



## The Hardcore Diaries

*Mick Foley*

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## **The Hardcore Diaries** Mick Foley

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## **The Hardcore Diaries Details**

Date : Published March 6th 2007 by WWE Books

ISBN : 9781416531579

Author : Mick Foley

Format : Hardcover 372 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Biography, Sports and Games, Sports, Autobiography

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## From Reader Review The Hardcore Diaries for online ebook

### Isaiah Scott says

The one thing I liked the most about The Hardcore Diaries is his use of humor to tell his stories ranging from meeting a man named Wolfowitz to attending a ceremony honoring athletic greats. I actually found myself laughing out loud at a lot of statements that he made. Since I'm still fairly young I actually enjoyed some of his "sophmoric humor" as he likes to put it. His looking back at his youth and the various challenges he had back then was something that I enjoyed reading. I did find some of the entries in his book as a bit of a filler but overall he does manage to stay on topic in the book. He isn't afraid to call out the WWE in his book and discusses the disagreements he has with the company. One thing he does in the book is voice his criticism of the Bush campaign. Whether you agree with him or not, it is something you will want to read. The book will not impress you with outstanding writing but it is a thoroughly fun read that is worth your time.

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### Willie says

Not as good as the first two. I still think it's ok, it still has Mick Foley's tone and writing style, except in this book he tends to ramble more and loses the main point he's trying to say. Whether it's intentional or not, I just didn't have the feel for it. I read another review that surmises it might have been better if Mick wrote this book in a form of essay/chapters, maybe like what Anthony Bourdain did in his books. I would have to agree with that suggestion, it's definitely more suited to Mick's writing style.

Not as much wrestling anecdotes and back stories as his previous two books but it's still pretty good. My personal favorite is Candice Michelle's spot on assessment of Shawn Michael being a handshake guy as opposed to hugs.

If you're a wrestling fan then the book offers a look on how a wrestling angle comes into fruition. The way you have to sell it to Vince, then the writing staff and the wrestlers you'll be involving into the angle. The revisions it'll undergo and the possible scenario that it'll be canceled without any good reason. Mick does a good job of venting his frustrations on the whole process and it'll certainly make you appreciate just how much work goes into an angle, whether it sucks or draws money.

There are a lot more wrestling autobiographies I'd rather recommend for the ones who are just starting out. I don't need to convince the more seasoned ones since they'll most likely read this anyway on their own volition.

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### Hephaestus says

#### Hephaestus' rating system:

**5 Stars:** *The book went above and beyond my expectations, delivering a tremendous literary understanding while not sacrificing the pacing of a compelling story.*

**4 Stars:** *The book was everything I had hoped it would be, delivering a terrific story while not blowing my*

mind.

**3 Stars:** *The book was average - which does NOT mean bad. The book may have been well written, but the story was nothing special.*

**2 Stars:** *The book was below average. It did not meet my expectations and was an unfortunate flop. I wouldn't read it again, but didn't necessarily hate reading it.*

**1 Star:** *The book was the biggest letdown. It was not fun to read in the slightest, and may have even caused me to stop reading only partially through.*

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## **Andrew Fast says**

Hey Mick,

Book #3 is no walk in the park, but this one spent more time lost in the woods than Bill Bryson.

I may be alone here but this book was scattered to say the least. IN fairness I enjoy the writing style, musings, and overall direction the book delivered as promised from the onset. Foley openly admitted he wasn't sure how to tackle another book and his hesitation to use his Blog posts to bolster (nearly 30% i think) of the content of this book. We went from "I want to pitch this \_\_\_\_" all the way to Fruition so i'll give you 3 stars and spend 2 minutes listing some likes/dislikes and call it a day (not a "nice day...")

Liked-

Behind scenes, honesty, touching stories about visiting less fortunate and our military.

Family struggles/religion/setbacks

Response to other books/backlash from other wrestlers (i.e. Ric Flair's autobio, the Rock and other wrestlers who went on record at times anti-Foley)

Humility in what he can/can't do for Wrestling and how he plays a role on the team

Conversations with Vince and modeling how to 'agree to disagree' and move on professionally.

Disliked-

Organization, rabbit hole digressions, tangents that not only "didn't fit" but also dead ended and distracted from completing his thought. He excuses this by literally writing "what was i saying... i've had too many concussions..." but after the 10th time it's a cop out.

