



Choker

Elizabeth Woods

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Sixteen-year-old Cara Lange has been a loner ever since she moved away from her best and only friend, Zoe, years ago. She eats lunch with the other girls from the track team, but they're not really her friends. Mostly she spends her time watching Ethan Gray from a distance, wishing he would finally notice her, and avoiding the popular girls who call her "Choker" after a humiliating incident in the cafeteria.

Then one day Cara comes home to find Zoe waiting for her. Zoe's on the run from problems at home, and Cara agrees to help her hide. With her best friend back, Cara's life changes overnight. Zoe gives her a new look and new confidence, and next thing she knows, she's getting invited to parties and flirting with Ethan. Best of all, she has her BFF there to confide in.

But just as quickly as Cara's life came together, it starts to unravel. A girl goes missing in her town, and everyone is a suspect—including Ethan. Worse still, Zoe starts behaving strangely, and Cara begins to wonder what exactly her friend does all day when she's at school. You're supposed to trust your best friend no matter what, but what if she turns into a total stranger?

Choker Details

Date : Published January 4th 2011 by Simon Schuster Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9781442412330

Author : Elizabeth Woods

Format : Hardcover 233 pages

Genre : Mystery, Young Adult, Contemporary, Thriller, Fiction

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From Reader Review Choker for online ebook

Harper Averitt says

INCLUDES SPOILER

This book was interestingly good a 1st, in fact I really enjoyed the book, all the little plots twist inside of plot twist, the way I'm describing makes it seem like a total mess, and as the truth came out it was a total mess it was totally unexpected, which some people apparently like *cough Hannah *cough, and I usually like those types of huge plot twist were you-didn't-see-it-comming types of things, but for Cara to end up in a mental hospital because Zoe is apparently fake and made up, and then so many un answered questions that I have like for example:

how did Cara not realize that she ended up killing that girl early on?

why in the world did Cara's parents not tell her that her Friend Zoe was made up? I mean it was obvious it went to far...

And simple things like who messed up Cara's room, when her mom got mad at her for it being messy? what the wind?!?!

it was good at 1st but over all i think the story was unorganized and all over the place, but if you did read this before you read the book, go ahead and read and see for your self, because i obviously don't know what the heck I'm talking about because there are so many other reviews that love it, what i say to you is Good Luck, because you will need it

Novel Novice says

Don't let the pretty pink color and swirly font and silhouetted flowers on the cover of Choker by Elizabeth Woods fool you. It may look like a sweet, girly book. But lurking beneath that lovely cover lies a twisted thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat right up to the very last page.

What Woods excels at best in Choker is building the dramatic tension. There's almost a thread or a pulse of tension that is drawn throughout the entire novel, building quietly but surely. On the surface, everything appears one way — but as the reader, you get a sense that something isn't quite right. It's this mounting tension that really gives the book its edge. The result is a subtle but engaging thriller.

On the other hand, I think the book's weakest point is its predictability. I guessed (correctly) very early on what the big twist would be at the end of the book. And while I kept reading to find out if I was right or wrong, I was a bit disappointed that I had called it. I had really hoped to be more surprised; that the author might have taken a different angle with the story. For the sake of avoiding spoilers, I won't say any more — but I know that this is, at least in part, a personal preference (regarding how the story ended) — so just because I didn't love the ending, doesn't mean you won't. It's something you have to decide for yourself. Woods still delivers a satisfying climax, no matter what.

That aside, I thoroughly enjoyed Woods' writing. She paints a very vivid picture with her words that really

bring the story to life. Likewise, her characters are engaging and I enjoyed watching their various interactions as events unfolded.

But the real star of Choker is that pulse of tension. It almost has a life of its own, lurking beneath every word and page. It's the type of drama that will keep you reading late into the night and turning pages until you've reached the very end.

Kristi says

Not exactly sure what I expected after reading the synopsis.... but I didn't expect what I got.

If I had to use one word to describe Choker it would be creepy. The kind creepy where you have goosebumps all over because you feel like someone or something is watching you. Yeah, Choker was like that.

