The Victimised Victor: A Study of Parental Alienation in Chuck Palahniuk’s Choke.

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Abstract

Chuck Palahniuk, one of the renowned contemporary American novelists has attained much critical acclaim as a writer of fiction. The heterogeneity of themes that he deals with in his compositions makes him a vibrant and conspicuous explorer of diverse American literary themes including the theme of alienation. The novel Choke is a ground breaking novel portraying the struggle and conflict of an individual in essentially chaotic and deteriorating American society. Choke is fourth novel written by Chuck Palahniuk and it was published in 2001. Choke displays a psychologically unstable character who suffers from the disturbing results of a fatherless infancy and an altogether different and disturbed mother-son world. Thus this paper seeks to analyse the causes and consequences of parental alienation encoded in the text.

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Reading the novel *Choke*, by Chuck Palahniuk, followed by watching the movie *Choke* by director Clark Greeg, puts the words you previously read, to life, on screen. There wasn’t much difference between the novel and the book in the general story line. The almost rape scene, not included in the text, between Victor and the neat freak woman he found in the classified section of the newspaper, was as strange yet funny as something Palahniuk would have come up with so it fit in great to the movie. One clear un-arguable difference between the movie and the book was the ending. In the book we read about a news cast that draws all the people who have “saved” Victor from choking throughout his life to help him and Denny build Denny’s rock structure. Chuck Palahniuk does it again with *Choke*. He turns an utterly pathetic character with very few redeeming qualities into a character that everyone can sympathize with and that everyone eventually learns to love. But, seriously, keep your eyes peeled next time you dine out for someone stuffing steak down their throat for a little attention. 

Important Disclaimer: Although this is Chuck Palahniuk’s official website, we are in essence, more an official ‘fansite.’ Chuck Palahniuk himself does not own nor run this website. Nor did he create it. It was started by Dennis Widmyer, who is the webmaster and editor of most of the content. Chuck Palahniuk himself should not be held accountable nor liable for any of the content posted on this website.