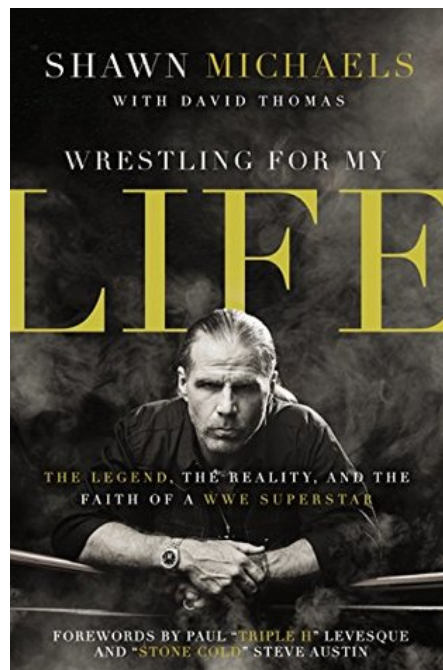




Wrestling for My Life: The Legend, the Reality, and the Faith of a WWE Superstar

Shawn Michaels , David Thomas

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In Wrestling for My Life, WWE superstar Shawn Michaels shares from his heart about the highs and lows of his life inside the WWE. Included are some never-before-shared stories and an intimate look into his career as well as stories of hunting, family, and faith.

With millions of fans, Michaels had adulation and all the attention he could ask for, but he discovered there was something more. When he became a committed Christian during his years in the WWE it had to affect everything. Michaels reveals what it is like to be a man of faith in this unusual world and shares insights for all of us.

Wrestling for My Life: The Legend, the Reality, and the Faith of a WWE Superstar Details

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From Reader Review Wrestling for My Life: The Legend, the Reality, and the Faith of a WWE Superstar for online ebook

Bob Allen says

This is a difficult to rate -- is it a 3-star or a 4-star book? -- and a difficult review to write. I am not a fan of professional wrestling and had absolutely no idea who Shawn Michaels is. I selected the book mostly because I have such a low regard for wrestling and wanted to see what one of these actors had to say about how his faith impacted his career.

This is not primarily a book about professional wrestling. There is a lot of the wrestling life, but the purpose of the book is to show the change that Christ made in Michaels' life and in his career.

My take-aways from the book:

- Professional wrestling is, as I've always known, acting. Victory and defeat are illusions that are determined ahead of any match. It is athletic acting -- the actors are incredibly strong and dedicated to their acting. They are agile and some of their moves are quite gymnastic. There is the very real possibility of injury with these massive bodies colliding with each other, with tables, with floors, and with other objects. But, in the end, it's only a show.
- Shawn seems to have had a very real conversion experience. While some might argue that he tended to compromise his faith in his chosen profession, he did make what seem to be very honest attempts to live out his faith in the context of this very secular and often very non-Christian environment. And, I think he largely succeeded.

I think the writing was pretty flat, stilted. But I think David Thomas (listed as "Contributor", but I suspect his real task was to make the book readable) allowed Michaels' "voice" to come through and I suspect that fans of wrestling will like that -- one isn't hearing someone else telling Michaels' story. That is not, by any stretch of the imagination, a comment on wrestling fans, just an acknowledgement that the book is not sanitized they will hear Michaels tell his story.

There's nothing particularly new in Michaels' telling of his conversion and the change Christ made. However, I think he speaks to an audience that doesn't get many, if any, opportunities to hear this perspective in professional wrestling.

In the end, while this is a 3-star book for me, I expect that wrestling fans and particularly fans of Shawn Michaels will find this book a welcome and interesting explanation of his life and career.

(Disclaimer: I received a free review copy of this book as a part of the publisher's BookLook Bloggers programme. I was free to write the review I thought the book deserved and received no further compensation except for continued participation in the programme.)

Alicia says

An interesting look at the career of Shawn Michaels from his comeback and through his retirement from WWE. This book focuses on how his relationship with the Lord transformed his life and made his return possible. I thought it was interesting how Shawn described being born-again and the changes that came to his in-ring persona because of it. A definite must read for a Shawn Michaels fan. I just wish the book would have been a little longer!

