

# Chop, Chop



*A Novel by  
L.N. Cronk*

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## Chop, Chop L.N. Cronk

Ever since Laci was a little girl she's been growing out her pretty, brown hair and chopping it off to send to Locks of Love. When Greg moves into town and finds out what she's doing, he thinks it's a great idea...so he starts doing it too! It's just one of the things that reserved, young David must tolerate as their friendship grows throughout the years. As they near adulthood, they grow not only closer to each other, but closer to God as well. David finds himself content in every way, but when tragedy occurs David must struggle to find his way back to God.

Contemporary Christian Fiction: Top Rated... Best Selling... Award Winning! Don't let the fact that it's the first in a series scare you off - *Chop, Chop* is a complete, stand-alone novel that will NOT leave you hanging. Sequels are available, however, for those who wish to follow the characters further. Often pegged as a "Young Adult" novel, demographics show that most readers of the *Chop, Chop* series are actually between the ages of 25 and 55 (and the sequels are definitely geared toward that age group). Whether you're young or old, *Chop, Chop* is a true coming-of-age story about friendship, loss and forgiveness that is sure to touch your heart.

## Chop, Chop Details

Date : Published 2008 by Rivulet Publishing

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Author : L.N. Cronk

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Genre : Christian Fiction, Christian, Fiction, Young Adult

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## From Reader Review Chop, Chop for online ebook

### **Katwanya says**

This book was such a realistic look at the pre-teen/teenage years of the lives of young boys who have good friends and great families that surround them. I immediately liked all the characters, especially David and Greg. David was truly a grumpy kid but in a hilarious way and it was funny that he was so easy for his friends to tease. Greg was smart, witty, and knew himself well (he was so free spirited). It had a lot to do with the fact that Greg's father, Mr. White, was such a loving, caring and helpful man. He loved David as much as he loved his own son, Greg. Greg was not a jealous, grudge holding person although, David could be, that is why they made such good friends. They complemented one another. I like how Cronk pulls the reader in and you end up liking/loving these people though out the novel. I almost couldn't finish due to my uncontrollable sobbing towards the end. I kept having to put it down and get myself together before diving in again. I felt David's pain and it broke my heart. But, I managed it and I can't wait to read the rest of the series.

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### **Lisa says**

I got this book as a Kindle freebie quite awhile ago. It had received rave reviews and I was intrigued because it didn't sound like much of a story and the cover didn't exactly draw my eye. I wasn't sure what to expect, since all I really knew about it was that it is a Christian book with a character who likes to donate her hair to Locks of Love (hence the title *Chop, Chop*). It ended up being a surprisingly good story that follows a trio of friends from grade school through college. It was very easy to read, with an engaging tone that pulled me in. It's a great little story about friendship, love, forgiveness, and seeking God's will. I got the entire series free on Amazon and look forward to continuing the story.

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### **John says**

Well, it was slow day and I read this whole book in one go. Not particularly impressive at only about 200 pages, but it does speak well for the writing and style. It's the story of childhood friends David, Laci & Greg. First off, let me assure you that despite there being three of them and the mention of an honors geometry class, there are no triangles in the story, love or otherwise. Though who doesn't like a good isosceles every once in a while. (Sorry, I was a math major, and sometimes the geek just comes bursting out)

As I said, it's a short book so there isn't much I can say without revealing something. Suffice to say, that it's an easy read and even at 41 I could empathize with the characters. I enjoyed it, and I'll likely be looking to pick up the others in the series as some filler reading between the doorstop epics.

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### **Sharon says**

From Goodreads: "Ever since David's friend Laci was a little girl she's been growing out her pretty, brown hair and chopping it off to send to Locks of Love. When Greg moves into town and finds out what she's

doing, he thinks it's a great idea...so he starts doing it too! It's just one of the things that reserved, young David must tolerate as their friendship grows throughout the years. As they near adulthood, they grow not only closer to each other, but closer to God as well. David finds himself content in every way, but when tragedy occurs David must struggle to find his way back to God."

