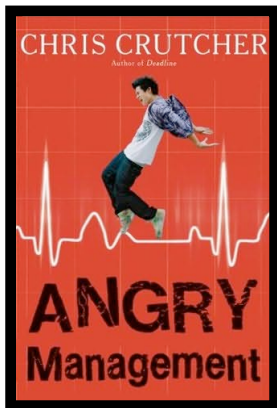


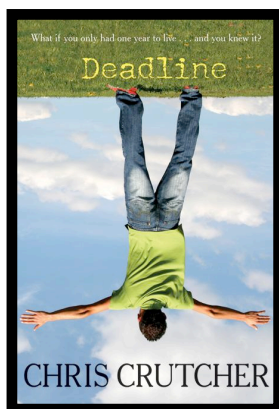
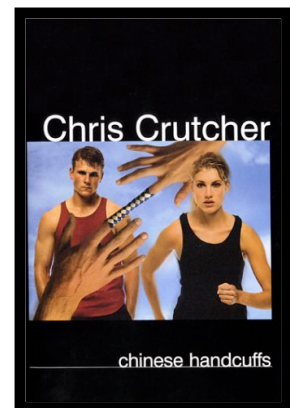
Sample Chris Crutcher Young Adult Novels

From a reader: "Mr. Crutcher, When my school librarian first suggested that I read *Deadline*, I was more than a little skeptical. Why, I have no idea. The only thing I do know is that I am so grateful that I did read it, because *Deadline* has impacted me in ways I never even imagined. I laughed until my stomach ached, I cried until I felt like there was not an ounce of water left in my body...and then I laughed some more; there were times when I wanted to throw the book down and bury my head in the sand, but at the same time I couldn't put it down. I've now read it 5 times, and each time I read it, I discover something new, something provocative that I didn't notice before. Man, now I'm gushing! To make a long story short, your book has changed my life, and has turned me into a dedicated, almost obsessive reader of all of your other novels as well. Thank you, for everything. Peace."



Every kid in this group wants to fly. Every kid in this group has too much ballast. Mr. Nak's Angry Management group is a place for misfits. A place for stories. And, man, does this crew have stories. There's Angus Bethune and Sarah Byrnes, who can hide from everyone but each other. Together, they will embark on a road trip full of haunting endings and glimmering beginnings. And Montana West, who doesn't step down from a challenge. Not even when the challenge comes from her adoptive dad, who's leading the school board to censor the article she wrote for the school paper. And straight-laced Matt Miller, who had never been friends with outspoken genius Marcus James. Until one tragic week—a week they'd do anything to change—brings them closer than Matt could have ever imagined. Chris Crutcher fills these three stories with raw emotion. They are about insecurity, anger, and prejudice. But they are also about love, freedom, and power. About surviving. And hope. — *Publishers Weekly*

A gripping tale of small-town prejudice delivers a frank, powerful message about social issues and ills. Representing one-third of his community's minority population ("I'm black. And Japanese. And white"), narrator T.J. Jones voices a darkly ironic appraisal of the high school sports arena. Despite his natural athletic ability J. has steered away from organized sports until his senior year, when Mr. Simet, a favorite English teacher, implores him to help form a swim team for the school (and thereby help the teacher save his job). T.J. sees an opportunity to get revenge on the establishment and invites outcasts to participate on the team; he ends up with "a representative from each extreme of the educational spectrum, a muscle man, a giant, a chameleon, and a psychopath." Through T.J.'s narration, Crutcher offers an unusual yet resonant mixture of black comedy and tragedy that lays bare the superficiality of the high school scene. The book's shocking climax will force readers to re-examine their own values and may cause them to alter their perception of individuals pegged as "losers." *Amazon.com*



"Crutcher revisits many of his familiar themes—death, child molestation, censorship and sports—but does so in the context of a startlingly heartrending plot that manages to be simultaneously wise, thought-provoking, occasionally maddening and frequently very, very funny. Ben's intelligence, zeal and sarcastic humor not only win him friends and help him cope with his diagnosis; they also make for an engaging narrative that balances wit with pathos." -- *Bookpage*