



Ironman

By Chris Crutcher

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Bo Brewster has been at war with his father for as long as he can remember. Following angry outbursts at his football coach and English teacher that have cost him his spot on the football team and moved him dangerously close to expulsion from school, he turns to the only adult he believes will listen: Larry King.

In his letters to Larry, Bo describes his quest for excellence on his own terms. No more coaches for me, he tells the talk show icon, no more dads. I'm going to be a triathlete, an Ironman.

Relegated to Mr. Nak's before-school Anger Management group (which he initially believes to be populated with future serial killers and freeway snipers), Bo meets a hard-edged, down-on-their-luck pack of survivors with stainless steel shields against the world that Bo comes to see are not so different from his own. It is here he meets and falls in love with Shelly, a future American Gladiator, whose passion for physical challenge more than matches his.

Ironman is a funny, sometimes heartbreaking story about growing up in the heart of struggle. It is about standing up, getting knocked down, and standing up again. It is about being heard--and learning to listen.

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Ironman By Chris Crutcher Bibliography

- Published on: 2004-10
- Original language: English
- Dimensions: 7.00" h x 5.00" w x .75" l,
- Binding: Turtleback

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

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.

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From School Library Journal

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, WI

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 8-12. "Ironman" Beauregard Brewster yearns to excel in the upcoming Yukon Jack swimming-biking-running triathlon—"not your run of the mill rapid-stroll-through-hell event either." Seventeen-year-old Beau carries around quite a bit of attitude, however, and has just been suspended for a major run-in with his football coach and English teacher, Keith Redmond. In a series of unsent letters to TV and radio personality Larry King, the novel's main narrative device, Beau pours out his rage, his dreams, and his life story. We meet Beau's father, whose difficult relationship with his son bears strong resemblance to that between Redmond and Beau. Then there are the anger management group sessions at school that Beau has been ordered to attend. The wonderfully offbeat group members and their adult leader ultimately nurture Beau in believable fashion. *Stotan!* readers will recognize Lionel Serbousek, now a young--and, incidentally, gay--journalism teacher and important mentor. With its highly charged intensity channeled into riveting prose, an array of eccentric and strong characterizations, and dramatic plot climax (messagey conclusion notwithstanding), *Ironman* is a combination of the psychological and the sports novel at their best. *Anne*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Danny Johnson:

Book will be written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can understand everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important point to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading skill was fluently. A publication Ironman will make you to be smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think which open or reading a book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or suitable book with you?

Susan Tarin:

The experience that you get from Ironman is the more deep you searching the information that hide inside words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but Ironman giving you joy feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in specific way that can be understood by simply anyone who read the item because the author of this book is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this Ironman instantly.

Lily Terry:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled Ironman your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a book then become one web form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get ahead of. The Ironman giving you one more experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful details for your better life on this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

Travis Davis:

This Ironman is fresh way for you who has fascination to look for some information as it relief your hunger of information. Getting deeper you onto it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having tiny amount of digest in reading this Ironman can be the light food for you personally because the information inside this particular book is easy to get by anyone. These books build itself in the form which can be reachable by anyone, yeah I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in publication form make them feel tired even dizzy this publication is the answer. So there is not any in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for you actually. So , don't miss that! Just read this e-book variety for your better life and knowledge.

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