Cronk has written a wonderful book about growing up, finding a forever love, and facing tragedy in this fast-paced world. Along the way, he deals with forgiveness, both ours for our fellow man and God's forgiveness of our lost ways.

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### **Jill Williamson says**

David and Laci have known each other since they were in preschool. Laci continually grows out her hair, chops it off, and sends it to Locks of Love. It's one of the things about her that annoys him.

When they reach junior high, Greg moves to town and becomes David's best friend. He, Greg, and Laci are really more of a threesome. They go to school together, youth group, missions trips, and to each other's houses. Life is good. Until a tragedy strikes that rocks David's world.

At first glance I wondered what this book would be about. Something to do with hair? Don't let the cover fool you! Chop, Chop is a gem! Cronk weaves strands of humor, realism and heart-wrenching emotion into David's story so well that I read the book in one sitting. Readers will be touched again and again as they read about David and his friends. What amazing characters. Highly recommended.

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### **Karol says**

I related to this story, as it told of the deep friendship among kids in a local youth group. Seeing how their faith and the lessons they learned together shaped how they dealt with the world was so encouraging, and I pondered how some of those early life lessons of my own have shaped my entire life.

There is a lot of sadness in the story, and yet there is triumph over the worst of circumstances too. I'm sorry I waited so long to read this book, and I definitely plan to read more of the books in the series.

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### **Hollz says**

So this is my first review I have ever written so sorry if it's totally poopooish.

Well this book was TOTALLY awesome! The whole time you read it your like " this is so good .... But nothing bad is happening" and you know something bad always happens in books. And then finally at the end... Well can't spoil nothing but when the 'tragic' thing happens I CRIED SO HARD!!!! it's just like " wh-what..... N-no.... That can't happen!" and I had to read the ' tragic ' thing over like two times over. Before I realized what actually happened.

But overall... Even though this review did not explain anything, it is a ggggggreat book!!! I laughed out loud and cried really hard the whole time..... So ya you should probably read the book. Cause now you HAVE to know the ' tragic ' thing that happens

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### **Jerry says**

#### **Story: 3/5**

The story is a good one; kids growing up together in a small town, discovering God, the opposite gender, and heartbreak, both romantic and otherwise. Though it's nothing really original, it still works.

#### **Writing: 0.5/5**

Oh, my goodness; where do I start? First off, the book moves too fast; in less than 200 "pages"--of large print and with plenty of blank space, mind you--we're taken through the characters' childhoods, teenage years, and the beginning of their adult life. It felt like I was watching a DVD on a player with the fast forward button stuck. Not only that, but most of the characters and places were vaguely described. If they decided to make *Chop, Chop* into a movie--please don't, Hollywood!--it would be pretty much up to the producers as to the ethnicity, eye color, hair color, height, style of dress, etc., of the characters, because they get little mention. From what I hear, Victor Hugo's writings--which I haven't read! I know; what kind of avid reader am I?--are notorious for their long, detailed descriptions; well, this is the polar opposite of that. Seriously, this book is written like a elongated summary, a poor movie or TV novelization, or a middle schooler's account of what he or she did this past summer.

#### **Content: 2.5/5**

If this weren't a Christian novel, it would be higher. Still, usage of profane phrases or words such as, "Oh, my G--!", "Good L---!", and "C--p!" were just too much. True, some of those usages are vilified...but not all of them. Talk about "think[ing] we're gay" muddles things ever further. Also of note: The "tragedy" mentioned in the synopsis involves violence that may hit too close to home for many readers, in light of recent events.

**Conclusion:** The self-publishing business may be good for some, but *Chop, Chop* is one of the biggest literary disappointments I have ever experienced. The end matter says that there are eight books in the series; seriously, how can this mess go on for even two or three novels? If you're looking for a well-written Christian drama, go find something by Karen Kingsbury; seriously, her novels are great, especially when compared to this garbage. I'm glad this one was free for the Kindle; I may have wasted my time and iPad battery power reading it, but at least I didn't pay for the book itself.

