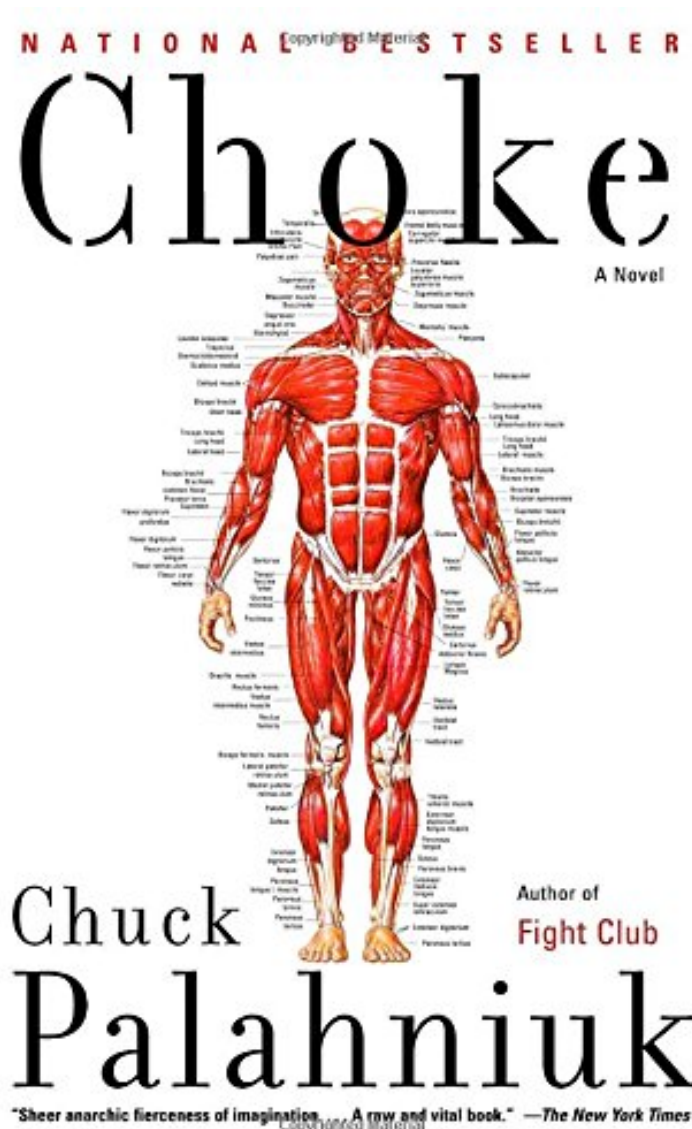


Choke

Chuck Palahniuk

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#32239 in Books Chuck Palahniuk 2002-06-11 2002-06-11 Ingredients: Example Ingredients Format: Print Original language: English PDF # 1 7.99 x .68 x 5.181, .49 # File Name: 0385720920304 pages a hilarious satire involving sex addiction and Alzheimers | File size: 15.Mb

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

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Classic Palahniuk By Brett Fischer Victor Mancini is a sex addict who has ended up surrounded by a strange group of people due to a crazy childhood. As with most Palahniuk novels, I thoroughly enjoyed this one. There are interesting characters reminiscent of his other stories and some unexpected turns

