

Extras Study Guide

Extras by Scott Westerfeld

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Plot Summary

Extras by Scott Westerfeld is the fourth book in the Uglies Series. In this book, Aya is the younger sister of a highly successful kicker who wants to come up with a face changing kick of her own. When Aya sees a group of girls surfing the super-fast mag-lev trains, she infiltrates their group in order to kick their story. Instead, Aya stumbles across a story that is far bigger than mag-lev train surfers that will change not only her life, but will bring her face to face with the most famous person in the world, Tally Youngblood. Extras is a post script to the Uglies series that shows readers changes that have happened throughout the world since the mind-rain that fell in the final book of the trilogy.

Aya lives in a city in Japan where currency is based on a person's face rank. Aya's brother, Hiro, is a successful kicker, a reporter of sorts, who has a high face rank. Aya's face rank is just below half a million, making her an obscure extra. Aya wants to find a hot story to kick that will raise her face rank up closer to her brother's level. To this end, Aya seeks out a group of girls known as the Sly Girls who she saw surfing mag-lev trains, the super-fast trains that transport goods from city to city. The Sly Girls take Aya in, but only after she allows them to drop her hovercam into a reservoir to prove she is not interested in kicking them.

Aya uses spy cams and her rescued hovercam to make videos of the Sly Girls without their knowledge. Aya cannot understand how anyone could not want to have their face rank raised and thinks the Sly Girls will eventually appreciate her kicking their story and making them famous. That is, until Aya and the Sly Girls happen onto something strange in a mag-lev train tunnel.

Aya's first time mag-lev train surfing with the Sly Girls, the train stops inside a tunnel and strange looking creatures open a door hidden by smart matter. A few days later, Aya returns with the Sly Girls where they find hundreds of metallic cylinders in a large room beside what Aya later learns is a mass driver. Aya comes to the conclusion that the cylinders are missiles designed to destroy whole cities. A short time later, the Sly Girls learn of Aya's deception, but they give her a chance to prove her theory before cutting her out of the group and disappearing.

When Aya kicks the story about the City Killers, she is instantly famous. Aya is overwhelmed by the attention, but what really shocks Aya is when she gets a ping from Tally Youngblood urging her to hide. Aya, her brother, and two friends hide through the night after nearly being kidnapped by the odd shaped people Aya saw in the train tunnel. Tally Youngblood arrives with two friends and begins to take Aya out of town. However, the strange shaped people follow them and Tally allows them to capture the entire group. Later, on the strange creatures' hovercar, Tally explains that his is the only way she and her friends could find to infiltrate the camp of the strange creatures who previously kidnapped a friend of Tally's.



As the hovercar approaches the city, violence breaks out. Tally, Aya, and the rest of their friends are forced to jump from the hovercar. Tally reunites with her friends and goes in search of her kidnapped friend. Aya, her brother, and friend Frizz go after Tally in order to capture the end of their story. Instead, they learn that the strange creatures are simply attempting to establish a colony in space in order to protect the earth's natural resources. Aya tells Tally and stops her from destroying the spaceships that were made for this purpose.



Part 1, Watch This: Chapters 1-6

Part 1, Watch This: Chapters 1-6 Summary

This book is the fourth in what was originally intended to be a trilogy. In this book, the author picks up the story of a futuristic three years after the mind-rain, a cure for brain lesions by which the government was controlling the citizens of the world.

In *Down and Out*, Aya sneaks out of her dorm room with her hovercam Moggle. Aya is dressed as a Reputation Bomber as a disguise to help her get into a tech party in the old Prettytown.

In *Tech-Heads*, Aya approaches the party and joins a group of Reputation Bombers where she can watch the comings and goings of the party attendees. When Aya spots the girl she is looking for, she sends Moggle after her. As Aya quickly follows Moggle, she runs into a guy in the party. The guy, who has eyes like a Manga, asks her about her nose. The guy thinks her nose is attractive even though everyone else has always thought it was too big.

In *Underground*, Aya follows Moggle's feed to a construction site she is familiar with because of a story she kicked a few weeks before about graffiti artists. When Moggle's feed goes dark, Aya knows he must have gone underground. Aya follows him into the tunnel, moving slowly through the dark. Aya catches Moggle's feed again and hears female voices before Moggle suddenly goes dark. A minute later, Aya is ambushed by several girls. Aya is kicked into water.

In *Audition*, Aya is helped out of the water by someone named hoverball player, Eden Maru. Eden and a girl called Jai tell Aya they do not like kickers. Aya swears she is not a kicker and does not want to do a story on them. Jai tells her she can join their group, the Sly Girls, if she allows Jai to drop Moggle, who has been disabled, into the reservoir. Aya regretfully watches Moggle fall.

In *Big Brother*, the next morning Aya goes to her brother Hiro's apartment. Aya needs to ask Hiro and his friend, Ren, to help her get Moggle back. However, Hiro is distracted by his own face rank and the new kicks that have come out overnight. Aya sees the face of the boy she met at the party the night before and learns his name is Frizz Mizuno.

In *Frizz*, Ren tells Aya that Frizz is the founder of a new clique called Radical Honesty in which all the members have their brains altered to keep them from telling lies. This tells Aya that everything Frizz said to her the night before is true. Ren and Hiro then ask Aya what she is working on and she tells them about the Sly Girls, but they think she is hunting unicorns. Hiro also gets angry with Aya for losing Moggle. However, Aya's day begins to look up when she finds she has a ping from the Sly Girls inviting her to go mag-lev train surfing with them that night.



Part 1, Watch This: Chapters 1-6 Analysis

In these first chapters, the reader meets Aya, the narrator of the novel. Aya is a fifteen-year-old girl who lives somewhere in Asia, most likely Japan. In Aya's city, the government has created currency from popularity rather than money. In this system, the more well known a person is, the more possessions that person is entitled to have. One way to become famous is to post stories and other things on their personal feeds. Aya's brother is a kicker, someone who posts stories on his feeds, who has reached the top thousand in his face rank. For this reason, Aya feels pressure to raise her own face rank as well.