My favorite thing about this novel was the plot. It was simple, yet intense with plenty of twists and turns to keep the reader guessing. Despite the mere size of the novel with it's two-hundred some pages, It definitely delivers some punch! As far as characterization....I wasn't a fan of Cara... she was the worst pushover, but it worked for this story. Had Cara been any other way, I don't think the story would have had the desired effect. Zoe.... scared the crap out me... the other characters didn't really leave a lasting impression.

If you're looking for a quick mind blowing read, you should pick Choker up, don't let the pink cover fool you!

Anna says

I bought this simply because the cover was beautiful and, well, this is one of those DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER lessons for me because this sucked. It's definitely not worth the \$16.99 I spent on this hardcover. The idea is decent but the execution is poor. Cara isn't likable -- and neither is anyone else that's in the book. The story itself needed work. This read like a draft, not a final published book. It needed to be fleshed out and expanded. In its current state, I really can't in good conscience recommend this.

April (Aprilius Maximus) says

I KNEW IT. This book was really predictable for me but I still liked it.

Amy | shoutame says

I'm not going to lie, this book kind of scared me a little!

Although the plot was quite predictable,(I had already guessed what was going to happen come the end) it was still an enjoyable read and the fact that I had guessed what was going to happen almost made me

anxious for the ending. The build up to the big twist at the end was incredible and the detail in such a short novel was expertly refined to give the reader the perfect amount of information.

If you haven't read this novel I strongly recommend that you do although I would warn anyone who doesn't like psychologically disturbing things to maybe give it a miss. I think if I read this story when I was around 15 it would have scared the hell out of me!

SPOILERS BELOW!

So the novel begins with a young girl named Cara, she has a best friend named Zoe and they get up to all kinds of mischief together, Zoe is the kind of character who's always egging Cara on to doing crazy things. When Cara's parents decide to move Cara away from Zoe both girls are devastated by this and plan to stay in contact.

So we move to around seven years later, Cara is at school and she's often picked on by other girls so she's not the most popular kid. One day Cara chokes on a carrot at school earning her the nickname 'Choker' which the other kids take on and use as an insult for the rest of the book.

After the choking incident Cara returns home to find her childhood friend Zoe is sat on her bed. Zoe claims to have run away from home and needs Cara to hide her until she sorts things out. THIS is when things start getting freaky.

So the day after Zoe arrives Cara's next door neighbour and one of her prime bullies turns up dead in the swimming pool. Other incidents like this happen which are all pointing towards Zoe being the culprit. Elizabeth Woods is hoping you fall into this trap and assume all of these bad happenings are down to Zoe. Zoe is made out to be a kind and protective friend but then it becomes a little too much for Cara, Zoe isn't washing, she stays in bed all day and some how knows a lot about things she shouldn't - she even kills Cara's cat and wears it as a scarf (...that bit scared me!).

Now I understand that the aim for Woods was for the reader to believe Zoe committed all of these crimes up until the end when it's revealed that in fact Zoe isn't real. Cara seems to have some sort of Schizophrenia in which she believes Zoe is a real person when in fact Zoe is actually her. I think if I had read when I was younger I would have not seen this coming at all and would have definitely believed Zoe to be real.

This book really reminds me of the film 'The Secret Window' starring Johnny Depp - they both have very similar outcomes!

Overall this was a fantastically written book and I really enjoyed it although I was super creeped out on a couple of occasions! The way Woods has written the novel, slowly leaving little hints about the outcome throughout is superb! Highly recommendable!

Morgan F says

The basic set-up of this book is terribly cliched, and kind of misleading. It's about Cara, a lonely teenager, who, when not completely invisible, is ruthlessly picked on by Alexis, the Queen Bitch of the school. She also has a crush on Ethan Grey, the most popular guy in school, who also so happens to be Alexis's boyfriend. After a particularly humiliating incident in the school cafeteria which earned her the moniker

"Choker", Cara goes home to discover her childhood best friend, Zoe, had ran away from home and needs a safe and hidden place to stay. Zoe, a beautiful and confident girl, was Cara's only friend growing up, and ever since she moved away, Cara had felt terribly lonely and disconnected. Now that their friendship has a second chance, Cara is ecstatic, feeling that her life is finally turning around. With Zoe back in her life, Cara develops a new look, starts developing real friendships, flirts with her crush, and she finally begins to feel like a real teen. But not everything is perfect.....a girl is murdered, another goes missing. Everyone is suspect. Zoe begins to act stranger and stranger, and Cara can't help but wonder.....is she hiding a killer?