Moral vs Immoral (objective obviously) sentiments sharing the same pages THROUGHOUT Constant Christy Canyon references and this whole 'what if'... lewd stories where I don't think you needed any of it. You did her interview. Cool. no need to revisit it or insert a story about asking a hitchhiker to hook up with her boyfriend asleep in the backseat while you drove... just no need in my opinion.

more likes than dislikes, but compared to his other books this is sub par. Compared to other BIO worthy writings... read only if you have some time to kill and want to read SOMETHING. If I'd read this over the

span of 2 months instead of 2 weeks I'm pretty sure I would have happily returned it after only 25% to the library without attempting to renew it.

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### **Chad Shantal says**

This is my least favorite Mick Foley book, at this point Mick's stories seemed redundant and like this was just going to be a paycheck. I will eventually give it another go, but I don't have very high hopes of liking it any better the second time around.

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### **Sam Denney says**

If I was brutally honest, running through the list of Mick Foley's wrestling memoirs I'd have to admit that *The Hardcore Diaries* isn't quite as good as *Foley Is Good*, which is in turn quite a lot less good than *Have A Nice Day!* A case of diminishing returns, in other words. But that doesn't mean I didn't hugely enjoy reading it. In fact, Mick Foley is probably one of the writers that I would happily read anything by. When someone is so completely honest with his audience, so full of awesome backstage anecdotes, and so completely willing to give readers a laugh at his own expense, what's not to recommend?

And yet, there's no denying that Foley seems tired in the writing of this book. It almost feels like he's grinding through the pages instead of pouring them out as was the case with *Have A Nice Day!* There are times when it seems the daily pressures and frustrations of working in the WWE have jaded him, even made him bitter. It's a sad thing to learn about one of the most passionate performers out there on any stage. As a document of a difficult time in a highly self-critical man's life, it can at times be hard going.

However, *The Hardcore Diaries* is still full of moments of humour, sadness and beautiful contradiction, written as it is in the always authentic voice of the cartoonish world of wrestling's ultimate gentle giant. I love, and will continue to enjoy, reading about Foley's relationship with his wife and kids and his heartfelt desire to make a difference in the lives of children, wounded veterans and victims of sexual abuse in any way that he can. I love the nitty gritty details of matches as they are described: the part about hardways in particular was really interesting to a relatively recently minted wrestling nerd. Throughout, *The Hardcore Diaries* remains a book written by someone who loves his life and work, even if things get tough at times. I don't think he'll ever top that first volume of autobiography (one of my all-time favourite books), but his stuff remains a great read for anyone who takes even a passing interest in soap opera for people who like punching.

Arbitrary Rating: 3 barbed wire bats out of 5.

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### **Simon Yoong says**

Man, what a lousy book. I've read all his memoirs, with only *Countdown to Lockdown* read out of order. *Have a nice day* was brilliant, no doubt one of the best wrestling memoirs out there. I remember feeling Foley was *Good* as an immense letdown, just a cash in within nothing much to say. At least *Countdown to Lockdown* had a purpose in its writing.

But this was just bad. A book about writing the book. He's told all his best stories, these here are just plain boring.

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### **Matt says**

The Hardcore Diaries is my first taste of Mick Foley's writing and I found it enjoyable reading. Foley has a conversational style of writing that is easy to follow, even with not to perfect grammar like tense changes, especially as he's describing what he's best known for actions within the squared circle. Although the book's main theme of storyline conception to completion is fascinating and Foley's emotional roller coaster connected is great, I found his side stories fun, enjoyable, and humbling additions. Though Foley's repeated references to a porn star and chair shots to the head do get a little tiring close to the end of the book, overall I usually glossed over them. Given this is my first Mick Foley book, I very interested to read his first two biographical efforts which seemed to more regarded than The Hardcore Diaries.

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### **Nelson says**

I have to start off with the fact that I love WWE and am a Foley fan. That said this book is a great example of diminishing returns. Book 1 was excellent, book 2 was great. But book 3 is good I guess. The entire format of course is different and is more like a look into WWE than a 3rd autobiography by the NY Times Bestseller (as he refers to himself about 500 times in this book). As usual he goes off on tangents almost every story he tells and this time name drops so much it looks a little like one of those old Who's Who books. He especially layers it on Melina (among various Divas) even though he swears it is a brother like feeling. If you have not read Foley go for either of his first 2 autobiographies. If you read those 2 and enjoyed them grab this one in a cheap bin at some used bookstore.