Aya goes to a party where she follows a well-known hoverball player whom she knows to be a part of a group of girls who surf mag-lev trains. When Aya finds this group, she discovers they are paranoid about avoiding kicks. This group does not want to raise their face rank, they want to remain anonymous. Aya wants to be famous so badly she does not understand this and hopes this group will be pleased with what she can do to their face rank when she kicks their story.



Part 1, Watch This: Chapters 7-13

Part 1, Watch This: Chapters 7-13 Summary

In *Sly Girls*, Jai and Eden give Aya a quick course in how to mag surf with a new, faster board they provide. Aya is nervous, but tries to hide her nerves. Aya wishes she could have brought Moggle, but Moggle is still at the bottom of the reservoir. Aya speaks with Miki, a girl from her dorm who is a Sly Girl, before they begin their race to join the mag train as it slows for a curve.

In *Surfing*, Aya struggles to stay on her hoverboard as it races to reach the same speed as the racing train. When the hoverboard reaches top speed, Aya carefully steps off the board onto the top of the train and hooks her crash bracelets to her ankles to use their magnetism to lock her to the top of the train. As Aya grows accustomed to the fast movement, she sees a yellow light ahead warning her to duck from a decapitation signal.

In *Tunnel*, Miki releases her crash bracelets and moves back to where Aya is. As they approach a tunnel, Miki begins to explain how they will disembark from the train outside the tunnel. However, as the train enters the tunnel, it begins to slow down. Miki says this is unusual. Miki and Aya lay flat on the top of the train as it stops and three oddly shaped people get out of the train, opening a door made of smart matter in the wall of the tunnel and taking out a few objects before sliding a couple of long, metal cylinders in through the door.

In *Rescue*, Ren goes with Aya into the tunnels at the construction site to help recover Moggle. Ren gives Aya some lights to help locate the hovercam. When Aya finds him, Ren sends Aya into the water with a heavy tank filled with helium. The weight of the tank is to help Aya fall to where Moggle is and the helium will fill a balloon when she is done to help pull her back to the surface. When the rescue mission is done, Moggle proves to be unharmed thanks to Ren's waterproofing modifications.

In *Radical Honesty*, as Aya makes her way back to the dorm, wet and covered in slim, she runs into Frizz. Frizz greets Aya and expresses a desire to speak with her. Aya quickly goes inside to shower and then returns. Frizz and Aya talk for a few minutes. Aya expresses her great desire to be famous to Frizz.

In *Initiation*, Aya goes in the middle of the night to meet the Sly Girls. They are to return to the tunnel to check out what Aya and Miki saw. Before the train comes, Aya finds herself having to defend her desire to be a Sly Girl by denouncing kicking. In truth, Aya is wearing a spy cam and has Moggle hiding a few yards away.

In *Turbulence*, Aya surfs the train without incidence this time, but when it is time to get off she has trouble controlling her hoverboard in the wake of the train's turbulence when she brakes too fast. Aya spins out of control and is forced to let go of her board so that



the crash bracelets might save her. Eden laughs at Aya and expresses a distrust of her and the questions she is constantly asking.

Part 1, Watch This: Chapters 7-13 Analysis

In these chapters, Aya becomes one of the Sly Girls despite her continued desire to kick the story of the Sly Girls and their stunts. The Sly Girls do not want their face ranks to go up, they do not crave fame. In fact, the sly girls worry that fame will make it impossible for them to continue with their stunts. For this reason, their leader Kai constantly changes the first letter of her name to keep her face rank from rising. To prepare her story, Aya is forced to be dishonest and to hide her cameras. It is Aya's deep desire to be famous that causes her to do this.

Ironically, at the same time Aya finds a way to make herself famous, she is also forced to lie. At the same time, she meets a boy she really likes, but this boy has embraced honesty in a radical way. Aya finds herself torn between her deep desire to be famous and her desire to get to know this boy better. It is a conflict not unlike one Tally Youngblood faced in the first *Uglies* book. The reader wonders if Aya will find a better way to deal with this conflict than Tally did.

Aya sees some strangely shaped people moving materials in and out of a secret room in a train tunnel. This room is as mysterious as the people she and Miki see moving the items. This seems like an odd occurrence, but the Sly Girls cannot pass up the mystery and return to find out what is inside the room. The reader should suspect that this room will prove to be an important turning point in Aya's secret story about the Sly Girls.



Part 1, Watch This: Chapters 14-20

Part 1, Watch This: Chapters 14-20 Summary

In *The Mountain*, Eden opens the smart matter door in the tunnel with a matter hacker after the girls search for a few minutes for its location.

In *The Hidden*, inside the door, the girls find what looks like some sort of office building that is being evacuated. They move deeper inside to search for the cylinders Aya and Miki saw the strange beings move into the room the night before. When they find the room with the cylinders, hundreds of cylinders, Miki becomes convinced that someone is following them. Miki leaves Aya alone to get the others. It is then that Aya realizes their mysterious stalker is Moggle.

In *Escape*, Aya struggles to hide Moggle as Eden comes into the room. In the search for the mysterious stalker, Eden urges Aya through an airlock where she falls into a void.

In *Shaft*, Aya is slowed by her crash bracelets and Eden grabs her using her hoverball rig. The rest of the girls arrive and Aya begins to wonder where Moggle went as Eden uses her light to search the void. Aya slips back into the room with the cylinders and uses her interface to find Moggle. The void goes down and up. Moggle is hiding in the upper part. Aya sends him up until he comes out at the top of the mountain. It is then that Aya realizes a train is coming.

