

APPENDICES

Summary of Trainspotting

Irvine Welsh's Trainspotting is an episodic novel interrelated to the life of its antihero Mark Renton. Rents, as his mates call him, is an 80's junky who considers drugs the only "honest" objects that could help him find his sense of well being. With his oldest friend, Sick Boy, and other junky comrades, like Spud, Raymie, and Alison, Renton usually goes scoring in Johnny 'Mother Superior' Swan's place.

Renton tries to prove to the guys that he can withdraw himself from his dependency on drugs. He tries to show Sick Boy, and particularly Frank Begbie, that whatever they stand by against him is false. Begbie and Sick Boy are Renton's two so-called mates who occasionally bring him into their troubles. Begbie is a psychopathic maniac, and Sick Boy is a kind of friend who dares to sell his own mates to get what he wants. Renton does everything he could to prevail over them, but, like his late attempts, he fails eventually and falls again into the distressing point where he starts from.

Despite having a girlfriend, things still hardly get better for him. Renton's first OD makes his relationship with his friends and family remoter than ever before. His brother, Billy, dies and Renton is having an even

more complicated time to set the proper conduct. He feels things around him will never be the same again and he needs to sort this hopeless boredom out.

Renton leaves for London to get a job, hoping that his life will get better, and that he can escape from Leith where his inner adversity originates from. Unfortunately, one mate's demise and other news force him to go back to the place where he used to try to run away from, Leith. Like it or not, Renton has to face the fact that it is difficult for him to get away from his origins.

Like other people around him, Renton once again has to deal with the problematic days in the deprived and depressed underside of Leith, Edinburgh. Besides his inner problems, he must spend most of his time dealing with random events and people with relevance to his life as well. Family, relatives, mates who are junkies, mates who are not junkies, mates who are on and off junkies, mates with HIV positive, pimps, psychos, drunkards - they are altogether struggling through their degrading conditions and social affairs which are so hard, that a man like Renton would dare to do anything to get away from them.

Summary of Fight Club

In Chuck Palahniuk's Fight Club, the anonymous narrator, a recall campaign coordinator for a car company, is suffering from severe illnesses and depressions, including massive insomnia, identity disorder, and unhealthy suicidal tendency. The suffering is not only due to his various mental illnesses, but it is also summed up by his monotonous life of dull consumerism behaviour and distressing working hours.

After consulting to a doctor about the pain he suffers, the narrator is suggested to visit a range of health groups in order to see the “real” pain. Every health group he regularly visits once brings him to life, but soon he begins to feel depressed again when the “vacation” on the groups is contravened by the present of Marla Singer. Devastated and mentally desperate, the anonymous narrator happens to “meet” Tyler Durden, a night-hour projectionist and a waiter who is really exuberant with abundant of self-destructive principles.

The mental state of the anonymous narrator is getting worse and worse - his condo exploded, along with all of his possessions and exotic furniture. He then desperately asks Tyler for a place to stay. Tyler does not mind but he wants the narrator to do him a favour first, “I want you to hit me as hard as you can.” Then ‘Fight Club’ is invented.

Along the way, Tyler also starts to build an army of people whom he considers “God’s middle children” – the people who have no place in life. Without the narrator knowing anything about it, “Project Mayhem” is invented and Tyler’s destructive visions are getting bigger and stronger.

The narrator starts becoming anxious of his involvements with Tyler, particularly Tyler’s relationship with Marla. He gradually feels that Tyler starts degrading his mind. The narrator feels that he needs to make Tyler gone and out of his life. His confusion and distress become even bigger since Tyler strands him alone without any certain answers.

And yet, not until he finds out that Tyler Durden is actually his other personalities, has the narrator’s world begun to turn upside down. How now he could possibly make Tyler gone? He then decides to shoot himself.