I received a copy of this book through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Jennifer Schultheis says

I love Shawn Michaels. He was easily one of my favorite wrestlers in the WWE.

"I've got the moves, that really move 'em.

I send chills up.

Up and down their spines.

I'm just a sexy boy,

Sexy boy"

Sorry....now I have his theme song stuck in my head. Anyway, when I saw this book, I knew I had to read it. I loved reading his story about him finding faith. Going from a cocky superstar, who had it all, to finding what's missing in his life. He talks about how wrestling was his number one priority until he found his wife Rebecca and Christianity. This is what this book is about. Him finding peace and joy through Christ. Wrestling for My Life is well written, extremely refreshing and eye opening for fans of Shawn Michaels.

Fairuzaza Asmat says

Chose this book due to it is about Shawn Michaels aka The Heartbreak Kid! I grew up watching this guy in TV and wanted to know his journey. Didn't know his journey was about him becoming 'Christian' again; which kinda related to my journey in discovering my own 'Deen'.

Overall, the journey kinda relates much to what is happening to me now. He talked on how the faith brought him to a second opportunity in life, believing Jesus no matter how difficult his life can be upon choosing decisions and motivate/ mentoring other Christians to live a good life. The best part: being with his wife Rebecca that really held him this long to continue with the life that he believes Jesus wanted him to.

For somebody who might want to seek an improved faith (regardless Christian or not), this book can be an eye opening and who knows God wants you to read this book when you reached a low point in believing God.

Michael Broome says

I really enjoyed this book. I grew up a wrestling fan so the wrestling? part of this book intrigued me but I knew this book was much more about how Shawn's life before Christ compared against his life in Christ based on the intro of the book. I wanted to read about this change from Shawn Michaels himself. I distinctly remember watching wrestling with my Granddad as a kid when he was still alive. I knew who Shawn Michaels the wrestler was. I had watched him both before and after his first retirement from wrestling. You could definitely tell something had changed about him during his second go around in WWE. I am also a Christian so I wanted to hear Shawn's story. It always amazes me to hear how God brings people from so many different backgrounds and experiences to the same place when they become a follower--- to Jesus Christ, his Son. This was an easy read for me due to the wrestling and religious nature of the book but Shawn also did an amazing job keeping it simple and being upfront with his thoughts on happenings in his life. He tells a few wrestling stories in the book but this is really a book about a man's life before and after Christ. I would recommend it especially to those who like autobiographies, wrestling, or testimonial stories. I am thrilled for Shawn Michaels and his family and the work that God has done in their lives.

Derrick says

This book is so much more than just a wrestler's biography. Shawn Michaels lets the reader know this at the beginning of the book when he states the goal of his book was not to tell the story of just a professional wrestler, but to tell the story of a professional wrestler who is a devout Christian and desires to use this platform to spread the word of his faith.

I have read many professional wrestlers' biographies, but have never read a book written as a Christian biography. I was impressed how this book found a balance between satisfying the reader who is looking for behind the wrestling scene insight and readers who are looking to understand how someone who is in the wrestling entertainment industry can hold onto their Christian beliefs while still being a part of an industry that is known to push the envelope in terms of violent and sometimes sexual content.

Shawn Michaels has written a book that allows you access to his mental thought process as his life spiraled out of control and how his belief in a higher power, and his willingness to turn his life over to God, allowed him to realize and live a life that proves you can have it all if you allow God's plans for you to unfold in the way he so desires them to. Shawn has found peace in his life, but he shares the struggles and obstacles that he endured, and still endures, in his quest to be the man God wants him to be, while still battling the daily struggles that life presents.

The book gave me a lot to think about in my own life and I think that was part of Shawn's objective in writing this book. He strips away the façade of him being "The Showstopper", "The Heartbreak Kid" and "Mr. Wrestlemania" and allows himself to be seen as an equal and peer to the reader. He shows that while we all travel a different path through life, in the end we are all simply God's children and in the end we all stand before him and are judged by the life we chose to live. This was an aspect that really made the book entertaining and fulfilling.

