Athena do not have that perspective. I picked it up. I would recommend this to everyone irrespective of your interest level in sports. Suck it up, I said to myself, you can't afford to be tired. I returned a different person, literally. When I woke up the next morning, the headache was gone. Given that background, it is understandable why Armstrong was able to channel his boundless energy toward athletic endeavors. People live, and in the most remarkable ways. Sort order. You're on your bike for the whole day, six and seven hours, in all kinds of weather and conditions, over cobblestones and gravel, in mud and wind and rain, and even hail, and you do not give in to pain. Retrived 20 June But athletes, especially cyclists, are in the business of denial. Have you read it?? This drive is reflected even stylistically, with many exciting races summarized in one quick blur, choosing instead to focus on the parallels between pain and suffering on the course and the miserable depths of chemotherapy.

Everything hurts. I wrote it off to a long hard season. Perhaps I am a bit biased towards this book because of my passion for sports but this book is not a mere account of his sporting achievements. Suddenly, I turned on the faucet. Believe me, it could happen. In Austin, Texas, four years later on October 2, , at age 25, Armstrong is diagnosed with testicular cancer with metastasis to the lungs and abdomen. Apr 17, Mary Catherine rated it really liked it. The lab was across an avenue in another institutional-looking brown brick building, and I decided to drive over. That this book still stands up as being noteworthy under such circumstances is credit to its authors, even if it is not quite the reading experience that it was originally intended to be or that it likely was in the period where Lance Armstrong was seemingly miraculously winning all those Tour de France titles after having recovered from a near-fatal battle with metastatic testicular cancer. But Reeves patiently explained the procedure for the next morning: I would have to report to the hospital early for a battery of tests and blood work so the oncologist could determine the extent of the cancer, and then I would have surgery to remove my testicle. More filters. Lance, thu this book helped me realize that anything is achievable and any hurdle could be overcome. That truth is so disheartening that at times I can't bear to articulate it. It is the best read in all of my carefully selected dozen books in the last few months. I asked myself what I believed. At least at that way, they understand they are not the greatest being to ever walk the Earth and they also realize that all men are created equal in the eyes of God. Talk about an inspiring book. I figured I'd be out of there in a few minutes. For the three remaining chemo cycles Armstrong was given an alternative protocol, VIP, by Craig Nichols — the primary oncologist. You want to hear about faith and mystery, and my miraculous comeback, and how I joined towering figures like Greg LeMond and Miguel Indurain in the record book. Talk about inspiration! I also have much more respect for cycling as a sport, and the Tour de France as a challenge I will probably never understand. That said, other readers have found his story inspirational, and I'm willing to accept that my review is probably clouded by issues difficult time in own life, general dislike of memoirs, distrust of by-the-bootstraps narratives and their implications that have nothing to do with Lance or the bike. Just to be safe, I'm going to send you across the street for an ultrasound. Still, he does a powerful personality that is oddly captivating, perhaps even more so in an odd way, when you know so much of what he saying is false. Finally, she laid down the wand. I was lucky —I was born with an above-average capacity for breathing. But this is where the story ended for me. So what I expected from this book was a fairy tale of a rider who survived cancer and became successful in the tour. My coach learned the hard way that you do not tell Lance Armstrong what to do. View 1 comment. To ask other readers questions about It's Not about the Bike, please sign up. The strangest thing for me in reading this book was realizing that I was right in Paris when Lance won for the first time. I had developed a certain distrust of organised religion growing up, but I felt I had the capacity to be a spiritual person, and to hold some fervent beliefs. The fact is, no one ascends alone. Rick arrived, and checked my nose and mouth. So, Lance can't write for toffee. What I learned from this book. Rather than let the grandeur of certain events speak for themselves, the authors give capsule particulars about the background on the page, giving them a cheery spotlight that deprives these moments of their meaning rather than emphasizing it. I thought I was just run down. I climbed into my car and made my way along the winding, tree-lined streets toward my home on the riverbank, and for the first time in my life, I drove slowly. I was getting angry now, and scared. And I agree, I think there is often a lot more to us than we realize until we face life's tragedies. Armstrong had become an international cycling champion by October, , when his world fell apart. The fact is, no one ascends alone. The book then moves to
the whirlwind courtship between Lance and his wife Kik, surviving, and then returning to form and winning his first two Tour de France titles, told from his perspective as part of a growth and success narrative. To believe, when all along we humans know that nothing can cure the briefness of this life, that there is no remedy for our basic mortality, that is a form of bravery. Retrieved That about sums it up. Not just my sport. Oh, my God, I'll never be able to race again. A female technician came in and went over me with the ultrasound equipment, a wand-like instrument that fed an image onto a screen. Aided by family, friends, and supportive doctors, Armstrong explored the options available and chose a rigorous course of surgery and chemotherapy. And the reason is that the shit is about to hit the fan. Finding the right doctors and learning everything he can about his disease. Not to mention any start-up job would require he would have to listen and do what he was told. Thanks for telling us about the problem. Sally Jenkins. There are some shameful episodes in it: instances of meanness, unfinished tasks, weakness, and regrets. Other reviewers have mentioned his ego huge and his single mindedness when it came to racing and training, bordering on obsession. Until then, don't ask me how Lance is doing; ask me how come people can't appreciate cycling for what it really is. I knew now why people fear cancer: because it is a slow and inevitable death, it is the very definition of cynicism and loss of spirit. It was like being run off the road by a truck, and I've got the scars to prove it. Jun 23, Theodora rated it it was amazing. Sign in with Facebook Sign in options. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. When I was 25, I got testicular cancer and nearly died. Only the second American to win the sport's most coveted prize, Armstrong's win came after he had successfully battled testicular cancer that had metastasized into his lungs and brain. And after you learn it, all other matters seem irrelevant. Nothing would stop him and he would never give up. Other than cycling, you'll find a lot of personal information that makes this a very honest book. What was left didn't look like very much. You deny all the aches and pains because you have to in order to finish the race. So I won't say that after reading the book I developed a high level of respect for his overall character in relation to his personal life and how he reacts and treats people. It had to be. Lists with This Book.