In *Air Pressure*, Aya rushes back to the voids to warn Kai that there is a train coming. The smart matter door is still open and the air pressure from the train will suck everything not held down out the door. Eden understands this immediately and quickly rushes to the door to close it. Eden is able to close the door seconds before the train arrives. Aya then sneaks Moggle out in a container that she claims holds pens.

In *Slime Queen*, the next day, Aya wakes to find she has dozens of pings. One is from Frizz, an apology for something Aya does not understand. Then Aya sees an attachment to a kick. There was a paparazzi camera in the park when Aya ran into Frizz while still covered in slime from the reservoir. Aya has suddenly become a sensation and someone has dubbed her the Slim Queen. Aya is deeply annoyed by the timing because secrecy is of utmost importance in her goal to kick the Sly Girls. When Aya tells Frizz this, he becomes annoyed by her lack of honesty with the Sly Girls.

In *Mass Driver*, Aya goes to see Hiro and Ren. When Aya shows them some of the footage Moggle took the night before, Ren recognizes the voids as a mass driver. Ren explains that these are designed to send matter into space. When Aya shows him the cylinders, Ren hypothesizes that these are filled with smart matter that will change shape in space. Ren then says that the cylinders will return to earth and splinter into thousands of pieces, enough to destroy an entire city.



Part 1, Watch This: Chapters 14-20 Analysis

Aya returns to the mountain with the Sly Girls and discovers that it holds what Ren later tells her is a mass driver. Aya learns that the metal cylinders in the underground compound could destroy multiple cities. This story is much bigger than the one about the Sly Girls and could make Aya famous overnight. However, Aya's newfound popularity from a picture of her with Frizz that was kicked on someone's feed could cause Aya's new friends to shun her.

Aya is in a difficult position. Aya finally has the big story that she has been looking for since Hiro became a kicker to make her famous. At the same time, Aya has met a boy she could be very happy with, but he does not like lies. Finally, Aya is lying to the only people who can help her return to the mountain and get more, much needed footage, of the city killers for her story. It is a difficult situation in which the reader is reminded of the old saying, be careful what you wish for because you might get it.



part 2, City Killers: Chapters 21-27

part 2, City Killers: Chapters 21-27 Summary

In Banned, Aya is forced to stay away from the Sly Girls for several days until her face rank goes down. In the meantime, Aya hides out in her dorm room and begins to edit her story with the footage she already has. In time, her face rank begins to fall, bringing her back down to just under half a million.

In Testing, Aya is called to meet with the Sly Girls. Only Eden and Lai meet with Aya beside the train tracks. Eden and Lai take Aya back to the secret mountain rooms and ask her about her theory regarding the metal cylinders. Aya tells them and then uses the matter hacker to prove her theory. Eden and Lai are impressed. Eden and Lai then take Aya to the mass driver and push her into the lower section.

In Shafted, at the bottom of the mass driver, Eden and Lai tell Aya that they have designed some hoverboards to shoot them out of the mass driver. Then Eden and Lai tell Aya that they know she is a kicker, that she is planning a story on them and the mass driver.

In Joyride, as they prepare for the flight, Lai assures Aya that they want her to do the story on the mass driver because it is bigger than the Sly Girls. However, to give them time to get out of town before the story kicks, they are shooting Aya out of the mass driver and forcing her to walk back to the train tracks where a hoverboard waits for her. At the last minute, Lai warns Aya to be careful of whoever built the mass driver.

In Kicking It, Aya is preparing to attend a tech party with Hiro and Ren on the night her story is set to kick. When Aya arrives at the party, no one is terribly impressed with her or cares who she is. However, a confrontation with another kicker, Toshi Banana, causes Ren to suggest they kick her story early.

Truth-Slanting. Within minutes, Aya's face rank begins to soar and other kickers begin re-kicking or talking about Aya's story. Frizz joins Aya and he shares in her joy at her soaring popularity.

In Feeding Frenzy, Aya finds herself pulled in front of a large group of other kickers who want to interview her about her story. Aya answers questions for a long time before Frizz finally pulls her aside to give her a rest. Frizz then gets Aya to check her face rank and she discovers that she has soared to seventeen. Not only that, but Nana Love, one of the most popular people in the city, might have pinged her. When Aya checks her pings, she discovers that Tally Youngblood has sent her a ping. Tally's ping tells her to run and hide.



part 2, City Killers: Chapters 21-27 Analysis

The Sly Girls have found Aya out and send her spiraling into the sky on hoverboards sent through the mass driver. Aya is afraid they are trying to kill her, but in reality they are only trying to buy time so that they can leave town before the story hits the feeds. Aya now has permission to kick the biggest story ever.

When Aya kicks the story, she suddenly becomes one of the most famous people in the city. Aya finds herself the center of attention in a way she never dreamed of before. Aya finally has all that she has prayed for, including the continuing attention of Frizz. However, just as Aya is beginning to fully comprehend her new fame, she gets a warning from Tally Youngblood to hide. Suddenly Aya becomes aware of danger that Lai tries to warn her of. The tension in the plot suddenly skyrockets as Aya faces the possibility that the owners of the mass drivers might not like being outed.



Part 2, City Killers: Chapters 28-34

Part 2, City Killers: Chapters 28-34 Summary

In Pinned, Aya drags Ren, Hiro, and Frizz out of the party and tells them about Tally's ping. Hiro thinks it would be better to stay at the party where they are surrounded by hundreds of people. As Aya tries to protest, dozens of hovercams settle over them. As they continue to debate their next move, hovercams begin dropping out of the sky.

