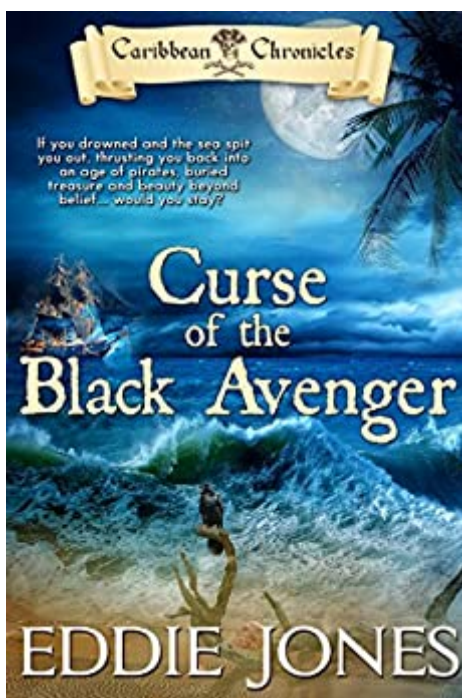


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# Curse Of The Black Avenger (Caribbean Chronicles Book 1)



## Synopsis

Moonbeam Children's Book Award Winner Selah Award Winner 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 the Black Avenger. Illuminate YA helps you choose books for boys. Get boys hooked on reading with adventure, heroes, and humor. Benefits of this pirate fiction, teen / ya novel include: It's a boy book It's a "books for boys" novel It's "mom approved" • It's pirate fiction It's a YA, Young Adult, Teen novel If you enjoy pirates of the caribbean-like books, it has that feel

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

High school freshman, Ricky Bradshaw can only dream of playing basketball and hanging with the cool girls. After he appears to drown while rescuing a dog, Ricky has an outer body experience that lands him in the 1700s aboard a Caribbean pirate ship. Now Ricky must match wits with evil brigands to stay one step away from sharks, snakes, cannibals and planks, swords, musket balls and above all, the evil Captain LaFoote. But what is Ricky's mysterious mission? And how will he return to his own life and times? Eddie Jones produces a masterful and imaginative speculative fantasy that weaves together personal and spiritual growth with a crazy mission to rescue a damsel in distress who looks like the girl Ricky's been crushing on at school. Interestingly, the publisher self-rates this novel as PG-13, and rightly so, although it's not as violent as many PG-13 rated movies (say Lord of the Rings). Witchcraft and divination crowd a scene, and readers must guess who is good and who isn't, and whether this is all a coma induced dream, or an alternate reality . . . However, based upon the author's previous work, expect him to reel in this yarn and sail it home in the sequels. And the guys and girls will love it.

We hear again and again that young adults are visual learners and thumb-typing, a-grammatical communicators. Here's an author who isn't intimidated and uses some great writing to deliver fiction that is vivid and rapid fire. Eddie Jones engages all of the senses. It is hard not to give spoilers so I'll just allude to one scene in which you'll feel like you're drowning. My whole body reacted to what he described. He's also able to stay with a teenage character's stream of consciousness and rapidly shifting point of view without getting the reader disconnected from the flow of the story. No wonder this book won a couple of YA fiction awards. Plus it's a story with plenty of fun, feeling and a captivating way of opening up some of life's big issues. It's so good that if you get it as a gift for your young adult, you might find yourself tempted to steal it back.

While reading *The Curse of Captain LaFoote*, I learned more things about boats.... the ocean..... and pirates .....than I thought possible! I think all teenagers will relate to Ricky, a gawky, acne-faced young adolescent, who was often picked on by his peers, and had a big crush on a pretty cheerleader who scorned his affections. Ricky does finally mature and do the right thing (rescued another, much-nicer girl), even at the cost of possibly losing his chance to return to his home and mother. This is a fun book, and I will definitely purchase a copy for our church library for our young teens.

Ricky, the hero of this story, almost drowns and finds himself transported to a time when pirates sailed the oceans. The fifteen-year-old, more accustomed to being bullied in modern times, finds courage to stand up to the pirates who hold him captive and becomes a hero to a teenaged girl who needs his help. This book will appeal to teen boys. I agree with the publisher's rating of PG-13 for violence and light adult themes.

Eddie Jones must be a big kid in adult's clothing because *The Curse of Captain LaFoote* captures teenage angst perfectly. Ricky Bradshaw is a typical young man with for one slight problem: he has epilepsy. But Jones treatment of the disease is respectful, we're not asked to feel sorry for his character nor is Ricky portrayed as a "brave young man" because of his illness. He is simply a boy put into an extraordinary situation. And what young man (or old man, for that matter) doesn't love the whole pirate mystique? Sailing ships, Caribbean seas and treasure abound, me matey! Open the treasure chest and find this book - a prize for any age.

All hints of the story lards you to believe he's in a coma and is fighting between good and evil but I guess we will have to wait for book 2 to find out the rest.

I usually don't read YA books, but because I've enjoyed Eddie Jones' other writings I thought I'd enjoy *Captain Lafoote* as well. I wasn't disappointed! This book was a tremendously fun read, full of suspense, twists and turns, and perfectly timed humor that had me laughing out loud. Eddie is an excellent writer--and what an imagination! I loved his characters and the story drew me in from the first page. I have no doubt this book would appeal to readers of all ages.

If you have a middle age boy in your life, this will get him reading. It will take him on a journey with

pirates, buried treasure and pizza. What's better than that? Oh yeah... and a dog! The character, Ricky Bradshaw will become his friend. Highly recommend it, as well as the Caden Chronicles. Good job Eddie Jones.

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