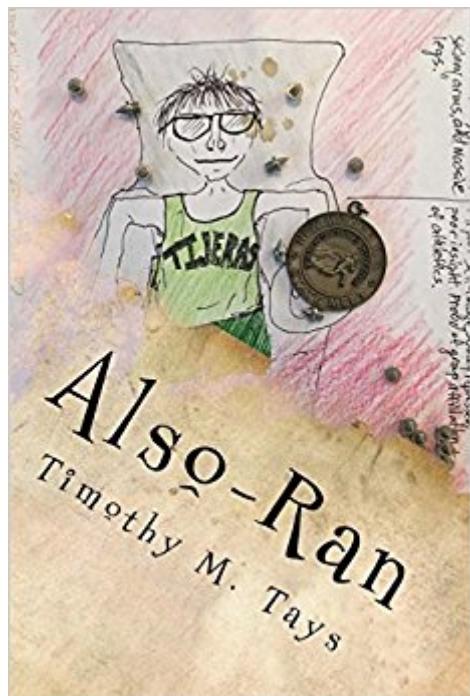


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# Also-Ran



## **Synopsis**

Sully has issues. For starters, the best high-school miler on the face of the planet lives just across the road from him, his father lost his video store and now wants to bond, his mother has conversations with the TV, and the only girl that likes him is three-feet tall. Oh, and the ex-con living down the street is out for revenge. Yet Sully is supposed to be the "crazy" one.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Timothy M. Tays is a clinical psychologist, former semiprofessional distance runner, infantry soldier, track coach, and English teacher for adolescent inpatients in a psychiatric hospital.

Thank you, Tim, for this excellent book. It helped me to better understand my teenager and communicate with them. There are so many details that we miss out in our lives without noticing it and in his book, Dr. Tays brought up those details and helped me to look at life through the eyes of a high-schooler, an athlete with big dreams, a friend, a child. It was a perfect balance of humor, sarcasm, success and failure, determination and many more. It's a great read with fun drawings and new anticipations in each chapter. Highly recommended!

I enjoyed the perspective Also-Ran took from the psyche of a senior boy in high school. I was an Also-Ran in high school. This book brought back memories of what it was like to be number 2 on the team. I was not only an "Also Ran" but an "Also Mentioned" in the articles in the local newspaper that covered our number 1 runner. He was also one of the top 5 runners in our state. I had forgotten about how the parent relationship, girls we liked, but didn't want to admit to liking, and the battles

from within ourselves among other issues played an integral part in who were our closest friends as well as the performance on the track. The conversations that I had with myself while running long distance and watching Number 1 leave my sight as I ran. I found this story hard to put down, because it reminded me of how dysfunctional I was as a adolescent male. That being said, the story reminds me of how important it is for me to remember how I was when I work with youth in my life.

Also-Ran"Also-Ran" by Dr. Timothy Tays has reviews that say it all... For me, it is the style of the writing, the 'you-me/hang up your jock strap' syntax, the vernacular and the metaphorical expressions that are brilliant. Sully acts as your psychological guide throughout this 'gem' of a book, tracking (no pun intended) the lives of his Dad, Strider, Ally, an ex-con, and the beauty of it all is the reader gets an interesting in-depth psychological masterpiece. The reader won't get the Clinical Psychologist Degree Dr. Tays possesses, but he/she will get some excellent insight into the author's life and times. More simply put, "Also-Ran" is a fantastic read with a cover design and chapter summary drawings that are 'ill' - ill meaning awesome. Don't miss this one! You'll breeze through it and find you want to read it again - and, again... I'm a fan!

Loved this book! I had some great laughs as you took me through the awkwardness of the teen years; and I was thankful to see Sully mature. But it also brought sadness and tears to think about the tough realities and inequities of life including the loss of loved ones and the lasting impact on families. It was heart warming to watch the friendships grow, relationships change, and be reminded of how our friends in running and beyond, help us get through life's ups and downs.another great job with this latest book, Also-Ran.

Where do I even start to state the multiple layers of a great read that is in "Also-Ran" by Timothy Tays? First I read it straight through as it's a captivating story of youthful angst, dysfunctional family life, and little moments of strength and hope. Second read I spent more time with the psychological pictures and therapist notes at the end of each chapter. As a counselor I sometimes chuckled, felt empathy and recognized the bravery always present when someone opens their self up to being helped. The drawings and cover are such a great addition to Tim's writing. Tim is a writer and gifted illustrator. On my third read I am taking notes as I see so much of myself in the different characters in the book. I think you will too. I think this book is great for any teen including the teen in each of us at any age.

First of all, I'd like to preface that I've been a close friend of author Tim Tays for almost 40 years. "Also Ran" is a story different from Tim's first book "Wannabe Distance God" One doesn't need to be a runner to enjoy this well written piece by Tim. It is a fictional narrative about a high-school boy named Sully who does his best of attempting to balance his running and the turmoil in his life. The books timeline is a relatively short period. Sully experiences, at times, a cascade of extreme emotion and events. Without giving too much away it's these experiences that seem to culminate a maturing perspective and positiveness in various relationships as he embarks on his future. "Also Ran" is an enjoyable read.

As a boy I loved reading the Clair Bee Chip Hilton sports series. They were great football, basketball and baseball stories. I was a track guy and started reading Also-Ran expecting a track version of Chip Hilton. Wow, great track story and with so much more! The reader gets to be the psychologist in the chair as Sully comes of age in words and self-portraits. These illustrations were a surprise and interesting bonus to this novel. Author Tays spins a fascinating coming of age story both on and off the track. Loved it and heartily recommend it! Full disclosure, I am a lifetime friend and former college teammate of Author Tim Tays.

Timothy Tays has written a powerful and raw coming of age story. The main character, Sully, becomes alive with a complex mix of teenage emotions . He is at once shy, over confident, tortured, hormonal, self centered and kind. I struggle to describe how well Timothy Tays created his main character as so human, fleshed out and flawed at the same time as a character that you care for and are rooting for his success in navigating the intricacies of young adulthood. I enjoyed this story very much and would highly recommend it to my friends.

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