In Run and Hide, Hiro calls for hoverboards as a hovercar begins to descend on them. They only get three boards, so Frizz rides with Aya. Ren has to jam a signal from the hovercar to keep it from disabling the hoverboards like it did the hovercams. Due to Frizz's added weight, Aya struggles to keep up with Ren and Hiro. Strange shaped people come out of the hovercar in hoverball equipment and begin to chase Aya and Frizz. One of the strange shaped people has syringes for fingernails and he pokes Frizz with one, causing him to fall asleep. Moggle takes out one of the strange shaped people and Aya causes two others to collide with one another. Hiro helps put a hoverball rig on Frizz and they quickly disappear into the tunnels at the construction site.

In The Wisdom of the Crowd, Aya, Ren, Hiro, and Frizz hide out in the tunnels. Ren spends the time checking the background of Aya's story to find something that alerted the strange shaped people to her knowledge of them. At the same time, Frizz sleeps and Hiro yells at Aya from holding back her sighting of the strange shaped things from her story. They rest there for hours until Frizz comes to and reminds Aya that anyone checking her old feeds would know about these tunnels due to her story about the graffiti artists.

In Paparazzi, Aya, Ren, Hiro, and Frizz quickly slip out of the tunnels ahead of a paparazzi camera someone has sent into the tunnels to search for Aya. They head to the rich part of town where there is a free apartment in an exclusive apartment building. On their way, they run into a paparazzi camera. Frizz kills it by falling into it. However, there are several more. Aya quickly gets them access to the exclusive apartment building with her face rank.

In Shuffle Mansion, Aya changes her clothes thanks to a hole in the wall that can make whatever she asks for. Ren finds the reference to the strange shaped people in Aya's kick and calls up the wallscreen to show everyone. As they talk about it, three figures suddenly materialize through the screen. One introduces herself as Tally Youngblood, the most famous person in the world.

In Cutters, Tally introduces her friends, Shay and Fausto, to Aya and her friends. There is something of a language barrier because Aya and her friends speak Japanese and Tally and her friends speak English. However, Aya is able to speak fluent enough English to help with translation.



In *Honorary Cutters*, Tally agrees to take Hiro, Ren and Frizz as well as Aya when she learns they all saw the strange shaped people. They go to the roof and take off on special hoverboards designed to work without magnets. As they ride out of the city, Tally tells Aya that she and Shay have decided she is very brave and up to an adventure. Then Tally swings around and begins heading back to the city as three hovercars pursue them. Tally then allows them all to be captured by the strange shaped people.

Part 2, City Killers: Chapters 28-34 Analysis

In this group of chapters, Aya's story has broken and brought her to the attention of the strange shaped people who apparently built the bombs and the mass drivers. Aya is understandably frightened and fights back when these creatures try to kidnap her. Aya and her friends hide out for the night and meet up with Tally Youngblood the next morning. Readers of the previous three novels will remember Tally as the young woman who fought the government and created the situation that led to the mind-rain. Tally has come to help Aya and to find a friend of hers who was also kidnapped by the strange shaped people.

Aya wanted fame and to be accepted by famous people such as Tally Youngblood. However, now Aya finds herself being kidnapped by the very people she thought Tally would have protected from. This makes Aya believe that Tally is not the person she thought she was, foreshadowing a lack of trust between the two girls/ They continue to fight either together or separately the strangely shaped people who appear to be out to destroy the world.



Part 3, Leaving Home: Chapters 35-41

Part 3, Leaving Home: Chapters 35-41 Summary

In *Captive Audience*, Aya wakes in a hovercar that is caught in a rainstorm. Tally immediately begins explaining to Aya that she had them all kidnapped intentionally so that they might infiltrate the strange shaped people's camp and find her friend. Tally asks for Aya's help. Aya is angry and refuses until Tally offers to make her an honorary cutter.

In *Advanced English*, Aya has Shay help her wake Ren, Hiro, and Frizz. Aya then tells them in Japanese what is happening. They all come to the quick realization that Tally's plan cannot work because of Frizz's radical honesty, but Aya is afraid that if they tell Tally about Frizz, she will kill him. Before they can decide what to do, two of the oddly shaped people comes into the cargo hold.

In *Udzir*, one of the strange shaped people introduces himself as Udzir and apologizes that he was forced to kidnap them. However, he assures them that it will all be over soon and he will be able to explain all to them. Udzir explains that they are flying to Singapore. As he talks, and Tally responds, Frizz feels it harder and harder to remain silent. Finally he blurts out Tally's true identity.

In *Hard Landing*, Shay and Tally attack the strange shaped people and Tally moves into the driver's cabin and knocks out the people in there. Tally then puts the hovercar into autopilot and tells everyone they must jump. Hiro jumps with Tally, Ren with Fausto, leaving both Frizz and Aya with Tally. Tally threatens to leave Frizz but relents when he agrees with her.

In *Jungle*, Aya finds it unpleasant to walk through the jungle as Tally leads them to the tallest structure in the ruins.

In *Ruins*, when they come to two towers that the strange shaped people are cutting down, Tally leaves Aya and Frizz in the jungle while she incapacitates the workers in order to get two hoverball rigs for Aya and Frizz. One of the workers falls from the tower and moves too far away for the magnets in her rig to help her. Aya pings Moggle to tell him to save the woman. Tally is surprisingly understanding about this even though she warned them not to ping one another because the strange shaped people could use it to find them.

In *Metal*, the hoverball rigs make it easier to move through the jungle. Aya worries that Moggle has not rejoined them, but Tally will not allow them to linger or go back because there are hovercars searching for them. As they move, Frizz wonders aloud if the cylinders Aya and the Sly Girls found are weapons, or if the mass drivers was simply a way to move the metal from the cities to this island. Frizz theorizes that the strange



shaped people are simply trying to steal all the metal in the world to keep the cities from expanding.