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### **Katrice says**

Mick Foley has gotten old and it shows in this third installment of his memoirs. The rambling style that seemed so engaging and so HIM, that made his first memoir such a joy to read now just seems. . . confused and distracted and maybe a bit bitter and weary. It's still read-able but also very disjointed. While he always rambled, he still kept the picture tight. . . you knew where you were going. Now, well he tends to skip around the timeline so much it gets really confusing. It's supposed to follow his activities in 2006, specifically two "epic" matches and angles he proposed to do and it does do that to some extent but he also jumps around so much that he loses the thread along the way.

There are still some great anecdotes here. Insights into the business as well as the mind of Mick Foley great guy and family man. The passages that deal with his charity work are nice and his political views are interesting but. . . it just kinda clutters up the narrative. I think it might have been better if everything he talked about/wanted to say in this book were presented as a series of essays instead of trying to. . . cram them into some sorta timeline. As a series of essays, all the different things he wants to talk about come off fine. As part of a memoir it just seems awfully, unnecessarily off tangent.

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## **Mike says**

This is the third autobiography of former WWE (now TNA) wrestling superstar Mick Foley (a.k.a. Cactus Jack, Mankind and Dude Love). This book focuses mainly on how Mick prepared himself for the ECW (hardcore wrestling) pay-per-view in June of 2006. But he digresses back to 2001 and a few points in between.

Foley meets a lot of interesting non-wrestling individuals in his book, including George Steinbrenner, Paul Wolfowitz, Dee Snider, Barry Bonds, Christy Canyon, and many others.

Much of the book is devoted to creative struggles between Foley and the WWE creative team, headed by Vince McMahon. The plot turns on Foley pitching a scenario of an "angle" for the televised wrestling broadcasts leading up to the ECW pay-per-view and his fight to stay true to his ideas when McMahon keeps trying to change the plotline that Mick is involved in.

I can't say that anyone who isn't a wrestling fan will find this book terribly compelling. Mick Foley goes a lot of places and does a lot of things, many involving charities, sick kids and wounded soldiers. But the wrestling plot is what holds this autobiography together.

I have not read either of the (non-wrestling) fiction novels that Mick Foley has written. Both of them are discussed in this volume of Mick's memoirs. A bit of self-promotion.

For wrestling fans, there is some interest in seeing how creative battles go on behind the scenes in WWE. Vince McMahon is the main antagonist for Foley, but the portrait of Vince is fairly well balanced. Like many corporate moguls, McMahon is not often a warm and fuzzy person.

Mick Foley is a wrestler who writes, not a writer who wrestles. I have only read one of his other books, his first autobiography, "Have A Nice Day: A Tale of Blood and Sweatsocks." I liked that book more than I did "The Hardcore Diaries." I thought the narrative of the first book was much more focused and not littered with non-sequiturs and jarring shifts in the time he's depicting. This latest book of Foley's is a good read for WWE fans, but there are a few good reasons I found it in the bargain bin.

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## **Mark Short says**

Good stories.

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## **Mike says**

Yeah, so what...I'm a wrestling geek. This is the third autobiography from the man who was known as Cactus Jack, Mankind and Dude Love.

The first 2 books were mostly about how he came to be a wrestler and the progress of that career. This third book is more about Mick Foley the man than Mick Foley the wrestler. Yes, it centers on the reason he returned to wrestling after he retired in 2000 and how the run of that return went. And that was interesting, at least to a wrestle-geek to see the creative process from beginning to the end of a wrestling storyline. All the politicking and negotiating that has to be done to pull something off. And how different the finished product is from the original vision.

Far more interesting than the wrestling is how Mick balances writing this book, being with his family, helping with quite a few different charities and causes, publicity for the book and for being a wrestler and of course actually wrestling. He has a political debate, he brings Dee Snider to visit a dying child, he wrestles, he visits wounded soldiers at Walter Reed, has dinner with the creator of Doonesbury and Paul Wolfowitz (the head of the World Bank), he wrestles, he foes on a radio show with Christy Canyon and Ginger Lynn, he

goes to the Philippines to see a girl he sponsors for the Christian Children's Fund, and oh yeah...he wrestles. If you can get past the fact that Mick Foley is a wrestler it turns out that he's a pretty interesting guy. And he has a really good story to tell. If you're a wrestling fan you should definitely check it out. If you're a fan of decent people you should also check this out.

