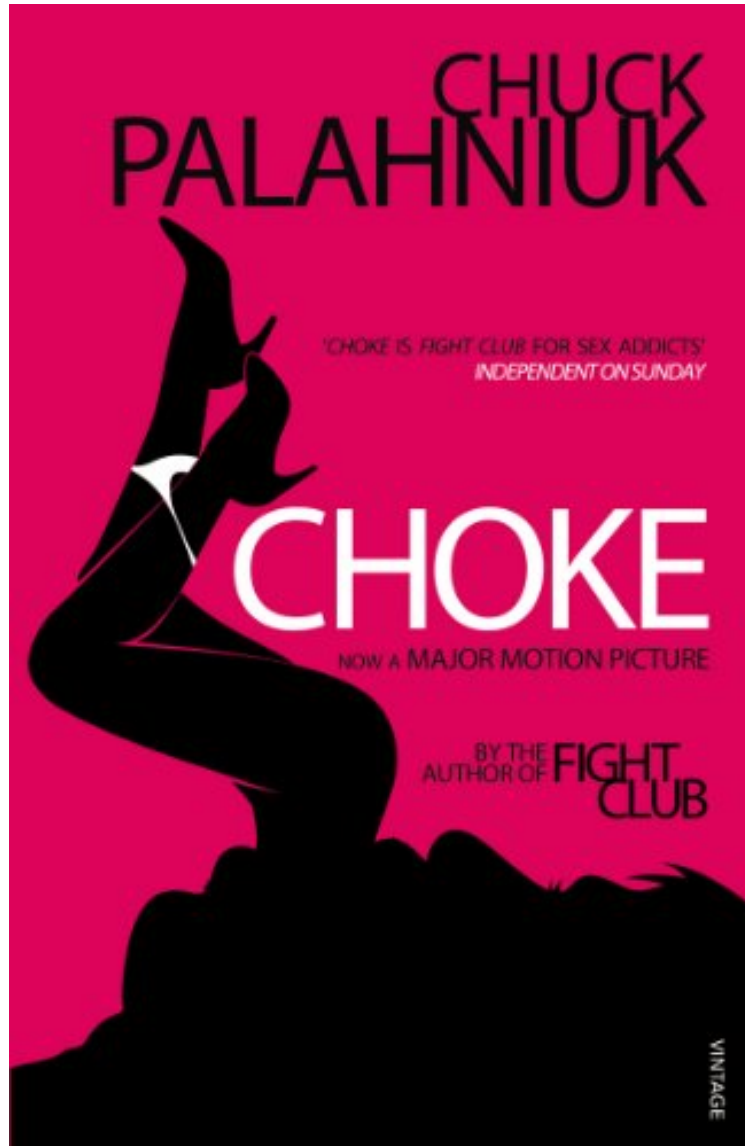


(Download free ebook) Choke

Choke

Von Chuck Palahniuk

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Von Chuck Palahniuk : Choke before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Choke:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 3 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "Art never comes from happiness" (5). Von Michael Dienstbier "Love is bullshit. Emotion is bullshit. I am a rock. A jerk. I'm an uncaring asshole and proud of it. What would Jesus NOT do?" (227) So das Credo von Victor Mancini, der sich selbst für den wiedergekehrten Jesus hielt, nachdem er glaubt herausgefunden zu haben, dass er aus der Vorhaut des