Part 3, Leaving Home: Chapters 35-41 Analysis

Tally and her friends have been kidnapped with Tally and her friends. Aya learns that Tally has done this on purpose so that she might be able to find a friend of hers who was also kidnapped. However, it all goes wrong when Frizz cannot control his radical honesty. Even though the kidnappers were being kind and trying to answer their questions, Tally must hide her true purpose in being there and she attacks all the kidnappers, forcing them to jump from the hovercar.

The reader must wonder at this point what they might have learned from the strange shaped people had Tally and the others been allowed to let them finish their conversation. It seems to the reader that the man was quite caring and concerned about his captives, suggesting a less than malevolent intent against them.

Frizz begins to wonder about the cylinders Aya talked about in her kick and wonders if they were not bombs, but simply being used as a means to get metal from one place to another. However, this does not answer what the strange shaped beings want with all the metal they have been collecting. Perhaps when Aya learns this, she might discover the real truth.



Part 3, Leaving Home: Chapters 42-47

Part 3, Leaving Home: Chapters 42-47 Summary

In *Make Like a Monkey*, as they continue through the jungle, Aya begins to worry whether she got her kick wrong and what would happen when the truth got out.

In *The Pile*, when they arrive at the tallest tower in the ruins, they find they must make their way across a pile of cut down metal. As they do, Frizz and Aya are almost crushed by falling beams. Tally rescues them and takes them deeper into the tower, where they discover not only their friends, but David has arrived.

In *The Usual Place*, David explains to Aya and Frizz how he came to be following them and how he knew where to find them after he saw them jump from the hovercar. Aya questions David's ugly façade and is immediately silenced by Tally. As they enjoy a hot meal, Tally learns that the equator is the best place for a mass driver and feels anxious to stop the strange shaped people, leaving Aya, Ren, Hiro, and Frizz behind.

In *Do-Over*, Aya wants a second chance to tell her story, this time telling the truth. For this reason, she argues with Ren, Hiro, and Frizz for them to follow behind Tally and the others. First they have to figure out how to recover Moggle, finally agreeing to use David's radio.

In *Night Flight*, Aya, Hiro, and Frizz reunite with Moggle and follow a lifter toward the strange shaped people's camp, grabbing a ride underneath.

In *Mass Production*, Aya, Hiro, and Frizz explore the camp they have discovered and find that the strange shaped people are running an assembly line to create some kind of large missile.

Part 3, Leaving Home: Chapters 42-47 Analysis

In these chapters, Aya and her friends are reunited among theories about the metal and the actions of the strange shaped people. Tally takes off with her friends to stop the bombing of the world that they believe is about to happen. At the same time, Aya is worried about the story she kicked turning out to be a big lie and anxious to find the truth. Aya follows Tally and her friends only to find what seems to be proof of Tally's worst fears.

One of the major themes of this novel is the conservation of earth and its resources. Tally has been a big supporter of this kind of thing since the first *Uglies* novel and continues to worry about the expansion of the cities and the use of natural resources. Therefore it is natural for Tally to jump to the conclusion that the strange shaped people are trying to harm the earth. However, the reader is beginning to feel that Frizz's arguments are quite compelling.



Part 3, Leaving Home: Chapters 48-54

Part 3, Leaving Home: Chapters 48-54 Summary

In *Missile*, Aya, Hiro, and Frizz follow one of the missiles to a large building. Inside they are covered with some sort of white florescent paint that makes them visible even in their sneak suits.

In *Hands*, as Aya tries to escape with Moggle's help, someone sets off a jamming program that turns off their hoverball rigs and Moggle.

In *An Old Friend*, the strange shaped people begin to talk to Aya through Moggle, who they modified after he saved their worker. Aya realizes they think she is Tally, especially when they send in an old friend of Tally's.

In *Two Birds with One Stone*, the friend of Tally's, Andrew Simpson Smith, tells them that the strange shaped people are not bad. In fact, they have grown concerned about the expanding cities and have come up with what they believe is a perfect solution. These people have altered themselves so that they can live comfortably on a space station. The missiles are not missiles but spaceships to send people into space.

In *Conflagration*, upon the initial explosions in the distance, Hiro quickly flies Aya over the airfield where Tally is blowing up the space ships with the mistaken idea that they are missiles. Frizz refuses to leave the airfield until Tally agrees to hear Aya out.

In *Rekicking It*, Aya must explain herself quickly to convince Tally that these are not missiles and are not about to destroy the world. Finally Tally believes her and stops blowing up the ships.

In *Thousand Faces*, Tally reluctantly attends the Nana Love party with Aya in order to offer her support to the Extras, the strange shaped people. At the party, Aya runs into Lai who tells her she has signed up to go into space. Lai also tells her that she injected a fluid into the cake that will cause it to explode when Nana cuts into it. Aya sees David and Tally slip away from the party together before she takes Frizz to watch Nana cut the cake.

Part 3, Leaving Home: Chapters 48-54 Analysis

Aya, Hiro, and Frizz find themselves trapped by the strange shaped people, but instead of harming them, these people try to convince Aya of the truth. Finally Aya can see that they are telling the truth, in part because of the theories that Frizz has presented to her previously in the day. As Aya slowly comes around to the truth, they hear Tally setting off explosives.



Tally has been the hero of the three previous novels and although her actions have not always been in the best interest of everyone because of the damage done to her brain by the pretty and special surgeries, she has always been a strong advocate of the earth's resources. For this reason, Tally slowly comes around to Aya's theories and agrees to stop bombing the space ships designed to colonize space.

In the end, Aya has found everything she has wanted and she is in a position to promote a new way of living that will protect the earth's resources. Not only that, but she has found happiness with Frizz. It seems that Tally has also found happiness after many years of struggle and heartache with David.



