Pillage #2: Choke

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Review

When a school prank lands Beck in the hospital, three strange visitors come to see him: an annoying journalist; a pasty-white, hooded man; and a killer plant. These three visits cause Beck to plant the last dragon stone. Beck is warned that if he does not hatch and kill the dragon, Beck’s father will be lost. However, when Beck sees the newborn queen dragon, he is entranced. Keeping his plans hidden from everyone, except Kate and Wyatt, Beck raises the queen thinking he can control her. But his family’s curse drives the queen out of hiding to pillage Kingsplot. When Beck reluctantly decides to stop the queen, both the journalist and the hooded man will try anything to keep Beck from destroying her.

*Choke* keeps up the racing, maddening pace started in the first book with trapping predicaments and spontaneous plot twists. Beck is not destined to live a normal life, thanks to his cursed heritage. But the curse is beginning to poison Beck’s mind. In *Pillage*, Beck had enough of a conscience to snap out of his cursed trances. But in *Choke*, his involvement with the queen dragon is the drug that weakens Beck from seeing the consequences of his actions. Only the threat of death unwillingly changes Beck’s mind. This worrying sign shows the curse will soon take over Beck completely. An added bonus for readers are the hidden clues in Richardson’s illustrations that hold the resolution about queen dragon. The final book is called *Ambush*. 