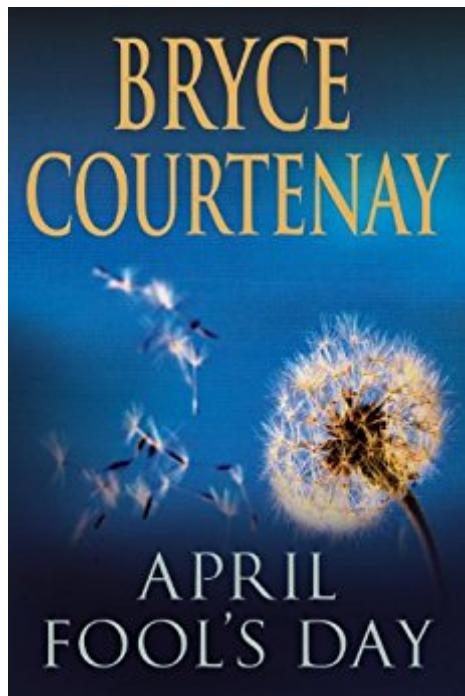


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# April Fool's Day



## **Synopsis**

In the end, love is more important than everything and it will conquer and overcome anything. Or that's how Damon saw it, anyway. Damon wanted a book that talked a lot about love. Damon Courtenay died on the morning of April Fool's Day. In this tribute to his son, Bryce Courtenay lays bare the suffering behind this young man's life. Damon's story is one of lifelong struggle, his love for Celeste, the compassion of family, and a fight to the end for integrity. A testimony to the power of love, April Fool's Day is also about understanding: how when we confront our worst, we can become our best. This life-affirming book will change the way you think. Stay in touch with all of Bryce's news on Facebook:facebook.com/BryceCourtenay

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is the very poignant account of Damon Courtenay, an Australian boy born with hemophilia who came into young adulthood during the years when HIV was first identified. It always struck me as the most horrible of ironies, that the treatment for a debilitating disease (hemophilia) was found to put people at risk for another terribly debilitating disease (HIV / AIDS). This is a powerful, compelling

account by his father, mother, and girlfriend (Celeste) of his childhood, young adulthood, and finally his demise. There is little whitewashing here... the father tells of long workdays followed by nights out drinking, only to arrive home to find his son in need of a trip to the hospital for a transfusion. Damon copes with his illness in an optimistic, pragmatic way that I found inspirational. His parents were tireless advocates for Damon and fought to be able to administer blood transfusions at home to more easily treat the painful "bleeds" Damon experienced. His girlfriend was his rock and most vocal advocate as he neared his death. I found April Fool's Day to be an inspiring book that was hard to put down -- I literally was hooked from the 1st chapter I read online prior to purchase -- and highly recommend it.

I thought that I knew something about hemophilia, but it turned out that I knew very little. I read this book because it was recommended by a close friend who has a hemophiliac son. By the time I finished reading I had a fresh understanding and sympathy for my friend's son, for all that he suffers and for how bravely he endures. I had great respect and admiration for his parents and that has increased many fold since I completed "April Fool's Day". I loved the author, his family, dedicated girl-friend and the good people (professional and friends) who worked with such dedication to help the authors son. On the other hand, I was enraged by the slough of the politicians and the rigidity of some of the Medical Establishment, whose main concern seemed to be protecting their turf and preserving their egos. I think it fair to say that my friend's son is the beneficiary of the enlightenment that this book has shed on the problems that face hemophiliacs.

This book is a gripping narrative about the struggles of the author's (Bryce Courtenay) family over the years with the health complications of his hemophiliac son, their third child. The intensity of the subject often makes it hard to read. I had to pause quite often to take a breather and relax. For anyone who has a chronically ill child or close relative, this books hits hard close to home. His style of writing is very descriptive, you can almost close your eyes and it feels you are there with him and his family, at every step of their long tenuous journey. I decided to listen to the audiobook. This book has all the markings of being turned into a movie. After "Power of One", this has to be the best "Bryce Courtenay" book, I have read so far.

Every now and again an oyster is opened and inside is a perfect pearl; Damon was such a pearl and amazingly he too attracted a perfect pearl in Celeste. The love between these two young people is of epic proportion. Damon could not have lived such a full life without the unconditional love which

his parents bathed him in like rays from the sun. Damon himself came to be a demonstration of courage and love and indeed a perfect example of unending ambition. Nothing was impossible to the mighty Damon. As I read this book I came to love Damon and his entire family. I recommend this book so very highly; it is not only informative and awakens knowledge in the reader which will open your eyes to the huge journey of Hemophilia and the even bigger unending unrelenting battle which is Aids.

This book is painful to read as Courtenay describes in detail a young man's disability from birth and his determination to carry the burden and rise above it only to be brought down by a medical treatment that his government fails to recognize and prevent. Further details describe his isolation and his slow progress to death makes for literature that some could not read. Personally, I felt I was living it with the author, which makes it well written but I do not think it is a book for everyone. The author told this story from his heart and that of his son's and if nothing else he opens doors into what life can be like for so many suffering from a multitude of illnesses Four stars because not all could read this, but 5 stars for the author and the literature.

Absolutely terrific book. I think this was Courtenay's only non-fiction book. It is about his son who had hemophilia and contracted AIDS from repeated transfusions. I have 18 of Courtenay's books, starting with "The Power of One" and ending with his last one before his death, "Jack of Diamonds". They are ALL five star books. I am a voracious reader and I would have to say that Courtenay was/is at the top of the list! Buy "The Power of One" (was also a movie with Morgan Freeman) and you will be sold.

I read this book either in the late seventies or eighties and I enjoyed it as it was a true story which I love. Unfortunately the subject matter is very sad about Bryce's youngest son being born a haemophiliac which is a blood problem, primarily his blood does not clot as is normal. He had many transfusions and ended up with AIDS. This is a book about hope, love and enduring suffering subjected to this lovely young man who never complained. He had some wonderful friends and family who cared for him. I must admit I cried reading the book but that does not mean it is a downer it was a sad reality. Today haemophiliacs receive blood screened so the risks are minimal. I would recommend this book to anyone who would like a reality check and a good read by a remarkable man, Bryce Courtney.

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