Characters

Aya Fuse

Aya is a young woman living in a city in Japan. Aya's city uses fame as a mode of economy. The more famous a person is, either because of their job, their grades, or some other mode of fame, the more possessions and better possessions they are entitled to. Aya's older brother, Hiro, is a kicker. Hiro posts stories he has personally researched, filmed, and edited, on his personal feed. As a result of these stories, Hiro's face rank is very high, making him famous enough to allow him to have a nice apartment in a mansion and to have a hole in the wall that gives him whatever he asks for. Aya wants to be as famous, if not more famous, than Hiro.

As Aya searches for a story to kick that will raise her face rank, she becomes aware of a group of girls who do incredible stunts. Aya tracks one of them down and follows her, causing the group to become aware of her. The group does not like kickers and do not want their own face ratings to go up because they need anonymity in order to continue doing these stunts. For this reason, Aya lies to the Sly Girls and tells them she is no longer interested in a high face rank. In truth, Aya is using hidden cameras to record them.

In the end, Aya and the Sly Girls trip across a story that is bigger than all of them. The Sly Girls let Aya have the story and it makes her famous. However, it also makes Aya a target of the people who did not want themselves exposed to the world. Aya is kidnapped along with Tally Youngblood, the hero who created the mind-rain that freed the world of mind control surgeries. In the end, Aya finds an even bigger story, but can she convince Tally of the truth?

Hiro Fuse

Hiro is Aya's older brother. Hiro is old enough that he had already had his pretty surgery when the mind rain took place. Afterward, Hiro was lost as to what to do with his life until his city decided to create fame as a kind of currency. Hiro became a kicker to make sense of the world and by doing this, he has become very famous. Hiro helps Aya not only prepare her initial story, but also to discover the truth about the strangely shaped people.

Ren

Ren is Hiro's best friend and a tech head. Ren has his own feed on which he posts stories about technology. Ren modified Moggle, Aya's hovercam, so that it is almost a pet rather than a piece of equipment. When Aya has technical questions about her story, Ren is the one who gives her the answers. Ren also goes along when Aya, Hiro, and Frizz are kidnapped with Tally and her friends.



Frizz Mizuno

Frizz is the founder and first member of a clique called Radical Honesty. Frizz was once a very dishonest young man, therefore he decided to have surgery to alter his brain so that he can no longer lie. Frizz is brutally honest and feels pain when he knows the truth about something but is not allowed to speak it out loud. For this reason, Frizz unintentionally blows Tally's cover when they are all kidnapped by the strangely shaped people. Frizz decides to have his honesty surgery altered and to become a doctor.

Eden Maru

Eden Maru is a famous hoverball player who recently broke up with her boyfriend because his face rank was lower than hers. Aya discovers that Eden is a part of a secret group of girls who shun face rank and who perform dangerous stunts just for the joy of doing it. Eden does not trust Aya from the moment she attempts to join their group, calling her Noisy-chan. Eden is the tech head of the Sly Girls and the one who gets them into the secret door behind which they find the mass driver and the metal cylinders.

Jai, Kai, Lai

Jai is the name of the Sly Girls' leader. Jai changes her name several times during the course of the novel to keep her face rank from rising. Jai dislikes Aya and believes she wants to kick a story on the Sly Girls. The Sly Girls avoid publicity because they worry that if their stunts became public, others would try to do them and the wardens would try to stop them. For this reason, Jai and the others do not want Aya to be a part of their group, but because of their concern about the cylinders and mass driver, allow Aya to kick the story.

Miki

Miki is a young girl who lives in the same dorm as Aya and who is a member of the Sly Girls. It is from Miki that Aya learns the most about the Sly Girls. It is also Miki who is with Aya when she sees the strangely shaped people in the train tunnel as they load several metal cylinders into the hidden rooms behind a secret door.

Tally Youngblood

Tally Youngblood is the heroine of the Uglies trilogy. Due to the actions of Tally, the Smokies, and the Cutters, the mind-rain became a reality, erasing the lesions that were created to control the people of the world after their pretty surgery. Tally comes to Aya's city after seeing her story on the city killers. Aya thinks Tally has come to save her, but Tally has come to use Aya as bait so that she can go to the strangely shaped people's



home base and find a friend of hers who was kidnapped by these people. Tally believes the strangely shaped people are intent on destroying the world, but Aya finally convinces her that they are trying to save the world.

Udzir

Udzir is the leader of the strangely shaped people, or Extras as they call themselves. Udzir tries on several occasions to explain to Aya and Tally and their friends about his people's intentions, but Tally never gives him the opportunity to finish. Aya finally learns the truth, that Udzir and his people want to establish a space colony, and she convinces Tally of this truth. Udzir later becomes the face of the Extras to recruit new colonists.

Toshi Banana

Toshi Banana is a famous kicker in the town where Aya and Hiro lives. Hiro and Ren call Toshi the Nameless One because they dislike his kicks. Toshi approaches Hiro, Ren, and Aya at a tech party the night Aya's story is to kick for the first time. Ren decides because of Toshi's cutting remarks to kick Aya's story early.



Objects/Places

Hoverboards

The people of Aya's time use hoverboards, boards that hover above the ground using magnets, to get around.

Hovercams

Many of the people in Aya's city use hovercams, cameras that hover like hoverboards, in order to record footage for the stories they kick on the live feeds.

Hovercars

The strangely shaped people, or Extras, use hovercars to travel to Aya's city in order to kidnap her so that they can stop her from talking about them before they are ready to reveal their intentions.

Wallscreens

Wallscreens are huge monitors on which the people in Aya's city can watch the feeds.

Cylinders

Aya and Miki see some strange shaped people place several metal cylinders inside a hidden set of rooms beyond a hidden doorway in a train tunnel.

Ruins

There are thousands of ruined cities throughout the world filled with rusting metal that are remnants of the civilization that existed before the oil shortage caused most of the people to die out. Many of the cities are using the metal of these ruins to expand their cities. It also discovered that the Extras have stolen a great deal of this metal to create their space ships and space colonies.