This was a great addition to both the wrestling biography genre and the Christian biography genre. I cannot recommend this book strongly enough. I will never look at Shawn Michaels the same way and have the utmost respect for the journey he has taken. He is someone to be emulated and is a strong role model in a profession that seems to be filled with people who have a lot of personal character behind the character we see on the screen.

Daniel Stern says

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3.0 out of 5 starsHard to stay indifferent to the Heartbreak Kid's story (3.5**)

ByT. SkylarTOP 500 REVIEWERVINE VOICEon July 27, 2015

Format: Hardcover

First and foremost, wrestling is not the focal point of Shawn Michaels' second book. His first oeuvre was commissioned by the WWE and more wrestling oriented. No this time around it's about one man's journey to Christ and how he changed his ways and turned his life around.praying became a huge part of Shawn's life and that is the focus of the book. It's also about the love of his life, Rebecca, and their kids and Michaels' love for live.

There is still a lot of wrestling in it, of course, but it goes deeper into who Shawn is as a person and what happened and happens outside the ring. Michaels discusses some of the issues he encountered with wrestling as he came back following his conversion. It gives a good look into his psyche as he was making his comeback to wrestling and the recovery it took after four years away from the sport. I find that the book focuses primarily on the years 2002 up until the present day. A lot of details is given into those years and we get great stories with Vince McMahon, Triple H and more. It was fantastic to read about all the thought and effort that went into his matches with Undertaker at Wrestlemania 25 and 26. It was surprising to read that their first match was only allotted fifteen minutes (they went well over that) and that the Undertaker first learned of the rematch watching Raw! We also get flashbacks of Michaels' dad supporting him when he decided he wanted to be a wrestler and his early days with tag-team partner Marty Janetty. So the book isn't about wrestling but there's still a lot of wrestling in it.

This time around it wasn't a book the WWE asked Shawn to write, but rather one that he made on his own terms for his own reasons. I was hoping for more of a complete memoir that would cover both his in-ring accomplishments and his life outside of it. Wrestling with is has portions of both but I don't see it as either. It ends up being very thin and brief (about 150 pages. It was a good read and I felt that there was a chance to have his whole story told. Aside it's main goal of sharing Michaels' faith and his change of life, it feels like it merely scratches the surface . It's solid yet very quick read. My only complain and why I gave it a "low" rating is that it is such a quick read and couldn't believe how thin it was at first. More content would've made this an excellent book instead of a good book but ultimately it's hard to stay indifferent and not to be touched by Michaels words and story.

Read less

Paul Wardman says

"I'm not competing for any Christian of the Year awards. If you ask me how I'm doing, I am liable to say

"Great," "Fantastic", or even "This has been a tough day" if that's what the truth is. But you are not going to hear me answer, "Blessed and high favored, oh brother!" I don't speak Christianese. That's not who I am." I'm sorry but at times that's exactly what it sounds like Shawn is doing. I have no problem with people discovering religion, without it Shawn probably wouldn't be alive today so it's good to see him embrace it. I also understand that as it is a huge part of his life he's going to talk about it. But there's talking about it and then there's the feeling it's been rammed down your throat.

This is the latter.

This is Shawn's second book and while the first book mostly covered his wrestling career and felt like it had little to no actual input from him this feels like the ghost writer was just there to get the punctuation etc correct and covers his life since he first retired from wrestling, returned, found religion and retired for a second and final time.

Shawn is very open about how he acted in his pre-Christian days, how he was perceived and how it has changed his life. It's also not solely a wrestling book. Yes he talks about his return to the ring but he also talks about his life away from the spotlight and his love of the outdoors.

