



Curse of the Black Avenger: Blood Sails, Dark Hearts

Eddie Jones

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Awards

- * 2012 winner of the Moonbeam Children's Book Award in the Pre-Teen Fiction/Fantasy category
- * 2011 winner of the Selah award in Young Adult fiction

Book Summary

If you drowned and the sea spit you out, thrusting you back into an age of pirates, buried treasure and beauty beyond belief... would you stay?

RICKY BRADSHAW has never sailed the Caribbean Sea, searched for buried treasure or battled pirates on the deck of a Spanish Galleon. He's never fallen through the floor of Davy Jones' locker, befriended a witch doctor or watched an old fisherman morph into a porpoise. All Ricky knows is his lonely life with his widowed mom in a tiny apartment overlooking a marina on the Chesapeake Bay.

But all that changes on a snowy Christmas Eve when Ricky's apartment building burns down and he falls into the chilly waters while trying to save BARNACLE, a mangy mutt with shrimp breath. Suddenly Ricky finds himself confronted by his neighbor, a young woman in a pink bathrobe who jumped to her death in order to escape the flames. She offers him a choice: go with her to a wonderful afterlife where snowflakes taste like candy or return to the dreary old world he knows. Ricky picks the past and awakes on a raft in the middle of the sea where there is surprising beauty on every island, danger around every corner and great honor and glory ahead of him... if only Ricky can summon the courage to survive the curse of Captain LaFoote.

The perfect book for any teen or tween who enjoys adventure, humor and swashbuckling (plus heartbreaking) romance.

Curse of the Black Avenger: Blood Sails, Dark Hearts Details

Date : Published June 4th 2014 by Lighthouse Publishing () (first published October 1st 2010)

ISBN : 9781941103432

Author : Eddie Jones

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From Reader Review Curse of the Black Avenger: Blood Sails, Dark Hearts for online ebook

Sharon Williams says

My Review

Bruce says

This is a great fantasy/adventure for the whole family. Although children below the age of 8 or 9 will need it read to them. It would also make a good movie. I say this as a grandfather of five, so don't mistake it for a kids-only book. Eddie has provided a family-friendly story that entertains and well as teaches some important life lessons.

Loren says

The Curse of Captian LaFoote is geared towards the Young Fiction Audience ~ young teen or middle school age! I wanted to make sure that I was comfortable before handing it over to my Son to read. Eddie Jones has a passion for telling Pirate Stories and does a Fabulous job with this book! As is common with any Pirate story or movie, there are battles, buried treasure and a whole lot of adventure! Because I have a 14 year old Son who loves to read and loves pirate stories, I know this is going into his summer reading pile for sure!

Cindy Sproles says

In true EDDIE JONES fashion, this adventure takes you through the imagination of a young boy and spits you out into the world of pirates. A wonderful read for middle grade kids and adults with a eye for the ocean, The Curse of Captain LaFoote will have you in search of buried treasure. Put on your sword, man the ships and sail away with Ricky Bradshaw.

Haley Mathiot says

This book was hard to read. It was confusing, and it didn't seem to have a plot. A lot of things happened, but it didn't seem to really have plot.

I felt like there should have been more emotional reactions. Everything was from Ricky's perspective, so I was in his head, but most of the time I didn't know what he was thinking, so I didn't connect with him very well.

The beginning had pretty good pacing. The middle was really exciting. But then things got confusing again, and two thirds of the way through I just got really flustered because there were no answers (and no plot) in

sight. I gave up, but then sighed and read one more page, and it got exciting again.

But at the end I was still confused. I was glad I finished it because I was getting annoyed. I found myself reading only the dialogue during the last quarter of the book.

I'm still not quite sure what the plot was. I don't know what the curse was. I don't know what happens at the end. All I know is Ricky and Rebecca survive and sail away on a boat (I think it's stolen) and the dog is gone. Maybe. Actually I'm not sure if the dog is gone or not.

Confusing. See? this is my confused face. o.0

(And while we're at it, this is my pirate face. o.--)

Content: clean

Lisa Godfrees says

I finished the book over a week ago and have been mulling over what I should say about it. I think my expectations for the book may have been too high. First, I like pirate books, who doesn't? And then it has received a couple of awards, so I expected it to be pretty good. Bear with me while I go through a list of things I liked and things that were...not so clear.

Rating:PG-13

The good: "PG-13 for violence and light adult themes" ~ The publisher actually rated this book themselves (yay! You go, PYP).

The not-so-clear: People died in the book and it was no big deal. Unlike R.L. Copple's book *Mind Game*, there was no apparent respect for life. Perhaps they weren't "real" in the main character's opinion since they were in an alternate reality setting, but this wasn't clear. I was just surprised at how violence and death were handled in the book. I would have expected more gravity, grief, remorse, and there wasn't really any.

Theology: Crossover

Crossover = A book that Christians and non-Christians are both supposed to like. That means that there can be references to God but its supposed to be more main stream. (At least that's my take on it).

The good: There were a lot of biblical references in the book, and some were quite clever. For instance,

"The point is, you should show a little more respect. If not, you could end up like those boys in the Bible who were eaten by bears"

"Bears ate boys in the Bible?"

"The book of Second Kings."

Don't remember the reference? Check out 2 Kings 2:23-25. The moral? Don't mess with Elisha. No name

calling.

