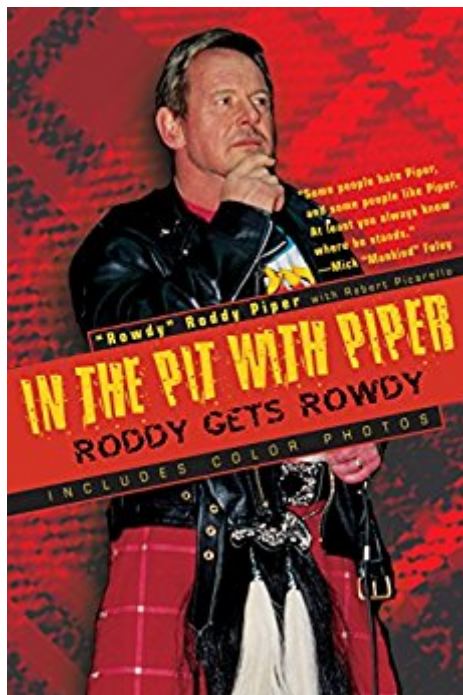


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In The Pit With Piper



Synopsis

Here, in his own words, is the story of one of the greatest wrestlers everâRowdy Roddy Piper. The bagpipe-playing legend gets down and dirty about the world of professional wrestlingâand his own career.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've been a fan of Roddy Piper's since I was a kid, so when I got his autobiography book, I couldn't put it down. I read the whole thing, all 240 pages in about 4 1/2 hours! No, I didn't skim or speed-read through it, but read every word. After reading some of the reviews/comments here, I admit there are some events and details of his life that were completely left out or barely touched upon. I do recall reading online that Roddy admitted his memory of his early years is fuzzy and that he had to base some of his recollections on the memory of his wrestling friends. So I agree, the history is choppy. If I wasn't already familiar with Roddy's history to automatically fill in the blanks, I

may have been confused and lost too. Roddy's book is all about his career as a wrestler and only mentions his acting career briefly when talking about the movie "They Live," other than that, he kept his acting career out of the book. Another topic he barely brushed upon was his private family life, which he keeps to a bare minimum. So I was a little disappointing not to get the scoop on his personal life outside of wrestling, but he must have his reasons and probably wants to protect his family's privacy. Instead Roddy skips his earliest childhood and jumps to the chase as a teenage runaway living on the streets and youth hostels. Although Roddy doesn't explain in his book why he fled his home at the young age of 13, I've seen/read interviews with Roddy where he reluctantly hints of an abusive and empty relationship with his strict alcoholic father. It must've been pretty traumatizing, because when discussing it Roddy always becomes downcast and you can just see his mind spinning with bad memories that he rather keep to himself. Anyways, by a twist of fate, 15 year old Roddy is drawn into the wrestling world to earn a meager living. You'll read how Roddy's been through hell and back during his early career as a pro wrestler and how cut-throat the business really is. Before I read his book, I thought I had an idea who Roddy Piper was and had somewhat of a grasp of the hard lifestyle of a pro wrestler...boy was I wrong! In his book, Roddy doesn't hold back on what a difficult and harsh path it was. He paid his dues big time! The cruel ribbings he took from the veteran wrestlers and promoters would've driven a lesser person away, but not Roddy Piper! It only pushed him harder. So he came up with new and creative ways to stand out, even if it meant being the laughing stock of his peers with his kilt and bagpipes. Eventually he earned the respect and acceptance he so desperately wanted and had a group of father-figures and brothers to call family...something he always wanted and never had before. He also learned from the veterans the strict Code of Wrestling, and as brutal as it was at times, he always stuck by it. We then read how Roddy evolved and moved to the forefront with his obnoxious over-the-top persona and unprecedented talent with the microphone during promos. Thus Piper's Pit was born. This boosted his notoriety and he became the greatest Heel that wrestling will ever see. He was the man everyone loved to hate. This fame as a villain didn't come without a price. Since Roddy was "Rowdy" Roddy Piper 24/7, he was attacked, stabbed, and harassed by crazed fans; not only at the sports arena, but out in public, and even at his home! Which explains his move to a remote ranch in Oregon. We also learn in Roddy's book about the rival between him and Hulk Hogan both on and off camera. Here's one example: after the huge success of WrestleMania 1 at Madison Square Garden (thanks to the outlandish promos and hype which Roddy was just as much a part of...maybe more so), Hulk Hogan and Mr. T left the Garden with a police escort in a limo and preceded to party all night at clubs on Vince McMahon's tab. Meanwhile back at the Garden, Roddy and Cowboy Orton