All of this is fine, the wrestling parts were very intriguing, especially observations on how the locker room has changed and his reconciliation with Bret Hart. Learning more about what a celebrity you have an interest in does away from their fame is part of the reason you buy a book about them and this delivered. And the religious aspect would have been fine. In moderation. It didn't feel like there was any situation where Shawn wouldn't try to add God to what he was telling you, and it really got too much. He also, in my opinion at least, highlighted the narrow mindness of people within the Christian church. Being chastised for saying the word "Damn" on television (and when I read he had a very southern drawl I instantly pictured a Brother Love type of character and couldn't take him serious) or being asked how he could play a heel and still be a Christian just smacked of plain stupidity.

I finished this book in a day, it's only 161 pages long. Because of the length and the continuous groans I've had to ask myself a few questions.

*Was the book worth £8? Yes and no. it had enough content that I really enjoyed to justify the price but on the other hand it's so short that afterwards I was left feeling like I should have just rented it from a library.

*Am I glad I read it? Yes, for the same reason as above, although I wish I'd not payed for it

*Would I recommend other fans buy / read it? No and yes. By all means read the book and make your own mind up, but don't pay for it. Check your local library and if they don't have it request they buy it in. It's such a short book that it's hard to justify paying for it. If you can't find any other way then please don't pay full price for it, I'm sure it'll turn up in charity shops or nice and cheap on Amazon.

Thomas Maluck says

I haven't read Michaels's first book, so maybe there was material in there that would have helped flesh out this skinny born-again narrative, but there wasn't enough meat here.

I don't mind reading about someone's religious experience at all, but in many sections Michaels has little to offer beyond "I prayed about it then did the right thing." Anytime he does a before-after comparison about the WWF/WWE is effective, though. I also liked reading about the change in locker room culture that happened while he was away and the newfound brotherhood that he supported after his comeback. However, when his contrast to these positive experiences is "I used to chase women and abuse every drug in the book," that feels like vague lip-service that doesn't do his recovery justice. Tell us how you plummet before you take us to the summit! Then there's his anecdote about how a friend showed him internet porn one time and his wife took their child and left for the night in the hope that he would follow her and promise to turn his

life around (she had to come back herself the next day, but it's okay he prayed about it then did the right thing). Also, a religious friend challenged his compromise to say the word "damn" during a performance. I wouldn't mind matters of porn addiction and lowest-common-denominator entertainment being brought up as challenging issues, but... the resolutions to these threads are so tame and paper-thin that they barely function as social anecdotes, let alone cautionary tales.

Well, I suppose there is the cautionary tale of using one's religion to justify a slight cash-in of a memoir.

Matt Adair says

Read this on a flight from Phoenix to Atlanta. Really enjoyed how Shawn tells the story of his wrestling career and discipleship as a great storyteller and with a solid grasp of basic Christian theology.

Peter Glover says

If you a a new staring out Christian I believe this is a great self help book. It talks more about Shawn and his comeback as a Christian allowing him to get back in the ring. I wanted for it to focus more on the wrestling aspect of it. I am glad Shawn is saved, that's an understatement, I just wanted to know more on the wrestling side. If you are a new Christian changing your life, this is the book for you, just not me.

Marla says

Loved this book a must read powerful story

Jen says

Ok, I'll admit it. I was into wrestling when I was a child. Razor Ramon was my favorite and my brother and I only watched WWF. WCW didn't exist for us. Shawn Michaels wasn't hugely on my radar, but I knew who he was. I admit, I requested this book because it brought back memories and I was curious about the wrestling world from that time period by an insider. I was also rather curious to see how he dealt with that world as a Christian. I had no idea he was one.

And he wasn't, until after he came back to wrestling after his first retirement. Complete 180 in how he behaved with the other wrestlers behind the curtain and how his storylines went in front of the camera.

This book was very insightful and humble. He wasn't bragging about anything, other than God and how God's plan was unfolding, from even before Shawn was a Christian. Hind-sight is 20/20 and Shawn Michaels applied it to his life and was shocked and awed by God's love for him and others. He shares his mistakes and his following the road God planned for him, before he took Christ as his Lord and Savior, and afterwards. He admits he's not magically perfect because he's now a Christian, just that he can deal with things better when they do happen.

His wife was really an amazing person, praying for him instead of nagging. She is also a strong Christian and

their kids are as well. It's great to see how God works in the lives of all, money, position, fame, have nothing to do with how God treats us all. Even the powerful can be humble and thankful and blessed by God.

