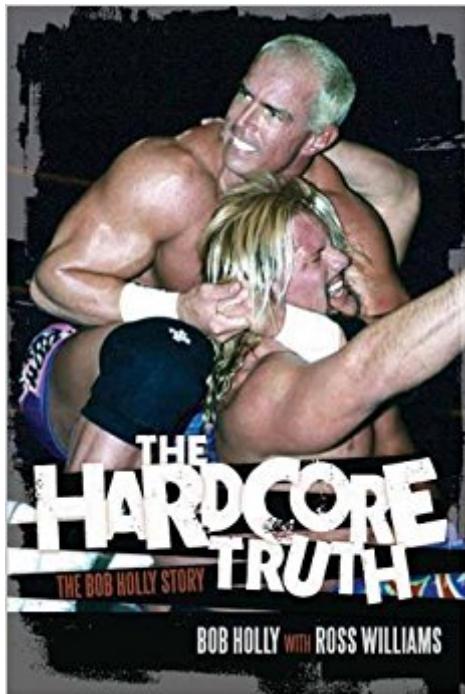


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# The Hardcore Truth: The Bob Holly Story



## Synopsis

§How do you like me now? • In the ring and behind the scenes with Hardcore Holly Long before he became §Hardcore Holly,â • Robert Howard was a fighter. From humble beginnings &#151; a boy dominated by his disciplinarian stepfather but fueled by an unquenchable passion for pro wrestling &#151; Bob grew up struggling to make ends meet. As an adult with a family of his own to provide for, Bob fought in bars for money before finally following his dream of wrestling. From regional promotions all the way to the bright lights of the WWF, from false starts as Thurman &#xA7;Sparkyâ • Plugg and &#xA7;Bombasticâ • Bob to fame as an internationally known superstar, The Hardcore Truth tells the story of Bobâ™s life including his 16 years working for Vince McMahon. In this rollercoaster tale of success and frustration, replete with missed opportunities, broken promises, and a broken neck &#151; a story of fast bikes and faster cars, lost loves and wrestling bears, bar fights and betrayal &#151; Bob shares his uncompromised views on the present wrestling landscape with fascinating insights into the world leader in sports entertainment.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hey now, don't get the wrong idea just because I am The World's Greatest Holly Mark(tm), I honestly didn't really have any expectations for Bob's book but bought it on principle anyway. As it turns out, this is one of the best books on wrestling ever written, and considering the other candidates (Foley, Jericho) that's saying a lot. Holly completely opens up and tells his story; punches are not pulled, which is exactly what you'd expect from a guy like him. "The Hardcore Truth" is completely free of any agendas (apart from the ones that are HUGELY justified in the

book) or over-glorification of Holly. Even if you don't agree with some of his actions behind the scenes (I'm still not sure I do), he rationalizes them in a way that would make sense to me if I were a wrestler. To be honest, us fans on the internet aren't in a place to judge anybody; lots of stuff goes on backstage and whether we ever find out about it depends on whether there's a whistleblower. Bob posits the blame of his being made a scapegoat for stuff that occurs backstage all the time, on one Hunter Hearst Helmsley, and I for one have about as much reason to doubt that claim as I do the odds of the sun rising when tomorrow comes. By all accounts, Robert Howard the person is a passionate, friendly guy who was a far better worker than his acclaim (or lack thereof) would indicate, and he knew it, as did a whole lot of his colleagues. It's heartbreaking to see how many times he came up with ideas on how to use him right that were shot down due to carelessness, apathy, or politics.

I haven't followed wrestling in some time - since the Monday Night Wars. But I still feel nostalgic for that time. I have read a number of the wrestling biographies out there (Hart's, Michel's, Foley's, Jericho's, Flair's, etc) but when I saw Hardcore Holly wrote a book I knew I had to read it. I wasn't necessarily a big Holly fan but I couldn't wait for this book for 2 reasons...1) First, I had read a ton of books written by guys who were multimillionaires based on pro-wrestling...the books of the superstars of the sport. But what about a guy who was a midcard talent? That would be interesting. 2) The book wasn't put out by the WWE where Vince would review and strip out things and stories...this way we get the real truth...or we should have. For the most part Holly delivers. He tells many backstage stories I had never heard. And I believe he tells "his version" of the truth. But the book has some real flaws. Spoilers ahead:- I wanted to hear midcard wrestlers honest opinion...but Holly seems like he still wants a job with McMann and goes out of his way to praise Vince, even if his stories paint a different picture. He repeatedly says how much he respects Vince, never had a problem with him, Vince was the boss that ran the show, etc. But then he tells tales of how Shawn Michels and Triple H basically ran the show, how "management" squashed his character, how he expected a phone or more respect when he left, etc. If Vince is the man Holly says he is and controls everything, then Vince and "management" are the same thing but Holly goes out of his way to kiss up to Vince.

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