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A Lion's Tale: Around The World In Spandex



Synopsis

Chris Jericho is the first undisputed Heavyweight Champion of the WWE and WCW, and has been called one of the fifty greatest wrestlers of all time. Now retired, he is writing his memoir, telling the story of his journey from wrestling school in Canada to his time in leagues in Mexico and Japan to his big break in the WCW. He'll dish the dirt on how he worked his way through the ranks alongside major wrestling stars like Chris Benoit and Lance Storm to become a major superstar.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I became a fan of Jericho when he started showing flashes of turning into a heel with his post-match tantrum following a loss. I could see he had the charisma and talent to make it into a big time superstar. Then he came out with the Monday Night Jericho t-shirt (which I was unable to afford back in the day) and the Ralphus angle, I totally started to love the guy. For the life of me, I could never figure out why WCW never gave him the chance to be the guy. Jericho's "A Lion's Tale" explains the backstage politics of WCW and how WCW almost killed his passion for wrestling. Jericho should have known that WCW was bad news when Bischoff called him to fly to Atlanta to sign a contract, while only a few hours later, booker Kevin Sullivan called Jericho to tell him he needs to come in for a try-out, not knowing he was already on his way to sign a contract! But this book is not all about WCW, in fact, WCW doesn't even come until page 320ish, and there is 410 pages in the book. The last 20 pages or so of the book is about him joining the WWF (he calls it the WWF, not WWE, so I will be referring it as WWF too). The book starts brilliantly with the countdown to the new millennium.... actually, sort of. The book ends the same way, but on a higher note. The

whole idea of Jericho's book is how he developed a dream to be one of the best wrestlers ever in Vince McMahon's WWF.

If you notice that so many wrestling autobiographies are published by the WWE it makes you wonder how much is real and how much is 21st century kayfabe? Chris Jericho's book is not published by the WWE and I'd like to think he was more honest in his story and while I think he is truly a decent guy with a good form of self deprecating humor, I always got the feeling while reading this book, that maybe he was worried about burning bridges? He laughs and makes fun of himself, going from his late in life loss of virginity to how he was almost murdered in Mexico by a femme fatal and her boyfriend who suckered him into going someplace and then robbing him at gun point and leaving him there. He talks of his days working at the Hart Dungeon with people like Lance Storm and Chris Benoit. His work in small time promotions in Canada and parts of the US. The time he spent in WCW with people like Eric Bischoff who thought he was too small to be a champion and his subsequent time in the WWE where he did become champion. He talks of his time in Japan and Mexico, and while I believe he is honest to a degree, we never really hear of the bad things that he must have known about but has refused to discuss. This book was written and published at a time that Jericho was out of wrestling and he gives the reader the impression that at least when this book was being written, he was done with the business and had moved onto other things and was now a husband and father. Still I was not surprised when he returned to the WWE not too long after this book was published and I think his omission of anything nasty pointing that way was intentional. He talks about the death of Owen Hart, but does not really come down on the WWE.

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