



Hit Count

Chris Lynch

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Arlo Brodie loves being on the football field, getting hit hard and hitting back harder. That's where he belongs, leading his team to championships, becoming "Starlo" on his way to the top. Arlo's dad cheers him on, but his mother quotes head-injury statistics and refuses to watch. Arlo's girlfriend tries to make him see how dangerously he's playing; when that doesn't work, she calls time-out on their relationship. Even Arlo's coaches begin to track his hit count, ready to pull him off the field when he nears the limit. But Arlo's not worried about tallying collisions. The cheering crowds and the adrenaline rush convince him that everything is OK—in spite of the pain, the pounding, the dizziness, and the confusion.

In *Hit Count*, Chris Lynch explores the American love affair with contact sports and our attempts to come to terms with clear evidence of real danger.

PRAISE FOR *HIT COUNT*:

"Lynch offers a powerful, provocative look at the dark side of popular sports and their potential cost, using Arlo as a cautionary, even tragic tale. Arlo's rise and fall is handled skillfully, allowing readers into the self-destructive, self-deceiving mindset of an addict without condemning him." —*Publishers Weekly*

"This unflinching examination of the price of athletic power, with plenty of bone-crunching play-by-play action, is both thought-provoking and formidable." —*The Horn Book Magazine*

"The strength of this hard-hitting novel is how well award-winning author Chris Lynch portrays the drive and hunger of young football players . . . This intense timely story provides incredible insight as to why knowledge of football's potential danger is not enough to keep young players from taking the field." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"An important work that raises troubling questions about the culture of violence in American high school sports." —*School Library Journal*

"Lynch offers a powerful, provocative look at the dark side of popular sports and their potential cost, using Arlo as a cautionary, even tragic tale. Arlo's rise and fall is handled skillfully, allowing readers into the self-destructive, self-deceiving mindset of an addict without condemning him." —*Publishers Weekly*

**A Booklist 2015 Top Ten Sports Books for Youth
A Junior Library Guild Selection**

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