typical of his writing that I liked. Definitely worth a read if you're a fan of his or if you want to begin reading his works. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. All Choke'd Up By Camel City Dave I'm not an avid reader. At all. I'm one of the guys who saw a movie and wanted to pick up the book to compare and be able to finally tell people "Yeah, the book is bla bla bla compared to the movie." Maybe this will give me a point in credibility to my hipster friends. I must say that I'm glad to have picked this title up. The movie isn't for everybody. The book isn't for everybody. This is because the story isn't for everybody. If you are like me and enjoy dark humor with a psychological twist and are not easily offended then this story is for you. For more detail about what this story is actually about then read the review or one of the many other reviews. To get to the book specifically (while catering to those who are like me and admittedly do not read often), I will say this was a great casual read. It was fun flipping through the pages with the movie in mind and comparing mental notes about accuracy and placement of the story. Since I was going into this book with very little care to the translation from book to film I wasn't disappointed. In fact I felt it was a great supplement to the movie. Yes, some characters aren't portrayed exactly alike. No, the ending isn't the same, it's quite different. But what a great ride it was. Plus, for a casual reader such as myself the fact that the 304 page book is broken up into many chapters averaging 4 to 7 pages, makes it a great "pick up, put down" or "toilet read." This book sparks my interest enough to actually start reading more books, and of course starting with another title by Chuck. Maybe *Fight Club*, but I would like to read another title that isn't accompanied by a movie. I'm curious to see what goes through my mind without the mental images a film director and actors already fed me. Pick it up. You'll know if you like it just by clicking the "look inside" option anyway. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Book. Very Entertaining By Words On Screen Those of you who enjoy Palahniuk's early work will enjoy this as well. Using the same minimalist style, Palahniuk dives into the odd world of a sex addict. There's no doubt this story will maintain your interest. It's funny, disgusting, and touching all at the same time. A common complaint of Palahniuk's work is the similarities of the narrators in his stories. Though I am a huge fan of his work and would normally defend his work, I must say that Victor Mancini reminded me of lead characters in past Palahniuk novels. However, this is not a bad thing if you have enjoyed Chuck's older novels. Overall, it is a very good book. I would definitely recommend this book to Palahniuk fans and readers wanting some excitement.

Victor Mancini, a medical-school dropout, is an antihero for our deranged times. Needing to pay elder care for his mother, Victor has devised an ingenious scam: he pretends to choke on pieces of food while dining in upscale restaurants. He then allows himself to be "saved" by fellow patrons who, feeling responsible for Victor's life, go on to send checks to support him. When he's not pulling this stunt, Victor cruises sexual addiction recovery workshops for action, visits his addled mom, and spends his days working at a colonial theme park. His creator, Chuck Palahniuk, is the visionary we need and the satirist we deserve.

.com Victor Mancini is a ruthless con artist. Victor Mancini is a med-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. All of these statements about the protagonist of *Choke* are more or less true. Welcome, once again, to the world of Chuck Palahniuk. "Art never comes from happiness." So 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 it 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 *Fight Club* and the other two novels under Palahniuk's belt, we get a smattering of gloriously unflinching sound bites, including this skeptical bit 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 barely. And what's next for Victor Mancini's creator? Leave the last word to him, declaring as he does in the final pages: "Maybe it's our job to invent something better.... What it's going to be, I don't know." --Bob Michaels From Publishers Weekly While it's always interesting to hear authors read their own work, this production is not likely to prompt a narrating career for Palahniuk (*Fight Club*) on par with his literary accomplishments. That's not to say, however, that his style doesn't work with this offbeat story of a sex-addicted medical school dropout whose gift is pretending to choke in restaurants and reaping the sympathy checks of the people who "save" him in order to pay for the care of his sick mother. Palahniuk reads with a husky, occasionally whiny voice that's rushed and intense. At times it seems like he's not reading at all, but reciting the novel from memory as he paces the floor with a cup of coffee in one hand and the fingers of the other pressed to his forehead while a cigarette smolders away in the ashtray. He brings

a unique sensibility and opts for inflections that other narrators probably would not. After the book implores listeners to turn away and go no further in Chapter 1, for instance, Palahniuk reads the words "Chapter 2" in a tone of voice that says, "OK, you asked for it." That's a fitting sentiment for those who choose to listen, as this bizarre story is by turns hilarious and depressing, read in an idiosyncratic manner by an idiosyncratic author. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal In the course of his three novels (e.g., *Fight Club*), Palahniuk has become a master of depicting the dark and depraved underbelly of our society through the voices of mordantly existential protagonists. *Choke* is no exception. This time around, readers are ushered into a world of sexaholics, historical theme parks, and other bizarre matters by Victor Mancini, a medical school dropout who has resorted to fake choking in restaurants in order to pay the hospital expenses for his elderly mother, Ida. Ida also happens to be an anarchist whose social terror campaigns made Victor's childhood less than stable. Such is the universe of Palahniuk, who calls the norms of our society into question by presenting us with a parallel world where most of what we hold to be true is exposed as hallow or insane. His writing is as good and as funny as ever, and like many other Palahniuk characters, Victor is quite memorable. Some readers may be shocked and even repulsed by much of the subject matter here. Still, it is recommended for most public and academic libraries.- Heath Madom, "Library Journal" Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.