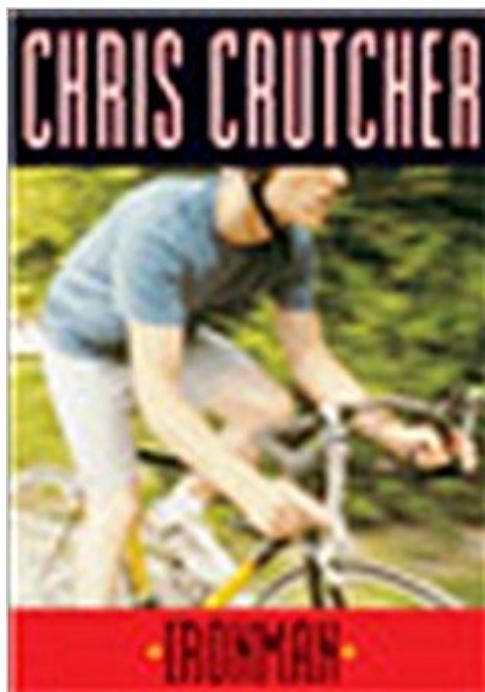


The book was found

Ironman



Synopsis

Bo has been at war with his father for as long as he can remember. The rage he feels gives him the energy as a triathlete to press his body to the limit, but it also translates into angry outbursts toward his teachers. Now dangerously close to expulsion from school, Bo has been assigned to Anger Management sessions with the school "truants." With an eclectic mix of hard-edged students, Bo may finally have to deal with his long-brewing hatred for his father -- before it eats away at him completely.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Crutcher reassembles some of the character types he used to riveting effect in his stellar *Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes*: a teenage misfit narrator enduring grueling athletic training; a tough heroine with a tragic past; a right-wing authoritarian heavy; enlightened teachers; and a sadistic father. At its best, the narrative crackles along in the author's inimitable style. Beauregard Brewster, a would-be Ironman triathlete, chronicles the events that ensue after he insults an oppressive teacher and is forced to take an anger-management class with other troubled students. But Crutcher's message sometimes overwhelms the cast and the story line. Beau's stern father, who has to be right at all costs-even if it means stacking the deck against his son-is one of the few fully fleshed-out characters. Many are either saintly multiculturalists (Beau's gay swimming coach, earlier met in *Stotan*; "Mr. Nak" the Japanese cowboy anger-management teacher; the black female high school principal) or, in the case of the offensive teacher, outright villains. In spite of these flaws, Crutcher

achieves many memorable moments-exchanges between the students in the anger-management class, for example, are idealized but often deeply moving. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 9 Up?Bo Brewster, a high school senior, is forced to attend anger-management classes after a series of run-ins with his English teacher/ex-football coach. Since those in the class are considered "felons" by outsiders, he figures the best he can hope to do is survive. The group's teacher, Mr. Nak, a Japanese American from Texas, deftly draws Bo into participating in the class, allowing him to learn plenty about himself and the running war that he has waged with his father for years. Bo spends most of his time outside of school training rigorously in preparation for a grueling triathlon. An added twist finds Bo's father providing his arch rival with an expensive bike, hoping Bo will lose and learn a lesson. The story is presented in both a third-person account of events, and through Bo's eyes in letters he writes to talk-show host Larry King, the only adult he believes will listen. Through Crutcher's masterful character development, readers will believe in Bo, empathize with the other members of the anger-management group, absorb the wisdom of Mr. Nak, and despise, yet at times pity, the boy's father. This is not a light read, as many serious issues surface, though the author's trademark dark humor (and colorful use of street language) is abundant. Crutcher has consistently penned exceptional reads for YAs, and Ironman is one of his strongest works yet.?Tom S. Hurlburt, La Crosse Public Library, WICopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In studying to become a high school English teacher, I'm workshopping with book with a group of boys. The book is great with witty language, realistic and creative viewpoints of a student athlete who's run into some problems in having to deal with a domineering teacher and a father who backhandedly believes he's doing best by his son by not supporting him to achieve his one goal--to train and compete in Yukon Jack's Ironman competition. In butting heads with these characters, Bo finds himself in an Anger Management class where, despite first not feeling like he belonged amongst the "thieves and murders", he learns that they all have things they need to work on and find strength in each other (with no tough-guy-ness sacrificed ;)). I especially like that Chris Crutcher does not write down to the adolescent literature genre but, rather is quite real, matter-of-fact and constantly interesting to even some of the most reluctant readers.

