



Terry Funk: More Than Just Hardcore

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He's been a fixture in professional wrestling for five decades. He's plied his trade around the world, building a legion of fans spanning multiple generations. He's held the NWA Heavyweight title, and helped introduce a hardcore wrestling style that you see in the WWE and Japan today. He's made his mark in Hollywood, and acting in film and television. He's Terry Funk, and he's more than just hardcore. Terry Funk: More Than Just Hardcore is the life story of one of professional wrestling's most enduring and endearing figures. Terry talks about growing up in a wrestling family, including running a wrestling promotion with his father, Dory Funk Sr., and teaming with his brother and former fellow NWA Heavyweight champion, Dory Jr. Terry shares humorous road stories and anecdotes from his memorable feuds with Dusty Rhodes, Ric Flair, Mick Foley, Jerry Lawler, and many more. He shares his views on the wrestling business today, and why his retirements do not stick.

Terry Funk: More Than Just Hardcore Details

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From Reader Review Terry Funk: More Than Just Hardcore for online ebook

Paul says

Very good autobiography.

Matt Murphy says

Interesting and entertaining, one of the few old-school wrestlers' books I've truly enjoyed. Unlike most of his peers, Funk has kept an open mind to the business and his views have evolved with it. This shows in the book, which seems to be one of the more honest wrestling autobiographies out there.

jersey9000 says

As can be seen by trawling through my reviews, I love wrestling autobiographies. Love them. As a lifelong fan, that world behind the curtain fascinates me to no end. And this one is by one of my top 5 favs of all time, the legendary Terry Funk. One of the greatest wrestlers ever, and a large part of what made ECW a thriving entity and helped take all of wrestling itself to the next level.

These books written by the more old school wrestlers are great, because they clue you in to the old "territory" days of wrestling, where the world behind the curtain was a much stranger place than now. You walk away from this book realizing that all these guys had two things in common: they were completely insane, and they had an uncompromising zest for life, which made their lifestyles (driving for 300 miles each way to make \$25, then doing it again the next day) possible.

We will never see the like of these gentlemen again, and for me at least, they will be missed. Any wrestling fan should check this out.

Ravyn says

Terry spends the entire book putting over all and sundry in the business with an even-handed democratic touch. It's a really sweet book about a man who cares about pro-wrestling and wrestlers, but loves his family so much more.

Vicki says

Well...it's a wrestling autobiography. I've read a fair few now and they're all along the same lines but to be fair to the Funker, this is one of the better ones. Definitely written in the author's own voice - even though he uses a co-writer, the co-writer doesn't appear to have taken over completely as happens with some wrestling

books. Lots of interesting tales and the other side of the love-in which Mick Foley started in his first book. Worth a read.

Ted says

Kind of a fun book, in that Terry is a very likable guy and has been in the business forever. However, there are too many tall tales in here. Some of these anecdotes just don't pass the smell test, and the lack of credibility undermines the whole book. Nevertheless, reading this book is an enjoyable way to pass the time.

Dan Schwent says

Back when I was a wrestling fan, up until about 2003 or so, I had two favorite wrestling books. This is one of them.

Terry Funk hit 68 not too long ago and still wrestles. This book goes from his beginnings in the Amarillo Territory, to his days as NWA champion, to his career with All Japan Pro Wrestling, though his many retirements, to his tenure in ECW and to the present day.

Funk reminds me of the old gunfighter in the song Desperado. He just doesn't know when to hang it up and likes talking about past glories. The things this guy continues to do to put food on the table are mind boggling. A 60 year old man shouldn't be in barbed wire matches for God's sake!

The best part of this book by far is the road stories. Funk talks about drinking beer by the case with his friends and shooting rabbits from a moving vehicle. Hilarious if not somewhat disturbing.

Later edit:

A few days ago, I read that Terry Funk is wrestling Mexican wrestling legend Mil Mascaras a couple hours away from my house. Since they're both wrestling legends, I may have to go despite their combined age being close to 150.

Richard Kelly says

I love wrestling. If I had grown up in a time when it wasn't fairly common knowledge that the show is not an actual competition I may not have the love for the business that I do. This book is about a career that took place largely before that time so this is a bit different for me.

Terry Funk is not a writer and it shows. He had another writer helping him, but I think that was pretty much a waste. Most of the writing feels very cookie cutter. The language stays the same and it is all simple, but good grammar. Every now and then there is some Texas slang thrown in which gives it a bit more personality.

You can tell Terry Funk didn't want to burn bridges when he wrote the majority of this book. For the first 80% of the book every person he talks about is "a hell of a guy". There is the occasional bad decision they may have made, but he appears to think the world of everyone. Until you get to the later chapters when he

starts to open up a bit. It would have been nice to see what he would have said about the people from the earlier chapters once he got comfortable enough to call it like he saw it.

The book is very unorganized. It seems as though he wanted to tell the chronological story of his life, but he jumps around and tells side stories so often the chronology is almost absent once you reach the halfway point.

Overall it was fun. If you like wrestling stories and want to know what you can about the backstage shenanigans then this is decent. It isn't a masterpiece, but at least it kept my attention.

Dave Newman says

Not as much fun as watching a couple grown men pretend-punch each other with barbed wire but still pretty good.

Temple says

Funker did well. Great read and full of interesting tidbits and stories I hadn't heard. Funk (and his dad and bro) were some of the best of their time. Especially Terry. He seems like someone you could stop by his place and have some sweet tea with. Just shoo the sh*t. Great read!

Clint T. says

Terry signed my book over a cup of coffee with me, my dad, and himself at a local grocery store. Why would I not give it 5 Stars??

Daniel Ackermann says

While the book isn't that in-depth considering the length of Funk's career, what is provided is really insightful. The book jumps around somewhat, but it reads like a conversation with Terry Funk and his personality really shines through. Terry Funk really understands the business he has spent his entire life in, and he brings a positive albeit realistic and mature perspective that doesn't have a hint of bitterness to it. In all honesty, I hesitated to buy this book. I went back and forth on it multiple times before I finally bought it. As soon as I started reading it I realized I made the right decision.

Ray Daley says

If you consider yourself any kind of wrestling fan then buy and read this as it's an excellent book. Terry is frank, open and honest, exactly as you'd expect - he is himself.

It's educational (learn who the 1st choice for Ivan Drago was!) and Terry tells enough without truly breaking kayfabe a massive amount.

Probably the 2nd best wrestling biog I've read after Bret Harts.

Oliver Bateman says

Some quick observations:

- 1) There's not much detail in here, nor does Funk (who harbored few grudges, truth be told) shoot on his fellow wrestlers as other, less disgruntled grapplers have.
 - 2) It's notable that Funk cops to using steroids in 1989, because that was the year he looked his absolute best, physically speaking. He also notes that he was criticized that year by Dave Meltzer for looking too gaunt.
 - 3) How much money has Funk made, exactly? No matter how much, it seems like it's never enough. Mick Foley expresses a similar attitude toward the stockpiling of cash in *Have a Nice Day*, though he'll never be as effective as Funk was later in his career or as athletic as he was in his prime.
 - 4) Funk's thoughts on cutting promos and "chain wrestling" (he actually criticizes the "garbage wrestling" style of the 1990s) are quite interesting.
 - 5) Like most wrestler autobiographies, this is an extremely quick read. Recommended, but it's not in the Ole Anderson/Holly/Hart class of books.
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Amanda Rusk says

A great book.

This book tells the story of one of the most long lived people in the business. It offers a look at the territory days and shows the evolution of the industry through the years.

This book doesn't bury anyone but does give opinions on some of the characters both in and out of the ring.
