

Extra Content for:

# Bogus to Bubbly: An Insider's Guide to the World of the Uglies

SCOTT WESTERFELD

September 25, 2008

One of the things you'll learn in *Bogus to Bubbly* is that *Extras*, the fourth book in the Uglies series, was originally written from Hiro's point of view. But after writing about 60 pages, I realized that everything interesting was happening not to Hiro, but to his little sister. So I started over from Aya's POV. (This was not a happy day for me, throwing out months of work.)

*Bogus to Bubbly* includes the final version of that discarded first effort. But here for your delectation are two excerpts that are even older. Let's start with the very first words I put on paper for *Extras*, written in early November 2006: ""

*Hiro awoke to a bright sky, the heavy clouds like burnished gray metal. He rubbed his eyes, yawned, and gave the room his usual command:*

*"Darker, and show my count."*

*The window opaqued, and numbers appeared on the wall. Hiro sighed softly as he stared at the digits. Overnight, he'd slipped out of the top ten thousand.*

*That's what came of sleeping late.*

That opening seemed fairly flat and boring to me, so I kept fiddling. By December, the book's first paragraphs looked like this:

*Hiro woke to the usual ping-bashing: thousands of messages, one night's buildup of tips and scams and invitations. They gabbled at him from attached soundfiles, flickered with*

*videos of surge-monkeys and manga-heads, and bubbled up smiley faces, exclamations, and fluttering hearts.*

*He lay in bed for a moment, eyes closed, enjoying the rumble of the multitude clamoring for his attention. A good omen for the day.*

*“Tea, please,” he asked the room. “And show my face rank.”*

This was much better, with a more complete sense of the world. Of course, it was completely replaced when I switched to Aya's point of view. But even in the final version, some of these same phrases appeared in a completely different chapter:

*As she scanned the list of pings for any new assignments, her eyes froze on one . . .*

*It was anonymous and spitting animations, like the fluttering hearts that littlies decorated their pings with. But these weren't hearts, or exclamation points, or smilies.*

As you can see, it can take a long time to nail down the opening of a book. Many words are discarded between first draft and final. But once you've written an idea, it never completely disappears.

For more insider info like this, I hope you'll take a look at *Bogus to Bubbly: An Insider's Guide to the World of Ugliers*. It goes on sale October 21.