Biography of Irvine Welsh

Irvine Welsh was born in the city of Edinburgh, Scotland, on 27 September 1958. Welsh left Ainslie Park Secondary School when he was sixteen and had various jobs. As he moves to London in the late seventies, he tried to catch up on some of education he had missed while daydreaming about more interesting things, such as enjoying the London punk scene. The jobs got better and he got on the property ladder and made some money. Welsh eventually returned to Edinburgh where he worked for the city council in the housing department. He went on to study for an MBA at Heriot Watt University.

Energized by the rave scene, he started to write and his paths crossed with the above. Digging out some old diaries, Welsh did a draft of what would become Trainspotting. When Trainspotting was published in 1993 Irvine Welsh shot to fame. His novel received as many good reviews as ones swathed in disgust and outrage - establishing a tradition that continues to this day.

Since Danny Boyle's film adaptation of Trainspotting was released in February 1996 Irvine Welsh has remained a controversial figure, whose novels, stage and screen plays, novellas and short stories have proved difficult for literary critics to assimilate, a difficulty made only more noticeable by Welsh's continued commercial success.

More books have followed. A collection of three novellas, Ecstasy, is becoming the first paperback original to go straight in at No.1 on the Sunday Times best-sellers list, a feat emulated by Filth, which became Welsh's highest selling book after Trainspotting. His first novel has now sold almost 1 million copies in the UK alone and is a worldwide phenomenon. Books such as Glue,

Porno and recent The Bedroom Secrets of the Master Chefs have seen him increase his profile in America and Canada.

He has recently branched into film and is a partner in two film production companies. He joined Four Ways films, which was founded by Antonia Bird, Robert Carlyle and Mark Cousins, and has recently set up Jawbone films with his screenwriting partner Dean Cavanagh, and Phil John and Jon Lewis Owen.

In 2005 Welsh married for the second time. He promises that he will never do it again. He lives mainly in Dublin but retreats to Miami Beach for a large part of the winter. He visits his home city of Edinburgh regularly, usually to meet friends, family and Hibernian FC at Easter Road.

<<http://www.irvinewelsh.net/biography.aspx>>

Biography of Chuck Palahniuk

Chuck Palahniuk is a contemporary American author who is best known for his first published novel Fight Club from 1996, which picked up cult status after the release of the movie in 1999. He has a reputation for shocking his readers, and has become increasingly popular since his initial success, with a huge centralized fan base on the Internet. His novels often turn out to be a reference to actual and made up urban legends.

Palahniuk was born in Pasco, Washington, of Ukrainian ancestry, on February 21st, 1962. He grew up in Burbank, Washington, and went to Columbia High, Burbank Washington Class of '80. In 1986, Palahniuk graduated with a BA in Journalism from the University of Oregon.

Palahniuk's initial step to become a writer was when Mr. Olsen in the fifth grade said, 'Chuck, you do this really well. And this is much better than setting fires, so keep it up'. Then he moved to Portland and began writing for a local paper, soon after which he switched jobs to work for Freightliner as a diesel mechanic. During this time he wrote manuals for fixing trucks and did a little journalism, and began writing novels.

In the early 90's, a friend suggested he took a writing workshop with Tom Spanbauer. His first novel, Invisible Monsters was rejected by publishers for being too disturbing, which prompted him to write Fight Club in an effort to disturb the publisher even more. At this stage, he was still working as a mechanic. Palahniuk became a cult figure after the publication of Invisible Monsters and Survivor in conjunction with the movie release of Fight Club in 1999.

The year 1999 may have been the time when Palahniuk became a cult figure but it was also a difficult year for Chuck because his father and his father's girlfriend were found murdered. The girlfriend's ex-husband was subsequently charged and convicted for the murders, and Palahniuk apparently began the novel Lullaby during all this time later stating that he used the writing process to help him cope with his decision to help get the murderer a death sentence. Palahniuk currently lives in Vancouver, Washington.

<<http://chuckalahniuk.net/author/faq>;

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chuck_Palahniuk>