

■■■ SPECULATIVE FICTION REVIEW by Stephanie Young

TITLE *Pretties*
AUTHOR Scott Westerfeld
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In this, the second book in the trilogy, Tally Youngblood is now a pretty. But not your run-of-the-mill pretty going around bubbly and partying all the time. Because of her exposure to the specials and the circumstances of her operation and the tricks she did as an ugly, she is a prime candidate for the Crims. The Crims are a clique of pretties who all have a history of being delinquents before the operation and still like to do a prank or two.

Her old friend Shay is a Crim and during the process of getting into the clique she meets Zane who she develops a relationship with. Shortly after she is accepted into the Crims she is contacted by a Smokie and has to take a risk to retrieve something from her life with the Smokies. Her and Zane do this and just before they are caught by Special Circumstances they take the two pills.

The pills, as you know if you read *Uglies* is supposed to be a cure for the brain alteration that the pretty operation includes. Unknowingly the pills have an interesting effect on Zane. The story continues with a group of Crims making a break in a balloon and Tally ends up meeting a group of descendants of the Rusties. It is an enlightening experience but as with the first book it ends with Tally getting caught and we can only assume that she is going to progress to the next stage – becoming a Special.

As most second books in a series, this story is not as fresh and exciting as the first. We know the characters, we can start to guess what is going to happen and the world is not as mysterious. That said, I did enjoy the story and the addition of the isolated civilization was a nice touch. I expect that the third book will be more exciting as Westerfeld wraps up the story and I am curious where Tally will end up.

Rating