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### **Bill says**

As always a Mick Foley autobiography is a great read. He doesn't use a ghost writer so everything you read is from him. He's very open, honest, opinionated, self critiquing, funny, and straightforward. In this book you can tell the many years of wear and tear from wrestling has taken a toll on Mick, both physically and mentally. It's not an overly positive book and it deals with a period in Micks life where he is "burned out" from wrestling for the 1st time in his life. I really enjoyed the tearing down of the 4th wall and reading about all the backstage politics that happen in the WWE. What I found most interesting was his very honest opinion about Vince McMahon. I think the way Mick describes and talks about Vince is the reason why Vinny Mac has such high respect for Mick. No one has ever spoken about Vince in such a truthful manner before in regards to how he is as a businessman and how he is personally. I've never written a book review before, and I just woke up, so I'm going to bet this sucks. Bottom line if you've read the 1st 2 Mick Foley autobiographies or you're a fan of wrestling in general, read this book.

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### **Ryan Werner says**

Not as solid as the first two volumes of his memoirs, but interesting nonetheless. Foley's a solid writer: competent, effortless prose that is light without being pointless. The time-period this covers (2004-2007) is when I wasn't watching wrestling at all anymore, making the inside view of the proceedings (there are plenty of interactions with Vince McMahon) the most compelling part of the read for me. With everything in his two previous autobiographies, I was already aware of the angles and events that happened. With The Hardcore Diaries, I was getting all of it for the first time. Regardless of the context in which it's read, it's a good read that shows--of all people--a wrestler being an admirable man: humanitarian, political activist, father, husband, New York Times Best Seller, and--of all things--wrestler.

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### **Stuart Vernon says**

As you all know I am a WWE fan (I started in 1992 and gave up, then restarted in 2003) and I also read the first Mick Foley bio. This was written and layed out as a diary .going from April 2006 through to October 2006 talking about 2 main matches. The ECW One Night Stand 2006 match and the Backlash 2006 match.

Within the book Mick did pack peddle a few times to 2001-2003 etc to where he was working in Afgan and meeting the soldiers to doing charity events and meeting other celebs. The book was full of pictures too so the book looks quite big size wise but about 30% of that is a 2 page picture of him with other wrestlers including Randy Orton, Tommy Dreamer, Melina and Vince to name a few.

Mick also made the bio an easy read explaining his dislike for WWE in his later years and the constant

changing of his ideas to suit the WWE overall. There is a slight talk of his thinking about jumping over to TNA. America's second rate show, (I always thought TNA was the WCW version 2.0 in the sense of WWE has been wrestlers sign with TNA then take the lime light).

Overall it is worth a read and it isn't as good as his first book.

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### **Paul Pessolano says**

“The Hardcore Diaries” by Mick Foley, published by World Wrestling Entertainment.

Category – Sports/Wrestling Publication Date – April 01, 2008

Mick Foley is a breath of fresh air, not only for the wrestling fans but for one who enjoys an entertaining and honest autobiography. Actually this is Foley's third autobiography. His first two books, “Mankind, Have A Nice Day” and “Foley Is Good, And The Real World Is Faker Than Wrestling”, both were on the New York Times Best Seller List.

Foley makes no qualms about wrestling being an entertainment industry and that matches are predetermined. He also makes no qualms about the blood being real, not blood capsules or ketchup, and broken bones. Foley should know, he has probably shed more blood than any other wrestler. He has been involved with matches that included both barbed wire and fire. He has taken some incredible falls and if proof is needed just Google You Tube Mick Foley Hell in a Cell Undertaker.

I am not a fan of Professional Wrestling and only became acquainted with Mick due to a friend constantly badgering me to view his DVD, “Mankind”. I was completely taken in by his devotion to his “sport”, his honesty, and his life outside of wrestling. He is a devoted husband and father and is involved in several charities.

Although I found “The Hardcore Diaries” somewhat of a let down from his first two books, it still is an interesting and worthwhile read.

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### **Byron Wright says**

I didn't really mean to read this book, but the library didn't have the Mick's earlier books. So, I took a chance on this one. I enjoyed the book for what it is, some storytelling from a wrestling dude. You will probably like this book if you were a fan of wrestling in the 90s and early 2000s. If not, I suspect that you won't find much here because the overall subject matter won't interest you much.

And Mr. Foley, on the off chance you read your own reviews, you do seem like a very good guy (completely independent of your work).