Ooo boy, this book is creepy. The kind of creepy that gives you frown lines and a curled lip. In the beginning, I was perfectly prepared for this to be another cliched "I'm a teenager and my life sucks" story, but it didn't turn out that way. Not at all. I immediately knew something was off with Zoe, the author drops little hints and clues through out the novel as to what the resolution will be. It's all pretty subtle and gradual, building and building to that final chapter. Which would be fine and dandy if I hadn't guessed the ending jokingly. I was just theorizing, one of those "what-if" things.....I didn't expect to be right! Then again, I was simultaneously reading Hamlet along with this, so maybe that effected my thought process.

I wasn't sure if I liked the style of this book. The writing itself was nothing special, kind of bland. I felt detached from Cara, and she was kind of pathetic sometimes. I mean, I'm a high school student, so I can empathize. Everyone feels lonely sometimes. But Cara was too passive. And boring. That is why you got no friends, Cara! Show some personality! Crack a joke! Take a stand! Strike a pose!

Some parts were painfully realistic, others were outlandish. But one thing I liked was that Woods wasn't afraid to get to the ugly side of things. Don't let the misleading pink cover fool you, this book goes into some positively squicky things. I don't want to spoil it though.....

Read it.

It is nothing spectacular.....but I want to see how people react to that helluva ending :)

Jasprit says

I went into this book with no particular assumptions, I'd read a few great reviews here and there, so didn't really have my expectations set too high, but after finishing Choker, my feelings were kind of conflicted. Choker tells the story of Cara; a girl whose pretty much been ignored at school until the incident where she chokes on a carrot in the school cafeteria and Ethan the guy she's likes helps her to lodge it from her throat, Alexis, Ethan's on-off girlfriend thinks Cara's choked on purpose to get Ethan's attention and starts calling her choker and making gagging noises every time she's close by. From then on mocking Cara becomes nonstop. Cara's home life isn't too great either, her parents are both lawyers and so they spend most of their time away from home and too focused on their work. Then Zoe, Cara's childhood friend unexpectedly turns up claiming to have run away from her evil step-dad, Cara needing a friend more than ever agrees to hide her in her room. However soon after Zoe's appearance, weird things start happening, (view spoiler) but at the same time things start looking up for Cara, she comes in second at the track meet, she's finally found a group of friends who actually acknowledge her and who she can hang out with and she's spending a lot more time chatting with Ethan. But then Alexis goes missing and suspicions are flying all over the place (view spoiler)

I immediately suspected Zoe, her behaviour had quickly become more and more erratic and her control she had over Cara I didn't like at all, it's like Cara couldn't say a single thing wrong about her. And she certainly

had a creepiness about her.

I found Choker for most of the time to be a bit too clichéd for my liking, I also found the writing at times didn't really hold my attention and there were a few eye roll quotes;

"Oh my god she said to the ceiling tiles. An entire conversation with Ethan Gray - and he saw her in her sports bra - and he gave her two compliments"

I would have probably ended up giving Choker two stars (view spoiler).

Overall Choker is a book I didn't particularly enjoy, but if you're looking for something different from your usual reads, something slightly creepy then Choker is the perfect Halloween read.

Jude says

WOW. Just Wow. I'm in SHOCK. I have GOOSEBUMPS. There are SHIVERS traveling down my spine. This was just plain CREEPY. And HOLLY starts with S and ends it HIT!!! O.O

This is the best creepiest, mysterious and creepy – yes I said creepy twice – Book I've ever read in my LIFE! – it's the first book I read in its genre... who cares! – Now I'll stop gushing and begin my review.

When I read the summary of Choker I thought I already knew how things were going to end up. Once I actually started reading, I assumed I was in for a very predictable ride, still, I was very interested in seeing how Elizabeth Woods – author of Choker – unraveled the whole situation.

This is how it works :

Warning: Fake spoilers ahead.

First Cara is bullied in her school and they call her Choker because she once choked in the cafeteria. Then her Best Friend Zoe comes along and things start getting weird. Then things get more weird. Cara starts acting like Zoe. Then Cara starts to look like Zoe. And then BAM, she is Zoe. And Cara. And she becomes Dr. Jekyll and Mrs. Zoe. In other words: Hulk.

