinking, wondering how he’ll make sense out of the next kink in the plot.” —*Tampa Tribune*

“Raw and wry. . . . Suffering for one’s art has never been this funny.” —*Maxim*

“Palahniuk at his angsty best.” —*Details*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patsy Marshall:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? E-book is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that book has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They are reading whatever they get because their hobby is definitely reading a book. How about the person who don't like

reading through a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book if they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you'll have this Diary: A Novel.

Stacey Smith:

Beside that Diary: A Novel in your phone, it may give you a way to get more close to the new knowledge or information. The information and the knowledge you will got here is fresh through the oven so don't always be worry if you feel like an older people live in narrow town. It is good thing to have Diary: A Novel because this book offers to you readable information. Do you often have book but you would not get what it's facts concerning. Oh come on, that will not end up to happen if you have this with your hand. The Enjoyable blend here cannot be questionable, similar to treasuring beautiful island. Use you still want to miss the item? Find this book in addition to read it from now!

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Ladonna Warren:

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