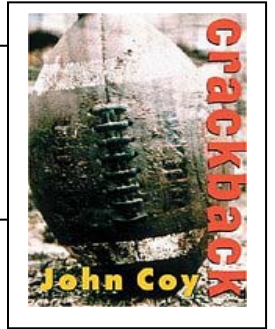




11th Grade Crackback by John Coy



Author Bio:

John Coy is an award-winning author, who worked as a dishwasher, mattress maker, tour guide, and group home worker before taking up writing. He's active in sports and is a member of the NBA Reading All-Star Team as part of the Read to Achieve program. John has traveled to all fifty states as well as to many countries internationally. His work includes *Strong to the Hoop*, an American Library Association Notable Book, *Night Driving*, a Marion Vannett Ridgway Memorial Award winner and a Horn Book Fanfare title, *Two Old Potatoes and Me*, a Charlotte Zolotow Honor Book, a Nickelodeon Jr.'s Best Book of the Year, and a featured book on PBS Reading Rainbow, *Vroomaloom Zoom*, a book of excellence on the Children's Literature Choice List, and *Around the World*, a Junior Library Guild selection. John's first young adult novel, *Crackback*, explores the high stakes world of high school football as a young player finds himself confronted with a difficult choice. John's experience as a defensive back on his high school football team brings an authentic voice to which readers will be able to relate. "I loved playing football," says John. "It was the one place where smashing into people was not only okay, it was rewarded." *Crackback* received wide praise and numerous honors, but John's favorite was being selected by students for the 2007 Young Adults' Choices List of the International Reading Association. John's newest young adult novel, *Box Out*, is set in the world of high school basketball. Liam Bergstrom faces the difficult decision of standing up to his coach. He's hesitant to risk his varsity status, but he feels the strong pull of standing up for himself.

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/contributor.jsp?id=3007>

Novel Synopsis:

CRACKBACK aptly describes the action on and off the field in this debut novel by John Coy. A crackback block comes from the outside and it can destroy you if you're not careful. Miles Manning, a junior and a star football player, is blindsided by some crushing blows that seem to come out of nowhere. Miles is under a lot of pressure. He is a starter on a winning football team that is favored to win the conference and have a chance to go to state. Everyone is pressuring Miles to be bigger, stronger and faster, including his pushy new head coach, his demanding father, and his best friend. They all expect more of Miles than he may be able to deliver. When he finds out that his best friend is willing to do anything to win, including taking steroids, Miles must decide where he stands. Woven into the plot are details about a long-hidden family secret that explains why Miles's father expects so much of him. If his junior year isn't tough enough, he also has to navigate the rocky waters of teenage romance. His friends have ideas of who he should go out with, but Miles has to decide who is really right for him.

<http://www.teenreads.com/reviews/0439697336.asp>