antiken Zimmermanns geklont worden zu sein. Ganz unchristlich lebt Victor leidenschaftlich seine Sexsucht aus und sporadische Versuche, dieses Laster einzudämmen, sind zum Scheitern verurteilt: "For a sex addict, your tits, your dick, your clit or tongue or asshole is a shot of heroin, always there, always ready to use" (18). Seinen Lebensunterhalt finanziert er recht erfolgreich damit, in Restaurants Erstickungsanfälle vorzutuschen, um sich anschließend 'retten' zu lassen. Die Erfahrung zeigt, dass die Retter sich von nun an verantwortlich für den Geretteten fühlen, was sich in regelmäßig eintreffenden Schecks äußert. Klingt alles völlig abgedreht und an den Haaren herbeigezogen? Ist es auch, aber trotzdem gelingt es Chuck Palahniuk in "Choke" auf genial-unterhaltsame Weise, die westliche Konsumkultur mitsamt ihrem ideologischen Erbe zu sezieren. Die Klasse von Palahniuks frühen Romanen wie "Choke", "Fight Club" oder "Survivor" zeichnet sich vor allem dadurch aus, die emotionale Leere und empfundene Sinnlosigkeit im Leben der jeweiligen Protagonisten in knackigen Szenen auf den Punkt zu bringen: "The truth was, if Christ had laughed on the cross, or spat on the Romans, if he'd done anything more than just suffer, the kid would've liked church a lot more" (36) analysiert Mancini das zunehmende Verschwinden des Christentums in der kulturellen Bedeutungslosigkeit. Und über die nahezu pathologische Sinnsucht unserer Zeit sinniert er: "It's pathetic how we can't live with the things we can't understand. How we need everything labeled and explained and deconstructed" (232). Fazit: Palahniuk bleibt einer der lesenswertesten amerikanischen Autoren unserer Zeit, auch wenn seine neuen Romane wie "Snuff" oder "Pygmy" nicht mehr das Niveau alter Tage erreicht haben.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Things We Do for Love von Donald Mitchell

The book begins with this warning: "If you're going to read this, don't bother." This book "is a stupid story about a stupid little boy." And many should follow that advice. The book revels in sexual addiction, fantasies, and mental illness in a way that few will find a happy experience. The story itself is very self-indulgent, because the core theme of the book did not need to be so filled with unpleasant scenes and language. I graded down the book for the degree that this takes place in ugly thoughts and deeds that were not essential to the story's development. On the other hand, the character development of Victor Mancini, the anti-hero in "Choke", is masterful. Mr. Palahniuk has taken on quite a challenge, and pulled it off very well. As someone who loves character development, I was impressed. If you enjoy the type of humor in the book, savage parodies of our sex-symbol-filled society, you will find yourself laughing aloud in many places. My favorite was the section about hypnosis. The novel evolves through an alternating combination of flashback and narration of what is occurring in the current time. Obviously mixed in with the current narration are fantasies of an extreme nature, usually involving sexual relations. The flashbacks relate to a little boy whose Mother moves erratically in and out of his life. Victor Mancini is a drop out from medical school who now works at Colonial Dunsboro where he pretends to be an Irish indentured servant from the 18th century. His Mother, Ida, is in a nursing home suffering from Alzheimer's, and Victor is her guardian. Since the \$6 per hour he makes at Colonial Dunsboro doesn't pay for much nursing home care, he supplements his income by pretending to choke in restaurants. He does this with great panache until someone saves him. The grateful hero often wants to stay in touch, often sending some money to help Victor out. Do this often enough, and you can pay for nursing home care. However, it's complicated because his Mother doesn't quite recognize him any more, and she's stopped eating. What should he do? Much of the story development will strike you as needless repetition, yet it is all carefully calculated . . . so be patient. If you make it all the way to the end, you will like the book and the story much better. In fact, you may find that you will want to read the book a second and third time to rethink what you believed during your first reading. Pay close attention as you go. After you read this story, you definitely should think about why you do what you do. How much of it is simply a cry for love? Can you find better ways to earn and enjoy love? Perhaps. It's worth exploring. May you enjoy even more love than you give. Be generous!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. What would Jesus NOT do? Von Yaya

Choke ist das vierte Buch das ich von Chuck Palahniuk gelesen habe und mal wieder hat mich sein Erzählstil ganz einfach in seinen Bann gezogen! Zugegeben, Choke erinnert sehr stark an "Fight Club" und es ist auch wahr das Chuck Palahniuk's Stil mehr oder weniger gleich bleibt, d.h. sich nicht viel "weiterentwickelt", allerdings empfinde ich das nicht als Schwäche, da sein Stil einfach unglaublich genial ist. Und wie immer liefert er uns mit "Choke" eine unglaublich durchgeknallte Geschichte in deren Verlauf man sich fters einfach nur über seine (oft kranken) Einfälle wundern muss. Alles in Allem ist ihm mit "Choke" mal wieder ein Geniestreich gelungen und das Buch ist absolut lesenswert. Wie es so schön auf dem Cover heißt: "Choke is Fight Club for Sex Addicts" - und ich denke das beschreibt dieses Buch immer noch am Besten!

