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It's Good To Be The King...Sometimes



Synopsis

The full story of one of wrestling's most colourful and outspoken personalities. An often controversial figure, Jerry 'The King' Lawler has been at the top of his profession both as a wrestler and most recently as a commentator for over 30 years. Holder of more than 90 regional or national titles over the course of his career, he is as well known for his feuds, both in and out of the ring, as he is for his achievements and his expertise. No stranger to the airwaves, he has hosted his own show both on radio and on television, and he is also a successful commercial artist whose work can be seen on several sites around his home city of Memphis. Outside the WWE arena perhaps his most famous dispute was with actor and comedian Andy Kaufman, a long-running conflict that at one point put Kaufman in hospital and culminated in a televised brawl on 'Late Night With David Letterman'. Now in a no-holds barred autobiography 'The King' is prepared to tell all both about his sometimes stormy career and about the backstage secrets of the WWE.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have held up Mick Foley's book 'Have a Nice Day: A Tale of Blood, Guts, and Sweatsocks' as the pinnacle of wrestling autobiography. Since I have read that book, nothing has come close to being nearly as good or as honest. I was skeptical about reading Jerry Lawler's autobiography because all I knew of him was the joke he has become as a WWF/E announcer. I was aware that he was a legend in Memphis wrestling and that he had the famous angle with Andy Kaufman (I learned about this from the film 'Man on the Moon'). That was all

I knew of Jerry Lawler. I decided to read the book anyway and I'm glad that I did. While Mick Foley is a more sympathetic person and it is easier to care for Foley, Jerry Lawler has written (with a co-writer) one of the best wrestling biographies on the market. Even though the narrative jumps around a little bit, this is a straightforward and mostly chronological account of Jerry's life and career in professional wrestling. We are introduced to a young Jerry Lawler going to local wrestling events with his father, but having no interest in being a wrestler himself. It was only through his art (he originally wanted to be an artist) that he even had any contact with the world of professional wrestling and the men outside the ring. It was only later, as a radio DJ that Lawler ended up with the exposure and interest to try to be a professional wrestler. Since then, Lawler has led a charmed career in the ring. We learn about the scope of his career in Memphis and finally his entry into the WWF (later WWE). If Lawler's professional life has been charmed, his personal life has not been. While Jerry Lawler reveals that he has never drank alcohol or done any drugs, he does admit that his one vice has always been women and sex.

I enjoyed this book immensely, but Jerry Lawler's description of his early years in the business, coupled with the detailed look at Southern Pro Wrestling in the 1970s, absolutely stole the show for me. This book is invaluable for fans of the pro wrestling regional territories of days past, and Lawler recounts his experiences on both the mainstream and independent circuits of that era. This book has great accounts of Southern Wrestling personalities like legendary heel Sam Oliver Bass, successful ---albeit eccentric, cheap and often irrational--- promoter Nick Gulas, and wrestler/promoter Jerry Jarrett. The book also has a look at the local promotional wars throughout the years, which is one of my favorite features in the book; with pro wrestling being a big-money corporate player these days, it is fascinating to see how profitable but homegrown promotions competed. Jerry Lawler talks in detail about his problems with fidelity, the toll his fooling around had on the women in his life, and the confession that it is his only vice. While he places most of the blame on himself, and is very complimentary to most of the women in his life, it is interesting to read his comments on vices. He does not drink or drug, and claims sex as his only vice. At one point he says something to the effect that this particular addiction has no repercussions; well, maybe not on the brain cells or the liver, but he seems to be overlooking the emotional toll it took on his relationships. When finishing this book, Jerry Lawler comes off overall as a good guy, who you would love to hang out with. About the only thing that did not click with me were the numerous bad one-liners.

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