I'm Kidding xDD

Well, half kidding, because when Zoe arrives things do start getting weird, and you just can't help but think, I know what's gonna happen, I sooo know! And just when you think you have every single detail sort out, that you know everyone's cards and the roles they're playing and you are just waiting for the next chapter to say what you already know when BAM! No, it is not Dr. Jekyll and Mrs. Zoe, but something worse....

There are two options here. Option 1: I am the most naïve person in this planet and completely dumb for not seeing what was coming. Or Option 2: This book was as great as I am saying.

And now I swear to say the truth and nothing but the truth. (or something like that, I'm not so sure how that line goes)

If you are looking for a good book, with a creepy storyline, that takes some wide turns, and sometimes has way to much creepiness, then Choker is for you.

What are Great Books For?

April says

I am on the fence as far as my opinion of Choker by Elizabeth Woods goes. Choker is one of those books that you pick up, finish in about 2 hours, and then think to yourself, what the heck just happened here.

We open with a prologue of main character Cara playing with her best friend Zoe. We see Zoe as kind of a loose cannon who dares Cara to take some depression/'zombie' pills that Zoe's mother has. Then we flash forward to the future. Cara is living in a new neighborhood. She's having social trouble at school. The popular girls make fun of her because she choked on a carrot and her new nickname is choker. They sort of become excessive with making fun of Cara. Anyways, Cara also has a crush on this dude named Ethan who is pretty much a nice guy and dating one of the popular girls. As Cara is wallowing in her pain of being picked on, her friend Zoe, on the run from a bad family situation, shows up in Cara's house one day. Of course, MYSTERIOUS things go down and Cara starts to suspect Zoe.

[Click here to read the rest of my review](#)

Thalia says

Read the review on my blog:
<http://thaliasbooks.tumblr.com/post/1...>

Megan says

Let me start out by saying that I had no idea what to expect from this book, and I was seriously surprised with what I got...in a good way! This book starts out as any other YA book, painting a picture perfect scene of your typical high school. Enter Cara, a normal teenager who tends to have trouble being herself around her classmates and tends to get teased by the most popular girls at school. Cara moved away from her best friend, Zoe, in elementary school and still can't seem to deal with it...until Zoe walks right back into her life. And then this is where the story starts to take a little turn. What started out as a typical teen read, started turning into a very twisted and haunting story, that you would not have expected. This book kept me turning pages because I was so curious to see what was going to happen next that I didn't want to put it down. This book will literally have you guessing right up until the very end....and what you get will have you in shock!

Raeleen Lemay says

[how could Zoe have just shown up on her bed? Surely the front door was locked. (hide spoiler)]

Sesana says

The cover is pretty, but a little misleading. It looks like your average, run-of-the-mill YA PNR. There is some romance in this book, but it's limited. It's important to Cara, of course, but it isn't the most important thing, and it doesn't occupy her thoughts to the exclusion of all else. Especially later on in the book, as Zoe's behavior becomes more and more unpredictable, and stranger things happen around her.

I'll be honest and say that I saw the ending coming from very early on in the book. That didn't bother me as much as it maybe should have. I think that a lot of other readers, especially the teen girls who are the actual target audience, will take much longer to catch on, even be entirely surprised. And because I knew where it was going, I could see and appreciate how much thought and effort Woods put into making the ending work.

Cara's narration will probably make or break the book for many readers. She's painfully self-conscious around other people, verging on paranoia, and her train of thought goes off the rail with increasing frequency. This will, I'm sure, annoy some readers and leave others cold. But I found her narration to be painfully real in its details.

This is one of those books that just flew by as I was reading it. Yes, it's fairly short, but I was surprised at just how quickly I was taking it all in. Once I survived the painful second-hand embarrassment of the first chapter, I simply couldn't put it down. And I couldn't add Woods's second book, *Figment*, to my TBR fast enough.

Ariel says

OMG OMG OH MY GOD, YOU GUYS.
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW.
YOU DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND.
THIS BOOK WAS SO INSANE I CANT COMPOSE MYSELF.
IT WAS GREAT.
