

STAYING FAT FOR SARAH BYRNES

BY CHRIS CRUTCHER

Reviews:

Publishers Weekly said **Staying Fat For Sarah Byrnes** was 'riveting' and 'powerful'.

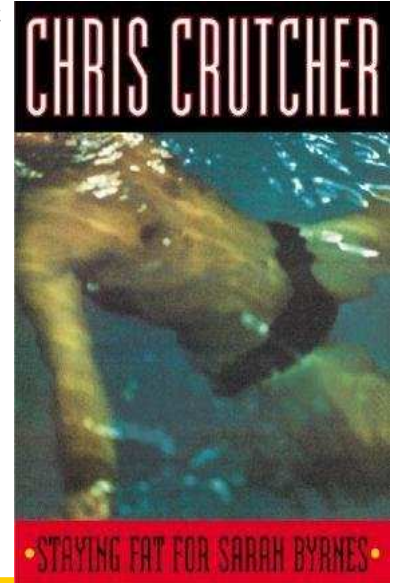
The customer reviews on Amazon.com had rated **Staying Fat For Sarah Byrnes** four out of five stars.

Awards:

- 1997- California Young Reader Medal- Young Adult
- 1995- Joan Fassler Memorial Book Award for Best Medical-Related Children's Book
- 1994- American Library Association (ALA) Best Book for Young Adults
- 1994- South Dakota Library Association Young Adult Reading Program (YARP) Best Books
- 1993 - School Library Journal

By: Brooke Peck and Jayne Tracy

Summary: Eric Calhoun, a teenage boy has been the fat kid ever since the first day of school. In his exile, he befriends Sarah Byrnes, a scarred, tough teenager who keeps to herself. Time passes and Eric slims down when he joins the swimming team. Eric makes some new friends, and he starts fitting in better. Afraid to leave his best friend behind, Eric eats like a pig in order to stay fat for Sarah Byrnes. When Sarah Byrnes puts herself in rehab, Eric knows something's up. He learns more about Sarah Byrnes's past, and the truth behind her scars, but learning this has put Eric and many others in danger. Can Eric save Sarah Byrnes before it's too late?

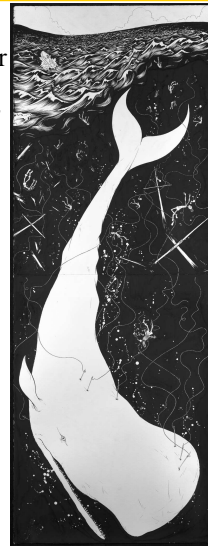


Recommended for: College students and mature teenagers. Also, people who enjoy reading action-packed stories and find suspense a 'must have' in a story.

Caution: This book has been banned from some schools because of its language, and discussions and happenings on controversial issues.



Eric's nickname for swimming was "Moby" because of his large size.



The book, *Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes* written by Chris Crutcher, is a story about a teenage boy who has to decide about the safety of his best friend, or keeping their friendship alive.



A fetus about to be aborted.

Some of the issues discussed in this book were abortion, abuse, suicide, and religion. The CAT (Contemporary American Thought) class was pretty heated on abortion, and Mark Brittain brought religion into just about every discussion the class had. Other discussions were brought up later in class due to some events in the book



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Discussion No. 1:

Abortion

One day in one of the CAT classes, the group discussed abortion. They stayed heated on this discussion for a few days. It was found extra emotional because a classmate had previously had one. She had not wanted to have the abortion but was under too much pressure from her boyfriend who wasn't there with her to support her at the abortion clinic.

Discussion No. 2

Suicide

When one of the classmates attempts suicide, the assistant principal comes in and tells the whole class they're at fault. CAT was suspended until further notice (AKA, the real principal comes back) because he thought the discussions going on in the class were too stressful and demanding for teenagers. He believed this was the reason the student attempted suicide.

Characters:

Eric Calhoun (One of the two protagonists)
Ms. Lemry (the CAT class teacher)
Jody Mueller (Eric's girlfriend)
Dale Thornton (An old acquaintance)
Carver (Eric's Mother's boyfriend)

Sarah Byrnes (One of the two protagonists)
Mark Brittain (Eric's rival)
Steve Ellerby (A friend of Eric's)
Virgil Byrnes (Sarah Byrnes's father)
Mr. Mautz (The Vice Principal)