Moggle

Moggle is Aya's hovercam. Moggle has been modified by Ren so that it is waterproof and smarter than a normal hovercam, making it something of a pet to Aya.



Mag-Lev Trains

Mag-lev trains are fast moving trains that are used to move goods from city to city. The Sly Girls have found a way to surf the mag-lev trains.

Sly Girls

The Sly Girls are a group of girls who like to perform crazy stunts. The Sly Girls do not want to be kicked because they prefer to keep their face ranks low so that they can continue to do their stunts under the radar. Aya hopes to kick a story about the Sly Girls without their knowledge.

Radical Honesty

Radical Honesty is a clique Frizz has created that requires members to have a brain surgery that alters the part of the brain that controls lying. Frizz once lied a lot and decided that it would be better to be forced to be very honest.

Extras

Extras in Aya's city is a word that refers to people who have low face rankings. The strange shaped people also adopt the name Extras as a shorter version of extraterrestrials.

Mass Driver

Aya and the Sly Girls find a mass driver hidden in a train tunnel in the mountains outside their town.

Mansions

The people in Aya's town still have mansions similar to those that were popular in Prettytown before the mind rain. However, the mansions are now used by people with high face ranks.



Themes

Fame and Popularity

In this book, Aya's city was beginning to struggle to provide for all its people, but did not want to return to the kind of economy used by the Rusties, or the civilization that died out before them. For this reason, the city adopted a face rank currency. In this program, people who are the most famous are eligible for the most stuff and the best homes. What you have is based on how popular your personal feed is.

In this economy, at the age of fifteen, Aya is not very popular. Aya does not have the means she wants to have a special surgery for special vision or to change her nose. Aya also does not have a fancy apartment or a hole in the wall that will make for her anything she wants. For this reason, Aya is searching for a way to make herself famous. The best way to do this is by reporting a story that will cause lots of people in the city to want to read it.

Aya joins the Sly Girls, a mythical group of girls who like to pull wild stunts in order to kick a story about them. However, the Sly Girls shun these types of stories because they do not want their own face rankings to rise. For this reason, Aya must lie to them. Rather than do a story about the Sly Girls, however, Aya stumbles onto a story about a possible bomb silo in the mountains. Aya becomes famous when she kicks this story, but with fame comes unexpected danger, causing Aya to wonder if she really wants all that she wished for.

Saving the Earth

A major theme that runs through all the Uglies books is the idea of conserving the earth. The people of Tally and Aya's time are taught that the previous civilization died out because they were so completely dependent on oil that they could not survive when a bacteria destroyed all the oil on earth. At the same time, Aya and Tally were taught as children that the Rusties, as they call this previous civilization, mined the earth for metals and took trees from the forests in order to build their homes and to mass produce unnecessary possessions.

As the book progresses, the idea of mining the earth for metal becomes a theme of the story. The cities are growing so quickly that they cannot keep up with the need for buildings and housing with their own materials, so they have begun to mine the metal from the Rusty ruins. This metal is quickly running out and the cities are talking about moving into the ground and mining the metal from the old mines that the Rusties left behind.

Finally, Tally becomes involved with Aya's problems because she believes that the strangely shaped people are a group of radicals who plan to bomb the cities to stop them from expanding. Tally goes to their island in order to stop them by blowing up their



missiles, only to learn that this group is on the same side as she. This group is against the expansion of the cities, but they are not stealing all the metal to make missiles, but are stealing it to create spaceships so that they might begin colonies in outer space. This group, who call themselves Extras, want to conserve the earth's resources by only using what is necessary to survive in space.

Social Networking

The author of this book has set up Aya's city and their currency of fame in the same kind of way that modern day social networking is done. In Aya's city, all citizens have their own personal feed where they can upload personal information as well as stories they wish to kick. This is very similar to the social networking sites available today, such as Facebook.

The author seems to be attempting to make a point about the dangers of social networking when he has several of his characters point out to Aya that all information to be had about her is available on her public feed. For example, when Aya takes her friends into the tunnels near the construction site to hide from the strange shaped people, Frizz points out that anyone who looks at her story about the graffiti artists would know about those tunnels, a story that is available on Aya's feed. At another point, Aya regrets that everything to know about her, such as her home, her family, and even her grades, is on her social feed. For this reason, social networking is a theme of the novel.



Style

Point of View

Like the Uglies trilogy before it, this book is written in the first-person point of view. The main character of the novel is Aya, a young Japanese girl who desperately wants to become famous so that she might have all the things and the nicest apartment to be had. In her attempts to become famous, Aya quickly learns that the truth is always better than a lie, but that radical honesty is not always an asset.

The point of view of this novel works well because it allows the reader to develop a quick and intimate relationship with the main character of the novel. In this book, there are so many words and cultural habits that can be confusing to the reader that it is important that a quick and honest relationship is developed between the main character and the reader. It is also important that the reader care what happens to all the characters in the novel or else the trouble that Aya finds herself in late in the novel would not add tension to the plot. For these reasons, the point of view works well with the overall plot.

Setting

The novel is set in a futuristic city in Japan. The novel opens three years after the mind rain that ended the Pretties and the surgery that altered the brains of all civilians to make them more docile and easily manipulated. Now the world is filled with people with minds of their own and the will to direct those minds. For this reason, Aya finds herself taking chances in order to find a story that will make her incredibly popular in her city and give her the right to live in a fancy apartment with all the belongings she could possibly want.

The setting of this novel is important for several reasons. The first reason is that the plot of the novel would make little sense if it was not set in a futuristic time period after an apocalypse that destroyed our current civilization. The second reason is that this plot fits well with the trilogy that precedes this book. Finally, the reason the setting of this novel works well with the plot is that it creates a situation in which not only would someone like Aya be looking for a hot story, but it is a world in which it is highly possible someone might want to bomb the cities to finish what began with the ruination of the previous civilization. For these reasons, the setting of this novel works well with the plot.

