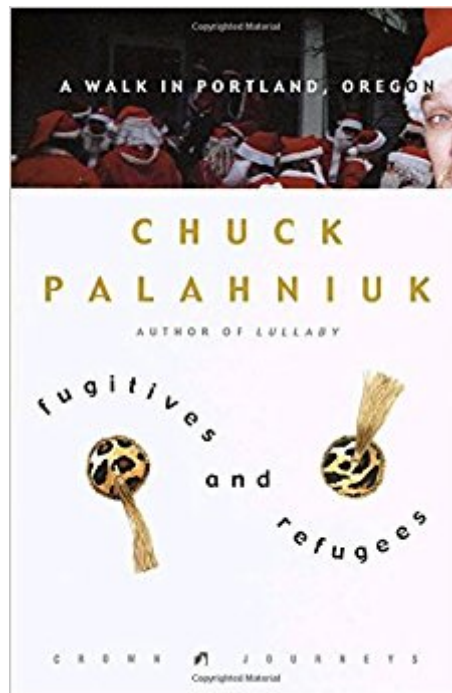




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# Fugitives And Refugees: A Walk In Portland, Oregon (Crown Journeys)



## Synopsis

Want to know where Chuck Palahniuk's tonsils currently reside? Been looking for a naked mannequin to hide in your kitchen cabinets? Curious about Chuck's debut in an MTV music video? What goes on at the Scum Center? How do you get to the Apocalypse Café? In the closest thing he may ever write to an autobiography, Chuck Palahniuk provides answers to all these questions and more as he takes you through the streets, sewers, and local haunts of Portland, Oregon. According to Katherine Dunn, author of the cult classic *Geek Love*, Portland is the home of America's "œfugitives and refugees." • Get to know these folks, the "œmost cracked of the crackpots," as Palahniuk calls them, and come along with him on an adventure through the parts of Portland you might not otherwise believe actually exist. No other travel guide will give you this kind of access to "œa little history, a little legend, and a lot of friendly, sincere, fascinating people who maybe should've kept their mouths shut." • Here are strange personal museums, weird annual events, and ghost stories. Tour the tunnels under downtown Portland. Visit swingers' sex clubs, gay and straight. See Frances Gabe's famous 1940s Self-Cleaning House. Look into strange local customs like the I-Tit-a-Rod Race and the Santa Rampage. Learn how to talk like a local in a quick vocabulary lesson. Get to know, I mean really get to know, the animals at the Portland zoo. Oh, the list goes on and on.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It's rare to find a travel guide and a memoir joined neatly together in a single, highly readable

176-page volume. But Chuck Palahniuk (*Fight Club*, *Choke*, *Lullaby*) is a writer of rare talent and his home of Portland, Oregon, is a city of rare wonders. In *Strangers and Refugees: A Walk in Portland, Oregon*, Palahniuk goes beyond the AAA handbooks to reveal the places, people, and legends of Portland that have long been known only to locals. The reader learns the location of the legendary Self Cleaning House, where to find the restless ghost of the founder of Powell's Books, and why feral cats are such an important part of Portland baseball. Portland, it seems, is also a highly sexual city and Palahniuk dutifully dissects the specialties of each strip joint as well as discussing Mochika, a zoo penguin with a real fetish for black boots. Along the way, he includes "postcards" from his life in the Rose City dating back to 1981 when, as a 19-year-old, he dropped acid and accidentally ate part of a woman's fur coat during a laser show of Pink Floyd's *The Wall*. As Palahniuk matures, the postcards reveal the author becoming increasingly a part of the city's scene, culminating with a wild and wooly Millennium Eve celebration at the Bagdad Theater that featured a screening of the film version of *Fight Club*. *Fugitives and Refugees* is a must for anyone who may, in their lives, go to Portland. But its appeal should reach beyond Oregonians. Palahniuk's love of the city is so great, and his stories so weirdly wonderful, it makes one want to get out of the house, get in the car, and drive to Portland right away. Just remember to pack the book. --John Moe

Beginning with the premise that "everyone looking to make a new life migrates west," Palahniuk (*Fight Club*; *Lullaby*) portrays Portland as a city that attracts a sort of modern-day pioneering-or at least innovative-spirit. And because it's the cheapest West Coast city in which to live, Portland also draws its share of down-and-outs, making it a bit rough around the edges. Written as much for first-time visitors as for those who already share Palahniuk's passion for the city, this book is a mixture of practical travel guide and personal vignettes featuring quirky acquaintances and moments of happenstance. In keeping with the *Crown Journeys* series' tone, this is at once a reflection of the writer and of a particular community. Would every other novelist have devoted one of the longer chapters to the city's thriving sex industry and the many places visitors can partake? Palahniuk's fondness for his not-so-sleepy hamlet comes through in each gritty detail (for example, the recommended shopping excursions list includes the best thrift stores, and suggestions for accommodations emphasize haunted hotels). Certain details will tempt as many readers as they'll deter: the semiannual Apocalypse Caf<sup>®</sup>, where guests pretend to celebrate "the first potluck after a nuclear holocaust