Kurzbeschreibung Victor Mancini has devised a complicated scam to pay for his mother's hospital care: pretend to be choking on a piece of food in a restaurant and the person who 'saves you' will feel responsible for you for the rest of their lives. Multiply that a couple of hundred times and you generate a healthy flow of cheques, week in, week out. Victor also works at a theme park with a motley group of losers, cruises sex addiction groups for action, and visits his mother, whose Alzheimer's disease now hides what may be the startling truth about his parentage. Imagine watching live images of a runaway stolen bus on TV, and imagine that that same bus comes crashing through your own street, maybe even your own wall, into your existence, and you will have imagined what it is like to read Chuck Palahniuk's

third novel, *Choke*. This is satirical literature for the DVD surround-sound generation. As with his debut novel, *Fight Club*, which has since been adapted into a critically acclaimed film, Palahniuk's central character, Victor Mancini, is a cruiser of support groups, this time sexual addiction groups. Victor is reminiscent of Patrick Bateman, Bret Easton Ellis's central character in *American Psycho*, and of David Bell, Don DeLillo's character in *Americana*. He is a social outsider, psychologically fragmented, unable to function in modern society, uncertain of his true identity, a con-man diner struggling to connect to other diners in a godless and consumerist society. This is a novel full of big ideas, sharp social commentaries; through Victor's actions and his memories of his dysfunctional crackpot mother, a world is revealed in which addictive behaviour is a way of escaping the banalities that pass for realities, a world which could end with a "discreet, tasteful announcement". However, Victor is also a redeemer, his selfish actions, blackly comic, bring meaning into the lives of the strangers he cons, turning him into a creator of heroes, each one claiming to have saved Victor Mancini from choking to death, each one Victor's benefactor, saving them from the emptiness of their existence. In portraying Victor's attempt to condense his identity from the chaotic waters of his life, Palahniuk reminds us of the struggles that we all face as individuals in our fast and puzzling new millennium. His prose is quick and inventive, his plot never predictable, and he has the unerring ability to make the reader question himself in the context of his fiction, a mark of truly good writing. --Iain Robinson.co.uk

We can more or less deduce the following of the main protagonist in *Choke*; Victor Mancini is a ruthless con artist. Victor Mancini is a medical school dropout who's taken a job playing an Irish indentured servant in a colonial-era theme park in order to help care for his Alzheimer's-afflicted mother. Victor Mancini is a sex addict. Victor Mancini is a direct descendant of Jesus Christ. Welcome, once again, to the world of Chuck Palahniuk. "Art never comes from happiness" says Mancini's mother only a few pages into the novel. Given her own dicey and melodramatic style of parenting, you would think that her son's life would be chock full of nothing but art. Alas, that's not the case--in the fine tradition of Oedipus, Stephen Dedalus and Anthony Soprano, Victor hasn't quite reconciled his issues with his mother. Instead, he's trawling sexual-addiction recovery meetings for dates and purposely choking in restaurants for a few moments of attention. Longing for a hug, in other words, he's settling for the Heimlich. Thematically, this is pretty familiar Palahniuk territory. It would be a pity to disclose the surprises of the plot but suffice to say that what we have here is a little bit of Tom Robbins's *Another Roadside Attraction*, a little bit of Don DeLillo's *The Day Room* and, well, a little bit of *Fight Club*. Just as with that book and the other two novels under Palahniuk's belt, we get a smattering of gloriously unflinching sound bites, such as this sceptical slight on prayer chains: "A spiritual pyramid scheme. As if you can gang up on God. Bully him around." Whether this is the novel that will break Palahniuk into the mainstream is hard to say. For a fourth book, in fact, the ratio of iffy, "dude"-intensive dialogue to interesting and insightful passages is a little higher than we might wish. In the end though, the author's nerve and daring pull the whole thing off--just. And what's next for Victor Mancini's creator? Leave the last word to him, declaring as he does on the final pages: "Maybe it's our job to invent something better ... What it's going to be, I don't know." --Bob Michaels, .com