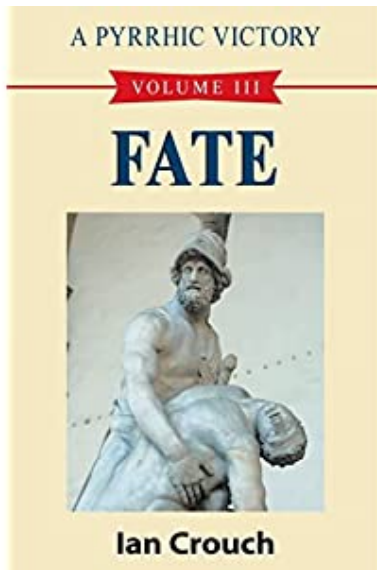




# Readers' Favorite®

## Book Reviews and Award Contest

## Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with general descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although this is just a Mini-Critique, we hope it will give you an insight into how readers may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although they are not a literary professional, they are an avid reader of books just like yours.

**Title:** A Pyrrhic Victory  
**Subtitle:** Volume III, Fate.  
**Author:** Ian Crouch  
**Genre:** Fiction - Historical - Personage



**Appearance:** The appearance of a book can make a significant impact on the experience of a reader, whose enjoyment is often enhanced by an enticing cover, an intriguing table of contents, interesting chapter headings, and when possible, eye-catching illustrations.

**4**

**Plot:** The characters of a book should be well defined with strengths and flaws, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The tone should be consistent, the theme should be clear, and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. For informative books -- those without plot and characters--this rating refers primarily to your concept and how well you presented it.

**5**

**Development:** Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed your topic. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and coherent. Organization is also a key factor, especially for informative books -- those without plot and characters. The order in which you tell your story or explain your topic and how smoothly it flows can have a huge impact on the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the material.

**5**

**Formatting:** Formatting is the single most overlooked area by authors. The way in which you describe scenes, display dialogue, and shift point of view can make or break your story. In addition, excessive grammatical errors and typos can give your book an amateurish feel and even put off readers completely.

**5**

**Marketability:** Marketability refers to how effectively you wrote your book for your target audience. Authors may include content that is above or below the understanding of their target reader, or include concepts, opinions or language that can accidentally confuse or alienate some readers. Although by its nature this rating is very subjective, a very low rating here and poor reviews may indicate an issue with your book in this area.

**5**

**Overall Opinion:** The overall starred rating takes into account all these elements and describes the overall reading experience of your reviewer. This is the official Readers' Favorite review rating for your book.

**5**

**Review:**

Reviewed by Jamie Michele for Readers' Favorite

A Pyrrhic Victory by Ian Crouch is an epic historical military fiction series and the third installment, *Fate*, follows in the footsteps of volumes one and two, *The Shaping of Destiny* and *Destiny Unfolds*. The series as a whole starts in the aftermath of Alexander the Great's triumph over the Persian Empire, which changed the world forever. The Hellenization of the East began, but Alexander's death at 32 sparked a power struggle among his generals. This resulted in four Hellenistic kingdoms by 301 BC and the ascent of Pyrrhus as a military commander. After repelling an attack by his once friend, Pyrrhus is at peace in Epirus but must navigate familial strife and shaky, often absent, diplomacy. He aims to achieve personal happiness while cementing his status as a great captain of history. Pyrrhus gains a costly victory against the Romans in Asculum, but his army is weakened. A tentative alliance is forged with Greek cities in Sicily who propose a pushback against the Carthaginians in exchange for backing him in his own war with Rome.

*Fate* is a worthy third book in an already exceptional series and solidifies Ian Crouch's footprint in recreating moments in history in deeply engrossing historical fiction. As readers, most of us with an interest in the battles of ancient Europe and the Mediterranean know who the major players are, both in myth and in real existence. Historians have cobbled together all that is possible but we are left with a void that can only be filled by the skilled hand of a creative author: emotion. Crouch offers this in spades, whether it is from the point of view of Pyrrhus or those who surround him, for better or worse, and through academic writing that brings believability and dialogue that balances the prose to entertain. Crouch is successful—and I say this as a pretty fickle reader with little patience for the dumbing down of lore. Some of the scenes are almost hair-raising, such as rabble-raising by General Ismenias on Pyrrhus' behalf in which Crouch describes spears beating on shields and a call to arms that is almost cinematic in how one would imagine the charge of adrenaline and a Macedonian battle cry would be. Overall, this is an exceptionally written and profoundly immersive read. Very highly recommended.