As a high school teacher, I teach this book to my juniors. Or perhaps I should say we read and

enjoy it together. Chris Crutcher uses humor and straight talk to present a variety of issues facing kids today, love, divorce, child abuse, managing anger, even finding out someone you care about is homosexual. I find I am able to discuss these issues with my students using the book as a springboard. One of my students said, "This is the best book I have ever read. The kids in the book talk like us and feel like us." Another student said she laughed out loud when reading it at home. The other reviews presented the plot, I just wanted you to know what my teens thought of the book. I will warn you there is a small amount of strong language in the book, if you are considering using it in the classroom or buying it for your teenager. I have read all of Crutcher's books, and feel he is one of the best young adult authors ever.

I absolutely loved this Book as a child. I realize how little I understood at the time, when they were talking about more mature topics, even still this book is a great read and is a wonderful story.

Love, Love Love Crutcher's work. I always recommend him to my high school library patrons. His characters are engaging and have authentic voices and issues. For readers who like realistic fiction, he is the go-to-guy.

I read this book because I would be teaching it to my students over the next month or so. I had know idea I would be learning along the way too. Looking forward now to reading it again with my own group of "Stotans".

I had to read this for school and thought it would be the worst book ever. However, it did turn out to be an easy and excellent read. Highly recommend!

Chris Crutcher, award-winning Young Adult fiction author, whose newest book, *Deadline*, is set to be released any day now, graciously allowed me to integrate elements of his novel, *Ironman*, into my novel, *Courage in Patience*, which is currently on submission to several publishing houses. The headline, "Chris Crutcher rocks!" is bellowed by one of my characters, Kevin Cooper, who, prior to reading *Ironman* in his summer school class with the main character, Ashley, had never read a book in its entirety before. "This book has FOOTBALL, man!" Kevin says. As a public school teacher, I am keenly aware of the necessity of "hooking" young adult readers, by writing stories that they will relate to. I have Chris Crutcher to thank for that, because it was reading *Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes* and *Ironman* that made me realize that there was a market for the stories inside of me. I

could write truthful, authentic stories that would be embraced by young people and adults. I could reach them where they are. Ironman is used in *Courage in Patience* as a way of drawing the characters into an exploration of their own truths. Beverly Asher, the main character's stepmother and the teacher of the English II summer school class, calls her class a "Quest for Truth." I will be eternally grateful to Chris Crutcher for allowing me to use his wonderful book within my own. In addition, I pay homage to Chris's style of alternating first-and-third person points-of-view-- which he used so skillfully in *Ironman*, to draw the reader more deeply into the story. I can't wait to receive my copy of Chris's newest novel, *Deadline! SOMETIMES THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE LIFE IS TO FIND THE COURAGE TO FINALLY LIVE*. *Courage in Patience* Ashley Nicole Asher's life changes forever on the night her mother, Cheryl, meets Charlie Baker. Within a year of her mother's marriage to Charlie, typical eight-year-old Ashley's life becomes a nightmare of sexual abuse and emotional neglect. Bundling her body in blankets and sleeping in her closet to try to avoid Charlie's nighttime assaults, she is driven by rage at age 14 to tell her mother, in spite of the threats Charlie has used to keep Ashley silent. Believing that telling will make Charlie go away, instead it reveals to Ashley where she lies on her mother's list of priorities. "We're just going to move on now," Cheryl tells Ashley. "Go to your room." Ashley's psyche splinters into shards of glass, and she desperately tries to figure a way out, while at the same time battling numbness and an inability to remember what happened when she blacked out after Charlie tackled her. She knew that when she awoke her clothes were disheveled and the lower-half of her body was covered in bright red blood-- but she has only a blank spot in the "video" of her memory. When Ashley's friend, Lisa, sees a note from Cheryl telling Ashley that Charlie would never "do those things to her," and insisting that she apologize for accusing him of molesting her, Lisa forces dazed Ashley to make an outcry to her teacher, Mrs. Chapman. By the end of the day, Ashley's father, David, who has not seen Ashley since she was three months old, is standing in the offices of Child and Family Services. He brings her home to the small East Texas town of Patience, where he lives with his wife, Beverly, their son, Ben, and works with his brother, Frank. Its neighboring town, Six Shooter City, is so quirky, it's practically on the cusp of an alternate universe; a trip to the Wal-Mart reveals to visitors that "there's either something in the water..or family trees around here don't fork." Through the summer school English class/ Quest for Truth taught by Beverly, an "outside-the-box" high school English teacher whose passion for teaching comes second only to her insistence upon authenticity, Ashley comes to know Roxanne Blake, a girl scarred outwardly by a horrific auto crash and inwardly by the belief that she is "Dr. Frankenstein's little experiment

great value... great seller

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