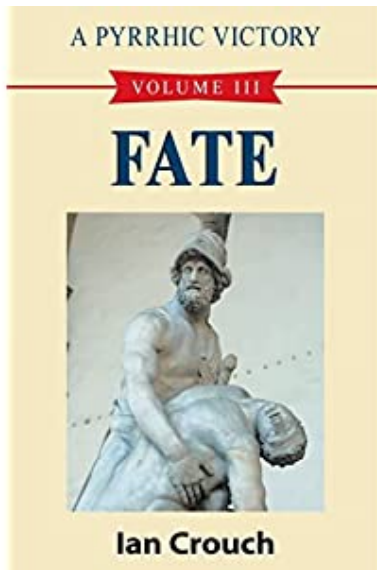




# Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

## 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.

**5**

**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 Asher Syed for Readers' Favorite

Fate by Ian Crouch is the third and final volume in the Pyrrhic Victory trilogy that follows the rise of one of the greatest commanders of his time, the former royal of Epirus, Pyrrhus. Volume one, *The Shaping of Destiny*, takes place in the decades after the death of Alexander the Great with four Hellenistic kingdoms and Macedonia battling for survival. Pyrrhus rises as a figure in the struggle between the Greeks and Romans for dominance in the eastern Mediterranean and foreshadows the Roman-Carthaginian contest in the west. In volume two, *Destiny Unfolds*, Pyrrhus faces hostility from his once friend Demetrius after the death of Pyrrhus' sister, Demetrius' wife. Pyrrhus repels an attack on his allies, the Thessalians. Pyrrhus' losses against the Romans are immense and the win is tenuous, at best. He won the battle but could still lose the war. Pyrrhus proposes peace with Rome to face Carthage as allies and protect the Greek world. He seeks support from Greek cities in Sicily to push back the Carthaginians, which could lead to a forced peace treaty on the Roman capital.

Without even realizing it, until I was looking out from the terrace of my rented apartment at the Roman Forum, I embarked on my reading journey of volume three of *A Pyrrhic Victory, Fate* by Ian Crouch, in the heart of Rome itself. Was it fate for me too? It sure seems like it! Crouch writes a fascinating story with historical events and complex characters. It's evident that what is good for one is not always good for all so when one side is fighting for the security of the people they represent, even those who oppose Pyrrhus are described with purpose. The provided glossary of characters at the beginning is super helpful since most names have been off the mainstream top baby name rosters for centuries. It's a shame though because if I met a man today named Gaius Fabricius, that's someone I'm going to want as a friend. Lovers of Roman history who are looking to walk farther back than Caesar will get their thrills in Crouch's work. *Audentes fortuna iuvat!*