I have come to love Portland as a vibrant city. It has a unique charm, the older parts of the city are

being revamped, and the newest parts of the city are stylish and upbeat. Portland is not a tourist trap, in fact, the city is fairly empty on weekends. Chuck Palahniuk introduces us to a different Portland. One I was not certain I wanted to know- he writes in a humorous vein that belies the serious stories and charms of the city. However, once I got used to his style I started to enjoy the story of his life in Portland. After he graduated from high school in Washington state, he moved to Portland. Most of his friends moved to Seattle, but he wanted a different view. He rented an apartment with two friends. These friends stole their food supplies from the restaurants they each worked in- champagne and escargot- each night after work escargot was microwaved, and as they got a little high on champagne they would throw food on the walls. As the book proceeds, we receive a tour of the city's strip and sex joints, a view of Powell's, the most famous book store on the West Coast and museums we would not ordinarily enter. The author meets, greets and interviews many characters to introduce the varied stories that highlight the old Portland that Chuck Palahniuk grew to love. As a side note this is one of several Crown tours of cities by well known authors- I am eagerly awaiting Kinky Friedman's book of Austin and Ray Bount Jr's book of New Orleans. The map of Portland is not familiar at first view but will be by the end of the book. I thoroughly enjoyed this view of Portland and will remember it every time I visit the city. prisrob

In *Fugitives and Refugees: A Walk in Portland, Oregon* Mr. Palahniuk comes at the Rose City from two directions: Offbeat points of interest and very offbeat personal memoir. In the former, the curiosities he offers as worthy of investigation are very refreshing and dig deeper than the usual pap regarding trendy restaurants and standard tourist attractions. For example, the section on haunted places included sites that were new to me and did not overlap at all with the usual list that shows up in the *Oregonian* every Halloween. Additionally, his exploration of the Oregon Zoo is very entertaining and focuses on the eccentricities of the animals as told from the very off-the-cuff perspective of the keepers, insights you will never get from a Tracy (never met a zoo story I didn't like!!!) Barry KGW News 8 broadcast. The personal memoir takes the form of vignettes spread throughout the book detailing the kind of stories you might tell your drinking buddies after the second pitcher at Produce Row and are uniformly compelling and often hilarious. I was lucky enough to hear Mr. Palahniuk offer up the "Acid Trip at Laser Floyd" story at a library reading earlier this year and this coupled with the "Midnight Rock Video Shoot at the Cornos Meat Counter" are worth the price of the book alone. *Fugitives and Refugees* is a very unique and breezy read that I highly recommend to anyone living in, near or at least familiar with Portland, Oregon.

This is a really wonderful book for anyone living in or interested in Portland. I've probably bought 4 copies by now to give to people. Tons of stories about Portland's history and personal stories. As I was reading it, I realized that the house I was living in at the time was directly behind and 2 houses down from one of his houses. So cool!

As a native Portlander, I love recognizing all of the quirky local references and share some of the nostalgia of 'back in the day.' But Chuck Palahniuk's stories are so well crafted, so brilliantly told, that they grab you and keep you until you look at how much you've read in one sitting and then wonder where the time has gone. There are many LOL and cringe-worthy moments and occasions where you want to shout, "noooo, don't do it!" This is the type of collection in which you'll want to read some of the stories aloud to friends over and over. A super fun read, even for someone who has never been to our wacky city.

What a fun bit of history for Portland! I enjoyed the intermittent 'postcards' with interesting anecdotes which tied nicely with the information about Portland. Having never been to Portland I expect a trip will be coming soon after reading this.

First off, when I got this they said it'd be in 'acceptable' condition, but it came with what looked to be a gnaw mark on the top right corner. It's ok, I can deal with that. Anyway, book was ok. I'm not a Palahniuk groupie, in fact I've only read two other books of his, so I can't really tell you comparatively or anything like that. It's a non-fiction about Portland. What can I say? It's a weird place. Book's kinda old so it may not still have some of those places he mentioned. Served to my wanderlust a bit and I still want to go, so I guess it didn't gross me out that bad. ;P

I have purchased this book 4 times now because every time someone comes to visit me, they take it! It's a wonderful and weird look into the city of Portland. If you have lived here your whole life, or are just visiting I guarantee that you will learn something you never knew about the City of Roses. **BUY THIS BOOK!!**

I read this book before I moved to Portland and loved all the quirky stories it contains. It also gave me a great insiders glance at Portland. Coincidentally I live right next to a couple of the landmarks in this book and Palahniuk's descriptions are spot on. I'm not 100% sure all the landmarks this book discusses are still around since it's over a few years old now, but it doesn't make the stories any

less interesting. A fun read!

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