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King of the Mild Frontier: An Ill-Advised Autobiography

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This autobiography has undeniable appeal. *King of the Mild Frontier* chronicles Chris Crutcher's life growing up in the 1950's from toddler to teenager. The author portrays himself in a charmingly self-effacing way, first as a young "bawlbaby," and later an athletic misfit, an academic oddball, and an utter klutz with girls.

While the book is very entertaining to read, no subject, however taboo, is off-limits here. He writes about all the sinister adolescent games, all the hormones, and all the body functions, with very colorful language to boot. (Read: This could very well offend more sensitive readers.) Chris Crutcher is a successful Young Adult Novelist. His books have all been selected as ALA Best Books for Young Adults, and he has won two lifetime achievement awards. He is also a family therapist and a child protection specialist. On the face this book is all comedy, but Crutcher is a serious writer, and he approaches important adolescent topics such as rejection, loneliness, and competition in an honest and constructive way.