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## The Ugly

*Alexander Boldizar*

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#638735 in Books Boldizar Alexander 2016-09-07 2016-09-07 Original language: English 8.50 x .93 x 5.50l, 1.04 #File Name: 1936767473372 pages The Ugly | File size: 56.Mb

**Alexander Boldizar : The Ugly** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ugly:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An eccentrically irreverent work that amuses and enlightens -- reminiscent of Heller and Beckett. Absurd in the very best sense! By Chanticleer Book Reviews Words thrown as hard as boulders are easy to catch -- if you've had practice. Just ask our hero, Muzhduk the Ugly the Fourth in Alexander Boldizar's new release, "The Ugly." In the great tradition of existentialism, Boldizar brings us a book that is hard to

classify. It has aspects of the existential with a fair amount of satirical word play and a bit of theater of the absurd thrown in. An interconnected story of a Siberian Slovak tribal leader looking for a way to save his land and his people. He does this via Harvard Law School and the Tuareg uprising in Africa. Oh, and there's dark magic and Winnie the Pooh thrown in as well. Muzhduk the Ugly the Fourth is a mountain of a man who comes from a tribe of Siberian Slovaks where honor is found in throwing boulders—yes, actual boulders—and either causing great damage to one's opponent or catching said boulders without physically breaking. When his tribe has their land taken through clever use of legal wrangling by an American lawyer, Muzhduk heads (on foot) to Boston to attend Harvard Law School. On the way, he floats on an iceberg to the Bering Sea, plays rugby for a college in Canada, and gets a perfect LSAT, which ushers him into Harvard where he hopes to learn the words that will help him win back his land for his tribe. It is during this part of the story that the word play and Muzhduk's obvious lack of cultural "sophistication" is most enjoyable. In this first year in law school, Muzhduk observes how words are used to challenge and crush the students, much like the boulder throwing at home. This extended metaphor of words as boulders that can be thrown and cause damage, especially in the world of law where words can be twisted and used within the multiple connotations, is where the book finds its best rhythm and is most enjoyable. It is also where Muzhduk meets an odd assortment of professors and students, and what will certainly delight any Harvard graduate, even the small blue bear, Pooh, can be found within the pages of this book. Interspersed throughout the third person, past tense narrative of Muzhduk's first year as an One-L at Harvard, is the first person account of his travels in Africa, looking for Peggy, his American girlfriend who has been kidnapped (or perhaps not) by the Tuareg in their war with the government. This part of the novel unfolds like layers of an onion. As the One-L year continues chronologically, Muzhduk's journey in Africa, and his reason for being there unfolds with new layers of complexity. Even now, Muzhduk discovers that the dangerous game of words as crushing boulders still is in play, but there are added dangers as well. There were times in this novel that it felt reminiscent of Heller or Beckett, as Muzhduk is challenged to understand the strange culture of Harvard Law and also navigate his way through a tribal uprising to accomplish his goals. In both places, Harvard and Africa, the story abounds in word play and existential ponderings. Just like reading Beckett or Heller or Buber (there's a reference to his I-Thou theory in the book), or any other existential writer, "The Ugly" isn't for everyone and it's not an easy read. This eccentrically irreverent work, absurd in the very best sense of the word, will amuse and enlighten. Alexander Boldizar is the first post-independence Slovak citizen to graduate with a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School. Born in Czechoslovakia (now the Slovak Republic) in 1971, he resides in Vancouver, British Columbia Canada where he writes, works his mad skills in the economic community of Wall Street, and brings meaningful commentary as an art critic. His writing has won the PEN / Nob Hill prize, represented Bread Loaf as a nominee for Best New American Voices, and been shortlisted for a variety of other awards. He has published over one hundred articles in a variety of venues. He states that his freelance writing pays for his son's circus school. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. is intelligent, and the satirical view of law school - ...By Kevin The dark comedy genre has been waiting for a new torch-bearer. We've found him. Boldizar has written one of the funniest, smartest, and most pointed novels in the dark comedy / satirical vein. As I read it through the first time, I kept thinking of Saul Bellow's "Henderson, the Rain King," and Heller's "Catch 22." Muzhduk's quest enlightens and entertains; the play with language, with words, is intelligent, and the satirical view of law school - and lawyers, is both insightful and revealing, especially in today's litigious society. This book is hilarious, well-written, and creative. It certainly earns its spot on the shelf right alongside the great classics of the genre. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Yes! By Mark Hopkins A surreal and satirical romp through Africa, Siberia and the dark underworld of Harvard Law School. I've never read anything quite like The Ugly. Full of surprises, clever dialogue and unexpected characters, it will keep you entertained to the end.

Fiction. Humor. Muzhduk the Ugly the Fourth is a 300-pound boulder-throwing mountain man from Siberia whose tribal homeland is stolen by an American lawyer out to build a butterfly conservatory for wealthy tourists. In order to restore his people's land and honor, Muzhduk must travel to Harvard Law School to learn how to throw words instead of boulders. His anarchic adventures span continents, from Siberia to Cambridge to Africa, as he fights fellow students, Tuareg rebels, professors of law, dark magic, bureaucrats, heatstroke, postmodernists, and eventually time and space. A wild existential comedic romp, THE UGLY tells the tale of a flawed and unlikely hero struggling against the machine that shapes the people who govern our world. Best Book of 2016 Overall Grand Prize winner, CAC17 Somerset Prize for best literary fiction of 2016 Indies 2016 "Book of the Year" double finalist (literary, humor) winners TBA, American Library Association conference Best Books of 2016: Best Fiction, Entropy Magazine Best Fiction Books of 2016: A Year End List, Book Scrolling "The Ugly is the funniest, smartest novel I've read in a long, long time." --Pete Duval

"A picaresque novel about mountain people, Harvard lawyers, the heft of rocks, and the power of words. The Ugly brims with intelligence and humor." --Laila Lalami, author of The Moor's Account, Pulitzer Prize finalist "In his restrained and stark prose, Boldizar mixes a kind of fabulism with the absurd. The Ugly combines history and hilarity,

and offers a sardonic view of the law and legal system. This is a strange and bold novel, original in its scope, story, and point of view. A wild fictional ride that will leave you wanting more." --Nina Swamidoss McConigley, author of *Cowboys and East Indians*, winner of the PEN Open Book Award "Boldizar has opened a door into the parallel universe of myth. Out of it has stepped a modern day Beowulf." --Alan Stone, author of *Movies and the Moral Adventure of Life* former president of the American Psychiatric Association From the Inside Flap Best Book of 2016 Overall Grand Prize winner, CAC17 Somerset Prize for best literary fiction of 2016 Indies 2016 "Book of the Year" double finalist (literary, humor) winners TBA, American Library Association conference Best Books of 2016: Best Fiction, Entropy Magazine Best Fiction Books of 2016: A Year End List, Book Scrolling "The Ugly is the funniest, smartest novel I've read in a long, long time." --Pete Duval