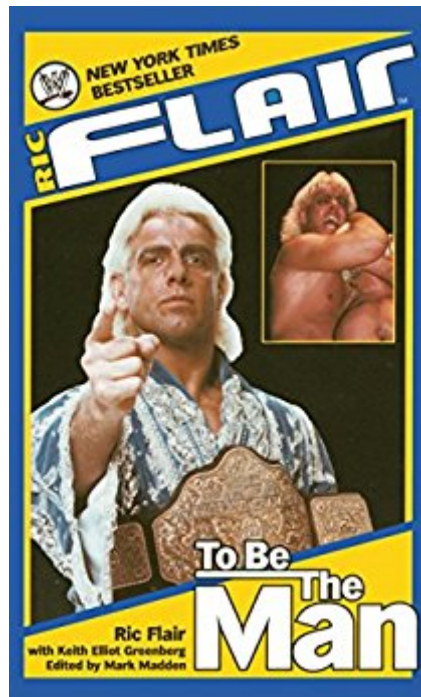


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Ric Flair: To Be The Man (WWE)



Synopsis

Throughout the years, there may have been equally charismatic performers, comparable athletes, and even better interviews, but none were blessed with the same combination of talents to manage to stay on top for over three decades. To wrestling fans, the Nature Boy is a platinum-blond deity, a sixteen-time world champion who accurately boasted that he could have a five-star match with a broom. No matter how limited the opponent, Flair had the skill and determination to bounce all over the mat, transforming his rival into a star. When the camera light went on, "Slick Ric" could convince viewers that, if they missed an upcoming match, a momentous life experience would pass them by. Flair's opponents were challenged with this simple taunt: "To be the man, you have to beat the man." Away from the arena, Richard Morgan Fliehr spent years struggling with his own concept of what it meant to be a man. He suffered periods of crushing self-doubt, marital strife and a "in a profession where there was room for only one Ric Flair" broken friendships. >, cowritten with Keith Elliot Greenberg, chronicles the anguish and exhilaration of Flair's life and career in painfully honest detail. In addition to his own words, Flair's story is enriched by anecdotes from ring greats like Superstar Billy Graham, Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat, Harley Race, Sgt. Slaughter, David Crockett, Arn Anderson, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, "Mean" Gene Okerlund, Shawn Michaels, Triple H, Undertaker and Brock Lesnar. >traces the rise of one of wrestling's most enduring superstars to the pinnacle of the sports entertainment universe, and is a must-read for every wrestling fan.

Book Information

File Size: 21888 KB

Print Length: 496 pages

Publisher: World Wrestling Entertainment (May 8, 2010)

Publication Date: May 11, 2010

Sold by: Simon and Schuster Digital Sales Inc

Language: English

ASIN: B003L77UNY

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #244,858 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #70
in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Individual Sports > Wrestling #84
in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Boxing, Wrestling & MMA > Wrestling
#160 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Wrestling

Customer Reviews

Let me preface my words with the following: I am a huge fan of Ric Flair and his work since the mid-80s, when I began watching wrestling regularly. I have met him on several occasions and he always seems gracious and courteous. So it was with much anticipation that I plowed through "To Be The Man." Needless to say, I was kind of disappointed. First, let me say that I thoroughly enjoyed reading through the parts of Ric's early and mid-career. The man has always entertained me, whether it be as heel or face. This was enough to warrant two strong stars. My first minor complaint is that Ric -- I love ya -- but you are not the same performer you were 10 years ago. Age is catching up with all of us and I got the impression from reading the book that you think you're still 35. If it were simply Ric's arrogance in the book, I could have lived with that. Hell, if you win 16 world titles, you have earned the right to brag a little bit. However, a large part of my disappointment comes with what I previously perceived to be one of Ric's strongest qualities: He is a company man. Regardless who the booker was in NWA/WCW, he always did whatever job was asked of him (sans the whole "drop the title to Luger" fiasco in 1991). Today, he remains a company man. This dramatically hurts his credibility, and it's evident in his personal -- and completely unnecessary attacks on Bret Hart (whom I thought he worked very well with in 1992), Randy Savage (another whom I thought sparked whenever the two were booked/fueled together), and Mick Foley (OK, I know those two don't like each other). Frankly, I think all three of the above are tremendous workers, all with different but successful styles. But Ric goes out and attacks these men -- all of whom have issues with Ric's current company.

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