**Score:1/5**

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### **Eszter says**

I don't remember many things happening until the last third of the book or so. I would have rated it maybe OK without the last segment where it gets to the real story. But that is exactly what this book is about: life. You may be tested like this at any given time, and rest assured: you can never ever be prepared. I think this book is about forgiving. And I thought myself quite an easy person to forgive. But I had to reconsider, because what I read in this book... if that would have happened to me, there's no way I could have pulled off what the real hero in this book does. No way. I cried like hell after this book for like a day, and I was filled with sorrow for at least a fortnight. And I still carry it with me and this story will always be with me. I can never forget it.

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### **Linda says**

Wow! What a GREAT book! It's rare to find one that isn't the same old, worn out storyline. It is a Christian book, but not overly preachy. It all blends very nicely.

At L.N.'s site I read that these books are intended for young adult/teens, but I LOVED them and gobbled them up as soon as I could buy them. I got the first book for free through Amazon, but it's worth paying for. I have never bought a sequel to any of the books I've read. I've always just waited until the sequel came out for free. ;-) In this case, however, I am DEFINITELY buying the sequels to this one!

Additionally, the reviews are outstanding. Five stars on each book this author has written. That's really saying something!

4/25/2012 - Since posting this review I have purchased and read all of the sequels. They were wonderful! I can't wait for the next two books to come out! I'm chomping, chomping at the bit for more Chop, Chop books!!!

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### **Trish says**

This book was so amazing! I got it for free on my Nook, and wasn't sure how I'd like it based on the picture on the cover (was it about a barber?) But I am soooooo glad I didn't judge the book by its cover, because it was one of the best books ever! It is a super great story, with powerful characters who draw you right in! When I got done, I was elated to find out there were sequels, and I immediately bought them all! None of the books let me down, and I seriously sobbed through the last book "Gone". It was almost embarrassing how I was crying while reading, tears streaming down my face, and weird looks from my husband! You fall in love with these characters, and it is so nice to have Christian books that are well written, not too preachy, and entertain! The author has said there are 2 more coming, and I'm already antsy! I think I read the first 5 in a 7 day period! Definitely get this book!!!

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## **R.J. Rodda says**

Powerful ending. This is the story of David who becomes friends with a new guy called Greg, and Laci who is their friend too. For me this book recalls my high school youth group days and hanging out with other church kids while trying to figure out life and faith and crushes. Greg is the real deal, a solidly Christian guy who encourages his friends to follow Christ. Laci is sweet and sells her hair to help others, but the narrative voice, David, is way more selfish but still likable. I expected this to develop into a love triangle but the direction it goes is far more moving and meaningful.

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## **Sherri says**

3.5 stars actually.

It was a Christian novel that had likable, well developed characters. The book takes them through the school years including college. Most of the time, it was not preachy and when it was a bit, it was one character to another in a way that wasn't overbearing. Greg was almost unbelievable for his devotion at his young age. But wouldn't the world be better with more young men like him.

The plot goes through the usual trials of growing up and a whopper that made my eyes a bit more than misty. I could relate to the various ways it was handled by the different characters.

In all, a reminder of the strength we can develop through good times and bad with the help of good friends and loved one.

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## **CatherineMorland says**

I loved this book. The story follows the lives of 3 friends, Laci, Greg, and David. This book has a lot of humor, but also a bittersweet ending. If you're the type to cry while reading books, you might need a tissue for this one!

I would call this a teen book, although I think you could enjoy reading it at any age (though if you are a parent of a younger child, I would suggest reading it through first and then deciding if your child is mature enough to handle the ending. It could be upsetting for more sensitive children). I think we need more books like this for Christian teens. Instead of the fluffy, meaningless romances I usually find in the teen section, I was pleasantly surprised by Chop, Chop. It's mostly a story of friendship and faith, with a tragic twist at the end, and a message at the end that just makes you go, WOW. Seriously, you need to read this. I loved that the author wasn't afraid to make the story real. Real life isn't always sunshine and rainbows, and neither is this story.

You should definitely give this book a try, it'll be worth it. Also, this book has been free for a LONG time on Amazon as a Kindle ebook, so there's a good chance you can still get it for nothing.