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## **Soho Black says**

Supposedly, at the tender age of around 20, Wayne Rooney signed a deal to provide his autobiography in three volumes. Quite how interesting the next one is going to be given that he's spent most of the following year getting injured is anyone's guess. By contrast, Mick Foley has published a third volume of his autobiography, after reaching his forties. Admittedly, he has also spent quite a long time in his career being injured, but he's managed to get a far wider range of injuries.

I've followed Mick Foley's career as both wrestler and writer, seeing both the highs and the lows. He has won titles, lost titles and produced an autobiography I found impossible to put down, as well as a second part which wasn't nearly as good and felt a little forced. How would he manage the third time around; both in terms of autobiographies and in wrestling comebacks?

"The Hardcore Diaries" is more a biography of a wrestling storyline than it is of the wrestler himself. After a little while out of wrestling, Foley approaches his boss with an idea, both for a wrestling storyline and for another book. Foley is sure that his idea for the wrestling will work, but wonders how people will approach yet another book, especially as it's not the first time he has done something like this?

As it turns out, the basic idea for the book is actually fresher than the idea for the wrestling. The wrestling angle pitches him back into the hardcore style of wrestling - hence the title - an area where he made his name. It also pits him up against Terry Funk, an old friend and opponent of Foley's and a man whose name featured prominently in many sections of Foley's first autobiography, "Have a Nice Day".

The idea for the book, however, is based around a diary - hence the rest of the title - so that some of the entries can be phrased as if they were diary entries. As Foley was already writing a fairly regular column for the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) website at the time, these diary entries could then be interspersed with reprints of these columns. After all, even when he wasn't wrestling, Mick Foley tended to be heavily involved in WWE activities outside the ring. So he could write about himself and WWE at the same time and it would, he thought, make for a decent book.

I thought so as well and I was proved correct, although not in the way I thought. Over the last few years I have spent a lot of time without access to Sky Sports and so have very much lost touch with what has been going on in WWE. This meant that for the first time in a Foley autobiography, he was talking about wrestling matches and angles that I wasn't already familiar with, although many of the names seem to have remained the same since I was last watching regularly. I did find that this left me feeling further removed and less involved in that part of things than I have done before with Foley's books.

The rest of the book does make up for this, however. There is more to the life of the average wrestler than just travelling around the US and occasionally to other countries and throwing yourself around a ring for the amusement of others. Foley is involved with sponsoring orphans and visiting sick children and soldiers and the whole of the WWE are very supportive of American troops and various charities both in the US and overseas. Thanks to Foley being on the spot during all these activities, we get a behind the scenes look at them and thanks to Foley's simple writing style I found myself constantly wanting to read all about the next one, even knowing that there was a chance I wouldn't be as involved as with his previous works.

Despite not being as gripping, this is certainly better than the second autobiography, "Foley Is Good". There is a slight preoccupation with his new (at the time of writing the book) novel "Scooter", which gets mentioned frequently enough for it to seem like a little sneaky advertising, but as that book is already on my

"to read" pile, that didn't bother me too much. This time around Foley's writing is more fluid and he doesn't descend into lists of things like he did last time out and there isn't the feeling that he's straining to fit the diary concept he's using like he seemed to be squeezing things into the "real world is faker than wrestling" theory last time around.

I did enjoy the book, but more for the insight into the wrestlers as people and celebrities rather than them all as wrestlers, which came as a bit of a surprise. But Foley is always readable and isn't afraid to criticise his WWE bosses when he disagrees with them, which is refreshing as well as unusual for a company that size.

If you've followed wrestling for the last few years and remember Foley's recent battles with Terry Funk, then you'll almost certainly enjoy this book as Foley puts a human face on the in ring bloodshed and describes it as if it's his passion; which to be fair, it probably is. If you've been a wrestling fan in the past and like Foley, you'll find you enjoy this in the same way as I did; slightly detached from parts of it, but still able to enjoy Foley's warmth of character and writing. If you're not a wrestling fan, I really wouldn't bother as no matter how much they talk about the work they do outside the ring and outside the arena, they're still wrestlers and I suspect that would be enough of a turn off to prevent you enjoying the book.

This review may also appear, in whole or in part, under my name at any or all of [www.ciao.co.uk](http://www.ciao.co.uk), [www.thebookbag.co.uk](http://www.thebookbag.co.uk), [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com), [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) and [www.dooyoo.co.uk](http://www.dooyoo.co.uk)

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### **L. says**

Not bad. Covers a much smaller time span in much more detail than previous books. He'd really like you to know he doesn't like George Bush.

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