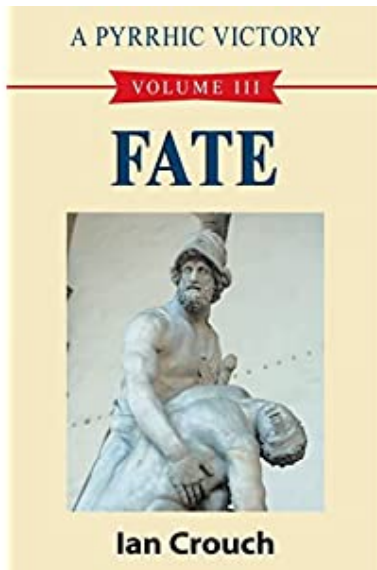




# Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

## 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 Steven Robson for Readers' Favorite

*A Pyrrhic Victory: Fate* by Ian Crouch immerses readers in a distant past beginning with King Pyrrhus' victory over the Romans at Asculum in 279 BC. This period was extremely volatile, and the Hellenistic world was in constant conflict. Pyrrhus, the king of Epirus, had a vision to unite the Greek kingdoms into one cohesive entity, including the territories won in the southern part of Italy. Stacked against his vision were numerous obstacles, including the major powers of Rome and Carthage. Oddly, perhaps the most astounding of all these challenges came from within the Greek world, where the individual dreams of regional leaders continually derailed Pyrrhus' dream. This is the compelling story of Pyrrhus' quest, a leader Hannibal described as the most capable the world had seen.

Ian Crouch's *A Pyrrhic Victory: Fate* is a first-class read, not just for enthusiasts of ancient history but anyone open to exploring our distant past and the conflicts that made the world what it is today. This is not just a story of Pyrrhus but a glimpse into the man and those who surrounded him. I loved how he was portrayed and respected by his men, friends, relatives, and, surprisingly, even his enemies. Many parts of this story were not just interesting but extremely touching. The most moving part for me came at the end of Pyrrhus' story, not for the obvious reason of his demise, but for the respect and feelings of Antigonus, the opposing leader. I also found Hotep to be quite an interesting character, being somewhere between servant and trusted advisor. Another intriguing aspect centered around the love of sports; it demonstrates why the Olympic Games originated in Greece. I would recommend *A Pyrrhic Victory* to all readers who enjoy compelling stories, clearly compiled and emotionally gripping.