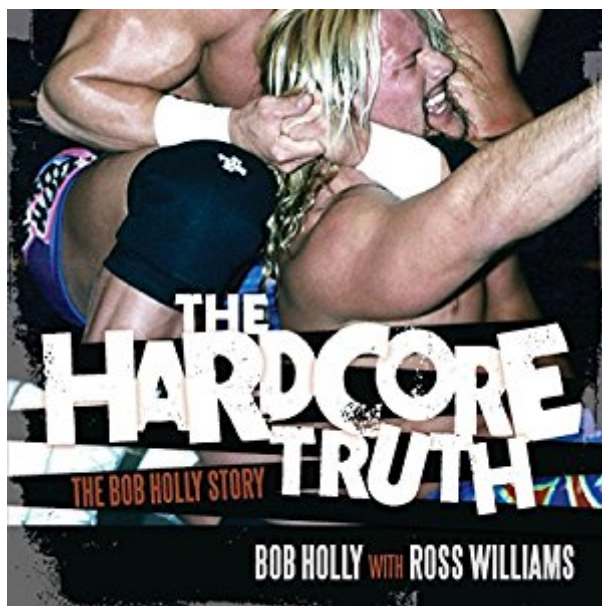


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# The Hardcore Truth: The Bob Holly Story



## Synopsis

The wrestling legend Bob "Hardcore" Holly tells all in this autobiography that chronicles his journey from fighting in bars for money to the bright lights of the World Wrestling Federation. Holly reveals how he took more body slams and clotheslines outside the ring than in and that long before he was known as "Hardcore Holly", he had an unquenchable passion for professional wrestling. Ultimately, Holly would hold the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) Hardcore Championship seven times, the WWE Tag Team Championship three times, and the National Wrestling Alliance World Tag Team Championship once. But in the midst of his career achievements was a roller coaster of success and frustration, and Holly reveals the plethora of missed opportunities and broken promises that marked his road to television stardom. Replete with fast motorcycles, faster cars, wrestling bears, betrayal, and lost love, Holly shares his uncompromised view of his past and the current state of professional wrestling.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Written by a wrestler who spent a long time in the wrestling big-leagues without ever becoming a huge megastar, this book provides a lot of behind the scenes insights into the business, along with amusing tales from the road. Bob Holly worked for the WWF/WWE during some dramatic periods of change in pro-wrestling, and offers his frank statements on the current state of the industry and how things have changed since he started. As he no longer works with the WWE, he gives blunt positive and negative opinions on wrestlers he worked with throughout his career. While any opinion must be taken with a grain of salt, you get the impression that he's just a guy who's passionate about the

business and just wants to tell his story. The book is much like his wrestling persona: Few-frills, but always entertaining.

I'll keep this brief - I've read a lot of wrestling books. I've been watching for over 20 years, and I never liked Bob Holly. His on-screen character soured what I assumed was his real person. Whether or not everything in here is true, because after all it is only one side of the story, it is true to Bob. That is obvious. I didn't read a single line that sounded like hogwash. And in reading, I got to know the man behind the character I'd grown up not liking. What an interesting man he is. The storytelling is blunt, the opinions unfiltered, and the writing fantastic. The ultimate compendium of WWF from 1994-2009, as lived by one of the WWF's most underutilized wrestlers (I had that opinion before reading, now it's cemented). You may or may not agree with everything - although I agreed with 99% of it. But you will find it fascinating, compelling, and it might just change your mind on some things. Brilliant from start to finish.

The Hardcore Truth is the biography of recently-retired wrestler, Bob "Hardcore" Holly. During my decades of wrestling fandom, Bob Holly was always in my periphery, never one of my favorites but always a wrestler I knew would deliver the goods in the ring. After reading this, I wish I would have watched Bob more closely. Unlike a lot of wrestling books, Bob's in the ring by the 10% mark. While I thought his dirt poor upbringing, teenage fatherhood, and fighting in toughman boxing matches in was interesting, I'm glad he focused on what made me want to read the book in the first place. Bob doesn't pull any punches in the book, as befits his hard-hitting style in the ring. He doesn't glamorize his early days in WOW working for Bob Sweetan, nor his short stint as a job guy in WCW. Unlike a lot of guys other than Mick Foley, Bob says Ric was kind of a jerk backstage. From there, Bob went to Smokey Mountain Wrestling for Jim Cornette and wound up dropping out of wrestling for a couple years to be a welder during the week and race cars on the weekends. Bob eventually got the call from the WWF and wound up working there for 15 years. Remember what I said earlier about Bob not pulling punches? Bob calls it like he sees it and covers pretty much every significant WWF/WWE event from those 15 years, like the Clique running things backstage, Jeff Jarrett getting special treatment because of his father, HHH holding talent down, the deaths of Eddie Guerrero and Chris Benoit, and much, much more. I can't stress enough how straight ahead Bob is in this book. He talks about drugs, how much people were getting paid, who he liked, who he hated, and what he thought the company did wrong and what they did right. It's a really entertaining read and certainly kept my attention on a snowy Saturday afternoon. There's not a lot more I can say

about it without spoiling it. If you're at all interested in professional wrestling, you'll want to read this. For years, I have been touting *Pure Dynamite: The Price You Pay for Wrestling Stardom* and *Terry Funk: More Than Just Hardcore* as the wrestling books to buy. Now I'll have to start recommending this one as well.

For all the years that I worked on the independent pro wrestling scene, the one guy I had never crossed paths with was Bob Holly. Based on some of the things I had heard, I didn't take issue with this. Once I became a full-time stand up comic, I had the pleasure of not only meeting but also working with Bob on a comedy roast honoring Jim Cornette. I quickly realized that the man I met was nothing like the man I had read about or heard stories of in the past. This was further proof of how delusional people in the wrestling business can truly be. I couldn't wait to read this book and am so glad that I did. It's brutally honest, no nonsense, but not disrespectful to anyone. Bob does a great job of explaining many situations that take place on the road and in the locker room, without a negative agenda of trying to defame his former colleagues. A must read for any pro wrestling fan, and also a great guide for anyone with aspirations of entering this crazy business. "HARDCORE TRUTH" lives up to its name from beginning to end!

This is probably the best wrestling autobiography I've read. Better than Foley, Hart, Flair, or anyone else's, and I've read a good deal of them. Bob Holly was one of my favorite wrestlers back in the day I'll admit, but that has little to do why I five star this. It's genuinely a great book, that sheds light on Holly himself, but is also full of revealing, entertaining and interesting behind-the-scenes stories, which I think are the best parts of any wrestling autobiography. Holly's honesty is beyond brutal at times, and its fascinating to hear his opinions on other wrestlers past and present. I found myself laughing loudly at some of his funnier stories, and reading this on my kindle, I found myself utilizing the highlight feature more than I ever have, so I can go back and re-read some of his more enlightening quotes or funnier stories. Buy this book because you're a wrestling fan, and take full advantage that this is not a WWE publication, so you know that there is no filter for the content. This is my favorite wrestling autobiography I've ever read, and it's prompted me to actually write an review for the first time.

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