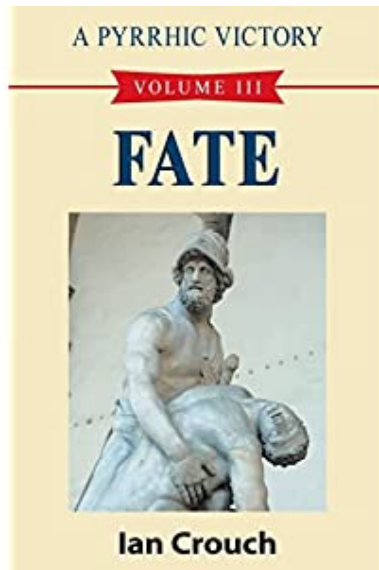




# Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

## 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:** 5 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.
- Formatting:** 4 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.
- Marketability:** 5 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.
- Overall Opinion:** 5 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.

**Review:**

Reviewed by Grant Leishman for Readers' Favorite

A Pyrrhic Victory: Volume III, Fate by Ian Crouch is the continuing saga of one of history's most famous and successful warriors and leaders, King Pyrrhus, as he continues the Hellenic fight to control the Mediterranean, especially from Roman and Carthaginian aggression in 279 B.C. Although Pyrrhus' forces had just defeated the Romans at the bloody battle of Asculum, it was a victory that had come at a massive cost to both the Romans and the Greeks. Rather than continue fighting the Romans until both sides were completely decimated, Pyrrhus answers the call from numerous cities in Sicily to help the Greek cities there fight off the Carthaginians who are attempting to take over the entire island in the name of Carthage. Pyrrhus knows that if his forces can defeat the Carthaginians, the powerful Greek cities of Sicily will proclaim him King of Sicily and rally behind him with a substantial army that he can utilize to finally achieve his ultimate aim; the total defeat of Rome and their imperial ambitions for hegemony in the Mediterranean.

Although Fate is the third book in this series, it is not necessary to have read the first two books to enjoy this one immensely, which I certainly did. Author Ian Crouch has a deeply personal perspective of these characters from long ago and his conversational and everyday style of narrative enables the reader to truly identify with the characters whose lifestyle and customs are so obscure to us in the present day. What particularly impressed me about this story, unlike others in the genre, was the intense focus on characterization and presenting these heroic and famous warriors from history as just ordinary men and women with an irksome and bloody task to do. There was little gloating or revenge in these battles which were fought truly honorably and in line with the accepted practices of warfare of the time. I enjoyed the comradeship, lifelong trust, and devotion between the king and his most loyal generals, officers, and soldiers but it was his relationship with his servant Hotep that gave us the biggest indication of Pyrrhus' true nature and character. Hotep was as privy to all plans, secrets, and discussions as the highest general in Pyrrhus' army and offered as much advice on plans or operations as anyone in the king's closest cadre. This blending of historical records with fiction by the author has created an enticing and fascinating insight into the mind and nature of the participants in these horrific wars. This is a meaty, character-driven historical novel that is a fantastic read and one that I can highly recommend.