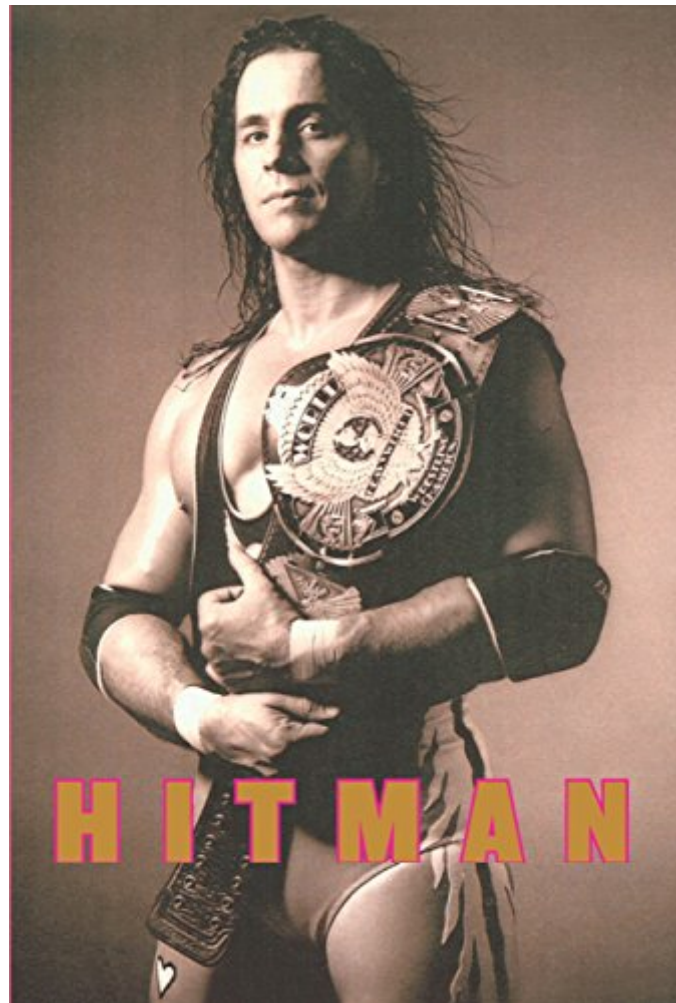


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Hitman: My Real Life In The Cartoon World Of Wrestling



Synopsis

Written without collaborators and based on decades of tape recordings he made throughout his career, HITMAN is Bret Hart's brutally honest, perceptive and startling account of his life in and out of the ring that proves once and for all that great things come in pink tights.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book blew away my expectations. Having read many of Bret Hart's articles in the Calgary Sun, I already knew that the "Excellence of Execution" is one who writes with sincerity. However, when I purchased this autobiography, I didn't expect him to be this brutally honest! And that's a good thing. There is no question about it, this is an R rated book (if there is such thing), which, needless to say, is not suitable for children. Wild stories of sex, drugs, and violence are casually narrated all throughout the book. However, to be fair, this autobiography has much more substance than just a series of wild tales. Bret tells us a great deal about the Hart family, the feuds they had, the good times and bad times they shared. He writes about his childhood and early years working for his father's famous Stampede Wrestling promotion in Calgary. From there he takes us overseas to countries like Puerto Rico and Japan where he nonchalantly recounts some bizarre stories that range from prostitution to narcotics. Some of Hart's recollections are quite funny, actually. However,

by the end of the book, it's the tragedies that stand out. Of course, Hart also elaborates on his illustrious career in the WWE where he became famous, and tells us about the friends he's made, the countries he's travelled to, the contracts he signed, his business relationship with WWE guru, Vince McMahon, and a whole lot more. Because of his many accomplishments in the ring, which he proudly writes about, I think certain readers will interpret that as being arrogant or narcissistic, especially when he writes about the loyalty of his fans and the many great matches he's had. Granted, when you look at it at face value it does appear like he's bragging about himself. But that's not the case.

Everyone but his beloved parents, Owen, and a few wrestlers were all liars and opportunists in Bret's "Cartoon World". That's what I took away from this autobiographical account of an interesting wrestler's life. While *The Hitman* seems to want to tell it like it is, I have to wonder how much of the truth is really in his writing? His feuds with his wife are mostly left unexplained, with at least a dozen "Julie was about to leave me again" type statements without much reason or insight besides the business being hard on them. Did she know about his affairs? Was there other personal reasons she wanted to leave? Bret never says. It might make HIM look like the bad guy for once. Bret skims over most anything that would paint him in a bad light. He takes no credit for the mid-90's WWE decline, which he was a big part of. He makes one passing mention about people 'lying' and saying he was "difficult to work with". I can see their point, from all the times he was in Vince or Bischoff's office complaining or being insecure. He may have been in the right about a number of these issues, but when the NwO or The Clique were running the show, instead of adapting to the realities of the business Bret chose to rebel and sulk. The last few chapters of the book are the most baffling to me, and make me worry for Bret. After Owen's wrongful-death suit is settled in the last few chapters he skims over the death of his father, his own stroke, a barely spoken-of second marriage, and leaves the reader wondering if he has really ever been able to move on. He is literally still blasting Triple-H and Shawn on the last two pages of his life story before talking about walking away with his head held high.

I have been a fan of wrestling since the very first Wrestlemania. I considered myself at one time to be a huge, die hard fan of the WWF. To this day, I've been to over twenty five house shows, live events and pay per views. One of the greatest memories I have as a child is shaking hands with Bret "Hitman" Hart, a man that to this day remains as a person that I greatly admire and look up to. When I first heard that he was writing a book, I was excited. The book itself is fantastic. Like other

reviews on this page, I have also read a lot of wrestling books ranging from The Rock to Batista, but nobody quite captures the spirit of the business like Hart. He chronicles his career from Stampede Wrestling to the end of his career in the WCW. He goes into great detail about how his one vice on the road was women, and that women may have saved him from the drugs and alcohol that plagued the locker room. All the details in the book about how seriously he took his job as a role model reminded me just what I saw in Hart as a child. Hart goes to great lengths to glorify the good old days of wrestling, previous to the Attitude Era of WWE, when wrestlers told the story with their bodies. I watch the WWE today, and yet after reading this book, it made me long for the days of Randy Savage, The British Bulldog and Rowdy Roddy Piper. It would not surprise me at all to hear if many other people felt nostalgic after reading this. The most interesting parts of the book come from, of course, the Montreal Screwjob and after. I have heard Shawn Michael's part of the story, and even though I am also a huge fan of HBK, I know that Hart's side of things makes the most sense.

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