Language and Meaning

The language of this book is simple English. The intended audience of this book is young adults, therefore the language tends to be a simple English that these readers might speak in their everyday lives. Due to the fact that this book is set in a futuristic world, there are some words or phrases that have been created for the purposes of this



futuristic world. For example, the people in this book ride hoverboards and use hovercams to record video. The people also speak of insanity-making actions and brain-missing people.

The language of this novel is appropriate to its intended audience and the characters that fill its pages. The use of odd words or phrases to describe the people and items in this futuristic world are simple and easy for a reader of any age to comprehend. The author stays true to his characters throughout the novel, making the language perfect for the plot of this novel.

Structure

The novel is written in a linear format that takes the reader straight through the story with very little backstory. The novel is told from the point of view of Aya, a young girl living in Japan. The story is told both with narration and in dialogue, telling the story with well-written scenes rather than simply telling a story.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows Aya as she attempts to become famous by kicking a big story. One subplot deals with the budding relationship between Aya and Radical Honesty founder, Frizz. Another subplot describes the relationship between Aya and her brother Hiro, a difficult relationship that at the end of the day is really a very loving relationship. Finally, one subplot gives the reader some follow up information on the heroine of the previous three books, Tally Youngblood. All of the plots come to a reasonable conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

"It still pretty much sucked, being fifteen." (Part 1, Watch This: Down and Out, p. 8).

"Eden Maru knew how to fly." (Part 1, Watch This: Underground, pg. 17).

"Overhead drifted swimming pools, hovering bubbles of water shaped by invisible lines of force." (Part 1, Watch This: Big Brother, p. 31).

"Fame's always obvious—that's the point of it." (Part 1, Watch This: Sly Girls, p. 56).

"And then Aya was rolling forward, falling into a void." (Part 1, Watch This: Escape, p. 129).

"The Sly Girls were not pleased with Slime Queen." (Part 2, City Killers: Banned, p. 163).

"The parachute's straps were definitely borrowed from a bungee jacket; they adjusted as she moved, but stayed reassuringly tight around her arms and thighs. Still, Aya couldn't make herself forget that the jacket's lifters—useless out here in the wild—had been replaced with a big wad of silk." (Part 2, City Killers: Joyride, p. 179).

"The feeding frenzy had begun." (Part 2, City Killers: Truth-Slanting, p. 205).

"The wisdom of the crowd, Aya. If a million people look at a puzzle, chances are that one of them knows the answer. Or maybe ten people each know one piece, and that's enough to put it all together." (Part 2, City Killers; The Wisdom of the Crowd, p. 235).

"The whole world was dizzy-making." (Part 3, Leaving Home: Captive Audience, p. 279).

"But unfortunately it also meant one other thing: that a brain-missing fifteen-year-old named Aya Fuse had completely blown the biggest story since the mind-rain." (Part 3, Leaving Home: Metal, p. 332).

"As long as she could remember, Aya had watched the Thousand Faces unfolding on the feeds, imagining herself as one of the anointed few. But now that she was really here, all she wanted was to be alone with Frizz, staring at the city over the empty expanse of Nana Love's cam-missing gardens, immensely happy that no one else wanted privacy tonight." (Part 3, Leaving Home: Thousand Faces, p. 416).



Topics for Discussion

What was Prettytown? Who were the Bubbleheads? What was the mind rain? What happened three years ago that changed the city in which Aya lives? Why does Aya resent to some extent this mind-rain that changed her entire future? How did the mind-rain change Aya's brother's life? Why did Aya's brother, Hiro, turn to kicking stories to fill his time?

Who is Aya? Why does she sneak out of her dorm in the opening scene of the novel? Why does Aya want to track down the Sly Girls? What does Aya think the Sly Girls can offer her? Can they? Why does Aya allow the Sly Girls to throw Moggle into the reservoir? What should have happened to Moggle in the water? What does happen to Moggle in the water?

Who are the Sly Girls? Why are they called Sly Girls? Why do the Sly Girl's shun fame? Why does Jai constantly change the first letter of her name? How does this protect her fame? What do the Sly Girls think Aya wants with them? What does Aya want? How does Aya lie to the Sly Girls? For what reason? What does Aya hope to accomplish with the Sly Girls? What do the Sly Girls do when they discover the truth about Aya? For what reason?

What is a mass driver? Who tells Aya what a mass driver is designed to do? Why does Aya's mind immediately jump to missiles when she learns about the purpose of a mass driver? What other option does Frizz come up with about the metal cylinders Aya found? Is this a possible theory? How do Aya and Frizz finally learn the truth about the mass driver and cylinders Aya and the Sly Girls found in the train tunnel?

Who is Hiro? How did he become famous? What are some perks of his fame? What does fame say about Hiro? Why does Aya feel that Hiro does not like her? Why do Hiro and Aya often fight? What is often Hiro's biggest concern about Aya? Why does Hiro offer to help Aya with her new story by rekicking it? What does Hiro think of Aya's story? Why does Hiro go to Singapore with Aya? What does Hiro do to help Aya there?

Who is Tally Youngblood? Why does Tally ping Aya on the night her story kicks? Why does Tally come to Aya's city to pick her up? What does Tally do soon after picking up Aya? Why does Aya think that Tally is a cruel, dangerous person? Is Tally really cruel and dangerous? What does Tally confess to Aya and Frizz that gives them some insight into her private side? How does Aya think Tally has worked out this situation when all is said and done?

Who are the Extras? Why did the author chose to name his book Extras? How are the two groups of extras defined? How do they compare to one another? Why does Aya find the name Extras for the strange shaped people funny? Why did Aya once dislike the name of extra? How has Aya grown and changed by the end of this book?