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## **Ann A. says**

OH. MY. GOSH. I just—I can't—I don't know where to start. Literally. If I was talking to you, I would be stammering and mumbling and re-starting sentences. How do I explain this book?

First, let me start with the basics. Focus my brain on one thing...

### **Did I like the book?**

OH YEAH.

### **Would I recommend it?**

OH YEAH. To, like, every random person I see on the street.

Good. Now that we've got that straight, lemme get this off my mind, into my fingertips, and onto the page.

If there was a six stars on Goodreads, this book would get it. Sorry Jenny, but y'know that nice long review and the 5-stars I gave *A Charmed Life*? Compared to *Chop, Chop*, it's like a 3. Okay, maybe a 3.5. I absolutely loved *Chop, Chop*. Everything about it.

Briefly let me tell you my story about reading this:

My sister got it on her Kindle from Amazon for free, and read it ages ago. I read the first paragraph, thought, *Nah*, and kept browsing her other stuff. A couple weeks ago, same thing. Yesterday, I kept going and thought, *This is pretty good!* Okay, so no, I didn't. I was reading. You can't think full sentences and read at the same time!! But that's what my subconscious was thinking. Which is why I sat down and read half of it straight. Then my sister wanted her Kindle back! So I took a shower, and she let me use it again. And I finished it. So that's my story. It was sooooooooooooo good I just couldn't stop once I got going!!!

I want to go on a total rant about the book, but first I'm going to have to put the *spoiler* HTML. 'Cause I wanna rant about the climax of the story. Real bad. But it doesn't happen till you're like 80% through it (I know; I read the Kindle version and it tells you how far you are), so you'll either have to read the book (Which you NEED. TO. DO. anyway) or look at the spoiler.

(view spoiler)

Not counting that whole bit about the climax ^^ the rest of the book was really, really, really good too. David, Greg, and Laci, BFFs forever, stick strong together through thick and thin. Through practical jokes about “chuffers” (imaginary creatures they were trying to convince Greg lived in the snow or mud and stole shiny objects) or coconut shampoo (long story), or going to mission trips to Mexico or vacation trips to Chicago or Florida—this book follows these three, through David’s perspective, from preschool (where David and Laci meet when they hide under a staircase and taste PlayDoh) to college.

Now, for the first like 5 paragraphs, I thought it was a girl talking. I have no idea why. Actually, I do. It’s probably because all the books I’ve ever read in 1st person except for Percy Jackson and Pendragon are from a girl’s perspectives. For some reason, I just haven’t found as many with boys. And I’ve *never* read a CHRISTIAN one. But David is a funny, smart narrator and he’s honest about everything (as he tells you he’s going to be from Chapter 1). And there are more books!! I am totally going to try and get my hands on one.

It’s a little surprising that he can “remember” everything. It’s all in past tense, and when he’s describing how he freaked out in preschool when Laci cut her nice, long hair, to donate it to Locks of Love, he says that he doesn’t remember it exactly, but he believes the story as his mom (and Laci) tell it. And they say that he freaked out. Even though it couldn’t actually happen, that somebody could write a story like that and remember EVERY SINGLE detail about their life in elementary, middle school, jr. high, high school, and then college, it’s still pretty cool. The book isn’t too long, and it skims through or skips over his life pretty quick. But not in a way that makes you feel too rushed, either. It stops to fondly remember funny activities or pranks they had in their past. Or sad or scary times.

But I don’t want to tell you every detail about this book. ‘Cause, if you are reading this, you should be already motivated by the positive vibe about this book that is pouring out of me, into these words, streaming out of the screen into your eyeballs, and you are now seized by a zombie-like control that forces you to locate the closest version of *Chop, Chop* and grab it and start reading. Right?? *Gooooooooood. Now, go to www.amazon.com and search “chop chop”.* And buy it. It’s FREE. You will love it.

Seriously. I’m gonna go bump *A Charmed Life* down to a four, I think. ‘Cause if I start comparing all my books with this? My favorites shelf is gonna be a whole lot *smaller*.

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