The bad: So the author references the “Big Guy” in a positive, if flippant, way. But we have two figures in the book that seem to be some sort of spiritual guide—a dead pregnant Asian ex-neighbor and a Hispanic guy named Paco—who give the main character, Ricky, advice/options. The woman claims to be from God and tells him not to trust Paco. We don’t know what to believe, and Ricky tends not to do what the Asian woman (who is ostensibly from God?) wants. It’s confusing and the end of the book doesn’t resolve who is the good advisor—presumably we will learn that in a sequel.

Social Issues:

I’m not sure epilepsy counts as a social issue, but the book was written in part to raise money to help kids and adults who suffer with epilepsy.

“My goal in writing this book was to spur the imagination of young readers. Boys especially. But I also want to help kids (and adults) who suffer with epilepsy.”

The author/publisher are giving away part of the proceeds from book sales to raise money. Also, Ricky is epileptic. It’s actually the reason (I think) that he ends up in pirate country. It seems like he has an out-of-body experience during an epileptic seizure that almost causes him to drown. But that part’s confusing also.

And that was my big quandary with the book. It was confusing, and nothing was really cleared up at the end.

Pirates are realistic in this book, which is different than books which portray them as heroes. The book is a bit disjointed (or at least I thought so) in the way it jumps from scene to scene and sometimes it is difficult to tell what’s going on. I like to think I’m a pretty savvy reader, but I was kinda lost on this one. I thought I had it figured out but without the expected clarification at the end, the book is like one of those TV shows that leave you with a “to be continued...” frustration.

I think teenage boys would probably enjoy this book—it’s the intended audience. Unlike Mike Lupica’s *Hero*, I don’t know that it will have broad appeal outside that audience. The book is set up as the beginning of a series. I may consider reading #2 to see if it gets better/clarifies things, but I’ll wait until someone else reads and reviews it first.

Eddie Jones says

Well, I wrote the book so I shouldn't say too much. The publisher sent me a pre-order copy to review. They've done a great job with the layout and look. Here's the short press release.

On December 4, Port Yonder Press released the Kindle version of *The Curse of Captain LaFoote* — a Young Adult novel by Eddie Jones.

“My goal in writing this book was to spur the imagination of young readers,” says Eddie. “Boys especially. I wanted to create within them a desire to read and set sail for a life of adventure on the high seas.” Note: Eddie sails and surfs and sometimes works.

“I also want to help kids (and adults) who suffer with epilepsy. That’s why I created a “*Heroes Among Us*”

page in honor of Ricky Bradshaw, the hero of the book. Ricky suffers from epilepsy. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 for the Epilepsy Foundation. For each book sold, the publisher will donate a few pieces of eight - half a sandy dollar – to Ricky's Hero fund."

Eddie says, regardless of how well the book sells, if it helps others become "Seizure Smart!" and raises money to fight epilepsy, then it's a success.

You can help by visiting the book's Amazon page, read the free sample (on the right side of the page) and write a review. Or give a copy to a young reader. NO KINDLE REQUIRED. Readers young and old can install the Kindle app FOR FREE on their smart phone, PC or Mac. The total investment for this high seas adventure is only \$2.99!

Links:

www.captainlafoote.com/Heroes/ricky.html ("Heroes Among Us" page)

www.captainlafoote.com (Book's main web site)

www.captainlafoote.com/buy/ (Takes you to the book's Amazon page)

Markus says

I really enjoyed this book, I love how the author paints his world, until somewhere in the last half when the spiritual guides (Hispanic/Asian/cannibal woman?) made it very confusing. I'm still not sure what happened. I loved the idea of the kid's ability to time travel. (I think that happened) But if that whole section had been eliminated, it would have been practically perfect.

Lisa says

I loved this story. Geared toward Middle/early High School aged kids, the curious adventure of a young man with epilepsy who awakens adrift on the high seas, a pirate, a strange rescuer, a cute dog and a little romance makes the perfect combination of high stakes exciting take-me-away read. Greatly looking forward to the next episode.

Rose says

This was a lot of fun. Good clean (Thank You!!) fun. The kids at our school will love it!

Fire says

Action packed, fast paced, full of intrigue and suspense! What more could you ask for in a book. The Curse of Captain Lafoote is written as a YA, but as an adult I loved it. You'll dive deep into the life of a pirate at sea, the crew at the mercy of the Captain's will.

Unsuspecting Ricky is pulled from the life he knows of video games and pizza and brought aboard a pirate ship sailing the seas long before he was born. As he tries to make sense of what is going on he has to make choices to stay alive. Aboard the ship he faces adventures he never would have expected. As he learns the ropes on board the pirate vessel he also learns more about himself and the man he is becoming.

I can't recommend *The Curse of Captain Lafoote* enough, both for youth and adults. 5 Stars, and I hope there will be more books in the series in the future.

Elaine Cooper says

“*The Curse of Captain LaFoote*” may have been written with the young adult reader in mind, but this older reader was completely swept up in the tale. The adventure begins with an ordinary fifteen-year-old who, through strange circumstances, is transported into a netherworld of pirates, intrigue, danger and a smattering of romance—just enough to keep the girls enthralled.

The scenes are so well written, this reader was caught up in the action, waiting to see what would happen next. I was delighted with the dialogue—at times funny, always witty—and the action was constant and breathtaking. It seems like a natural for a sequel. I hope Mr. Jones will consider a series.