Not sure that makes a whole lot of sense, but I really enjoyed reading this book and you can feel the love he has for God coming through the words on the page. It takes guts to share the ugly parts of one's life, along with the good and the bad, but he does it. Not to sensationalize it, not to shock or name names. He wants to show where he came from and how God's love and his accepting it changed him for the better. He wants to share it because he wants the same for everyone. That's powerful.

Really good book, four solid stars. I would recommend this for wrestling fans and those who enjoy reading about the lives of famous people who see the light and decide to follow God's will and not their own.

My thanks to NetGalley and Zondervan Non-Fiction for an eARC copy of this book to read and review.

Jason Schneeberger says

I received an advanced copy of this book through Zondervan and Netgalley for an honest review. The official street date for this title is February 10th 2015.

Shawn Michaels was always one of my favorite wrestlers; few guys could put on a show like he did in the ring, throughout his career. He is understandably considered one of the greatest wrestlers of all time.

WRESTLING FOR MY LIFE is the second book that Shawn has pinned (co-wrote by David Thomas) and this time around, Shawn takes us through the second half of his career which began in 2002 and ended in 2010, but it doesn't stop there. Shawn makes it very clear at the beginning of the book that this isn't going to be solely a wrestling book. The wrestling side of Shawn is present, as is his love for the outdoors and his current television show about it, but the main theme behind WRESTLING FOR MY LIFE is rather a look into how his Christian faith transformed his life in every regard. Shawn tells us how he and his wife Rebecca met (a former WCW Nitro girl, which I did not previously know) and their journey to finding God, Shawn's return to the ring and the trepidations that came with that and ultimately him coming to peace with retiring from the ring to be a husband, father and pursue his passion for the outdoors.

The thing I really liked about this book is that while it's main theme is structured around Shawn's life altering decision to take up his cross and follow Christ, I never felt like he was being preachy, which I will admit, I had thought might be the case going into it. God, Jesus or faith in general is mentioned on virtually every page in the book, but it's done in a tasteful, respectful and non pushy way. Shawn is without question a changed man from the brash and cocky "sexy boy" that we all knew earlier in his career. His 2002 return showed that he was different, but in this book his humble nature is genuine and he isn't pushing his faith on you, but rather telling you the changes it made to his life and how exactly they came about. The books culmination of Shawn coming to terms with Bret Hart over the infamous Montreal Screwjob and how both of them found forgiveness towards one another, plays right into Shawn's overall message of love and forgiveness that he presents with this book.

A full on wrestling examination, this book is not. It is however an encouraging and uplifting look at how this man's life was changed for the better through his salvation. I may not share all of the beliefs that Shawn talks about in this book, but I always judge a book on how well it is written, how well it conveys its message and how captivating the story is, rather than letting my personal beliefs get in the way. From that angle, WRESTLING FOR MY LIFE greatly succeeds. Although this is a ghost written book, it is very much

Shawn's voice throughout and he makes it very clear that just because he now walks a life of faith, he is a flawed man who has made mistakes, but has taken the steps necessary to try and improve himself and in a humbled fashion as well. Combining at under 200 pages, WRESTLING FOR MY LIFE is a short book and I easily blazed through it in less than a day, so needless to say, I greatly enjoyed this one and highly recommend checking it out. I give this book a 4/5!

F says

I was never a big Shawn Michaels fan... I didn't even know who he was when he made his comeback. Then I got interested and started watching from afar. I read his first book with some interest and my wife recently bought me the Kindle edition of this, his second book. I have a lot of respect for the man and he has come a long way. He has grown a lot in his Christian walk and that is evidenced in this book.

To those who complain that he is trying to force Christianity on them the answer is simple. No, he's not. This is basically an autobiography and he is including what has become one of the biggest aspects of his life- his relationship to God which affects all other relationships. You should complain if he tried to hide it. He's not flaunting it- he is telling us how Jesus changed, and continues to change, his life. God bless him.