were completely abandoned by the promoters and left to fend for themselves through a mob of irate fans and took a cab back to their hotel. So you can't blame Roddy for being jealous of the favoritism and special treatment that Hogan got, when Roddy was just as big a name in wrestling as he was. There's also the rival with promoters, most of all, Vince McMahon. Roddy was a non-conformist and he resisted doing anything that was against his conduct, morals, or beliefs in the world of wrestling, even if it meant getting fired. So between his alter ego, the pressure and bias treatment from promoters, dealing with crazy hater fans, the stresses of tight schedules, physical abuse of his body night after night, prescription drug abuse, and being away from his family, it's no wonder Roddy became moody and ornery. He had become someone you didn't want to pester at a bar for an autograph and ask "is wrestling real or fake?" Because one thing was for sure, you'd find out the hard way that Scottish temper of his is real! I think it's safe to say that nowadays Roddy has mellowed out and now most fans find him very amicable and down-to-earth, but that doesn't mean the question if wrestling is real or phony doesn't still annoy the hell out of him. Roddy goes on to tell us the Wild Side of wrestling, which is similar to that of a rock star (booze, drugs, girls, and crazy shenanigans). Then he talks seriously about the Dark Side of wrestling and what it does to the mind of a pro wrestler. He calls it the "Sickness." You'll read his heartfelt description in chapter 12. In a nutshell, from my understanding, the Sickness triggers something in the psyche of wrestlers to do what they do (the abuse) to themselves and to each other, and then fans getting off on it, and then in turn the wrestlers getting off on the fans' reaction, so they do worse things to themselves and each other. A masochistic cycle. This twisted cycle is further fed by the manipulations and head games by the promoters. Promoters have wrestlers believing they're invincible -the best thing to hit wrestling- and then the next day their replaceable. Wrestlers prides are always challenged to see if they'll break and be the promoters' bitch. A wrestler would break his body for the business, only to be tossed out like an old shoe and forgotten. This caused many to turn to substance abuse and for some...suicide. Many of Roddy's friends are dead or their lives ruined by the Sickness and if it wasn't for Roddy's wife, it could've destroyed him as well. As Roddy states the Sickness is real and it's still out there claiming wrestlers and something needs to be done about it. So if you ever wondered if Roddy's shoot on Vince Russo at TNA was real, it was! One of the reasons Roddy wrote this book was to tell his side of the story on why someone like him, who got fame and fortune from wrestling, could be so bitter. As he put it, he wasn't seeing the green of the trees in the forest because he was running with his head down. Years of dealing with all the bulls*** and clawing his way to the top every inch of the way and then fighting to stay on top, made him an arrogant and angry person. He would say the "Sickness" got to him bad and again, he credits his wife for bring

him back to his sense. Although the anger and frustration is still there, it no longer fuels his alter ego, but instead drives him to raise awareness and improve the industry, and hopefully save the lives of today's pro wrestlers. He's also turned-off by how trashy and even degrading wrestling has become, and would like to clean it up and bring back fun family entertainment. So that is why Roddy is vocal and comes off as being bitter, because he loves wrestling.

Piper is the greatest heel ever. He really helped transform the entire business. He has often said, "People didn't come to see Hogan, they came to see Hogan beat the snot outta Piper." That is certainly true as I was just a kid and just the desired mark Vince McMahon was aiming for when he was attempting to bring his promotion national. Piper has a chance here to help us relive that through an insider's point of view while also showing the reader some of the wit and Charisma that made him the top heel of the time. But he just rants and really doesn't make much sense. This book is far from a tell-all. For example, Piper says he left home at 13 years of age. Well.....why? There is obviously something to tell there. Was it abuse? Did something happen to his parents? Piper omits many key phases of his life. As far as giving us the inside scoop on the 80s WWF, he really doesn't give us much. It's almost as if he wasn't understanding what was happening around him. The entire tone of the book is "Ya can't mess with Piper" but it seems he just can't describe how they were trying to mess with him. For example, he declares he was holding out signing a contract but Vince cornered him and got him to sign. Yet he makes no reference to what was on the contract? Was it a contract to eat an ice cream Sunday for a 10 million dollars? C'mon some details please. When he does talk about the 80s WWF days, his memory is so shot that he can't even get the basic details right. The years of drugging, boozing and little sleep clearly caught up to him. I seem to remember his own history better than he does. Frank Williams was NOT his first guest on Piper's Pit. There are still plenty of amusing stories and anecdotes though so it's worth a quick read. However, it's kinda sad, as a kid watching Sat morning wrestling, it seemed he was always a step ahead of everybody but in telling his story, he seems confused. I just expected more from a book by the best talker in the biz. By the way, the WWE can light all the pyrotechnics and bring out all the scantily clad strippers they want, but this stupid, insulting, product they offer now is not nearly as compelling as what they were doing in 1984 with Piper, a microphone and a cardboard set.

I have been on a wrestling book kick lately, and of all of them this is gotta be the worst. I thought it would be much better because Piper seemed like a creative smart guy for a wrestler, but it's relentless self aggrandizement, bitter shots at almost everyone, constant stories about how Roddy almost beat

up this guy and that guy, yadda, yadda. His description of McMahon is the worst. Like him or not, one thing Vince is is no pushover. Wrestling books :Best: foley and hart Worst: piper , hogan Middle: flair, terry funk

I decided to read this after Hot Rod had passed away. So many fun memories came back to me as I read this. I grew up on Piper and have to agree he was as much responsible for the WWE growth as Hogan. This is a good book although not the best wrestling book out there. I enjoyed it and I can almost guarantee if you read it, you'll probably hear the words being read in Piper's voice. RIP Hot Rod

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