



## In The Pit With Piper

*Rowdy Roddy Piper*

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## **In The Pit With Piper** Rowdy Roddy Piper

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

He takes readers back to his life as a teenage runaway and his first match, when he stepped into the ring for \$25. He recalls his triumph as the youngest World Light Heavyweight Champion, and how he helped make the World Wrestling Federation the phenomenon it is today with little more than a microphone stand and a bow tie.

From a man who joined the game long before it emerged as big-time entertainment comes a story that tells it like it is-and that's filled with as much excitement as the jam-packed arenas where he fought his fiercest foes.

## **In The Pit With Piper Details**

Date : Published November 5th 2002 by Berkley Trade

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Author : Rowdy Roddy Piper

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## **From Reader Review In The Pit With Piper for online ebook**

### **Donovan Rowlands says**

It was the perfect light read for me after reading 3 books from ex Scientology members.

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### **Trent Zelazny says**

Fascinating story about the life of a very fascinating man. You don't much need to be into pro wrestling to appreciate this bio. What a character, and one of my biggest childhood heroes. My only complaint is that I wanted it to be longer.

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### **Luke Koran says**

As the third greatest sports entertainer in the realm of professional wrestling in the 1980s, "Rowdy" Roddy Piper puts forth a compelling autobiography in "In the Pit with Piper." Though I rank Piper as the third greatest performer of the '80s following Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan, Piper's book ranks slightly above Hogan's two autobiographies though both fall far below the threshold that Flair set with the masterpiece "To Be the Man." However, Piper stands alone among these legends as his book was created outside the authority of any wrestling federation; thus, the true feelings of a man in the wrestling scene of both the territorial and WWF-takeover eras of the 1970s and '80s is finally shared with the public! Piper proves that he, indeed, was the biggest rebel in the history of professional wrestling.

Piper does a fantastic job in detailing his early wrestling career on the West Coast and his significant role in the main event of the first Wrestlemania. He is also quite successful in covering his experiences with various promoters like Vince McMahon and Jim Crockett, wrestlers such as Adrian Adonis, Andre the Giant, and Ric Flair, and the institutional-wide plague which he calls "The Sickness." However, "Rowdy" fails his readers in some areas of his life - such as his childhood and acting career - that lack details or any coverage whatsoever; however, as he is writing this book from pure memory and not a print or audio journal such as Bret Hart, Piper gets a small pass in my eyes. (Sometimes, though, it would be nice for Piper to add more details rather than assuming the reader knows the entire background of the situation - I got lost several times when Piper went from point to point with little to no explanation.) Nonetheless, as both a avid reader and wrestling fan, Piper's repetitiveness throughout the book - even in consecutive paragraphs!, inconsistencies or over-exaggerations on recalling well-known events such as "kicking" Cyndi Lauper, never once identifying the year a certain event or chapter occurred in, and finally, the lack of a good, fulfilling conclusion, all hurt Piper's book in my eyes.

Piper proves himself as an old-school wrestler who was dedicated to all aspects of this profession, especially upholding its pride and realism. "Rowdy" truly lived the ultimate rags-to-riches story, though he never sacrificed his moral composition to further himself in any way. More than anything else, Piper's message to both potential wrestlers and wrestling fans alike regarding promoters and his unique perspective on the very real epidemic of "The Sickness" remains the greatest contribution of this entire book. Unfortunately, "Rowdy" also became a victim of the thing he so accurately observed, though not before he put the whole world on alert. "Rowdy" Roddy Piper may have cherished being the biggest rebel in the history of

professional wrestling, but he also truly had a heart of gold who stood up for both his personal and professional family in even the most dire of circumstances. "Hot Rod", thank you for the memories!

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### **Chuck Bush says**

#### **Great story, poorly produced Kindle version.**

Roddy Piper was an arrogant, opinionated loud mouth. He was also one of my favorite wrestlers. He wrote a great book, didn't hold back. A great read for any wrestling fan.

The Kindle version of the book contains the pictures advertised on the cover, however, they display on my Kindle Fire HDX as black (mostly) and white photocopies.

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### **Nila says**

I love Piper and I miss Pipers pit but I am glad he came back into wrestling awhile ago. I bought my book autographed on-line, love it!

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### **Patrick Adams says**

Along with comedians, another genre of stories I love are the lives of professional wrestlers. Having been a fan for over 30 years, I grew up watching a lot of them in their prime, as they aged and sadly, as they die way too soon.

Rowdy Roddy Piper was my absolute favorite. Loved everything about him, and the fact that he reveled in being the bad guy. Wrestling stories are only as compelling as the villain in the equation. That being said, while I liked this book a lot, when I was done I couldn't help but feel there was something missing and there were many stories that could have been told but weren't.

I was legitimately sad when he passed. The common thread of all of these stories is how the lifestyle takes years off of their lives. He was a legend in the business, and wrestling's popularity is owed in large part to him.

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### **Bret says**

Not really a book; more like a guy talking into a tape recorder and another guy writing it down into paragraphs.

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### **Steve says**

This was a self-indulgent book that did nothing for my sympathy for Mr.Piper. As a fellow Canadian, I

would expect a better criticism of the wrestling world, not just a critic of the P, or McMahon. I am no way, a mark for McMahon but Roddy started the book off really good, and then kind of dwindle off on these tirades, littered with side stories that made me feel completely misdirected. Overall, just very disappointing.

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### **Miladylc says**

I Enjoyed this book  
Learned a bit more about the world of  
the what's now called the WWE

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### **Big says**

I was rather disappointed with this book. Roddy Piper is one of the most creative and innovative characters whoever entered the squared circle, but his book was rather uninteresting. It seemed as if Roddy had a chip on his shoulder and didn't lose it throughout the whole book.

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### **Tim Dunn says**

This is a book that probably should have been bigger, and maybe some day he'll come out with another that will tell even more stories....if Foley can three, this guy should be able to have about eleven.

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### **Tom says**

I promise, I'm reading all these wrestler autobiographies as research.

My favorite line: "I have never backstabbed anybody in my profession, but I'll be the first to admit to front-stabbing them right in the face!"

Otherwise, not so great, and not all that interesting. Mediocre writing and it overlooks the most compelling aspects of the story in the way that most celebrity autobiographies do.

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### **Mr. Pease says**

A highly-entertaining read for wrestling fans, especially those who know the call-it-as-he-sees-it style of Hot Rod. Some inflammatory comments are certainly questionable in their accuracy, but true fans of wrestling know that half-truths and allegations are part of the charm.

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## **Ryan Madland says**

"Rowdy" Roddy Piper is one of the loudest and biggest names in professional wrestling. He's wrestled huge stars like Hulk Hogan, Andre the Giant, and even boxed Mr. T. "In the Pit with Piper" details all those events and much more.

I've read some great wrestling biographies i.e. Mick Foley and some bad ones i.e. Ted Dibiase and I would have to say that this is one of the better ones.. Roddy Piper never bit his tongue in front of the camera and he doesn't hold back here either.

We learn about how Piper got involved with wrestling in the first place, as well as when and why he added the kilt and bagpipes to advance his character. He talks about the highlights and lowlights of his career in the squared circle. All of which is pretty interesting, humorous, and often depressing.

Its not all has glamorous as it seems in front of the camera and the details given in the book do a great job in showing that. Wrestlers in general back then often didn't get paid a lot and didn't have the best living conditions. Its amazing some of the stuff Roddy has been through.

My only complaint is that it seemed like they went over a few things to fast and didn't touch upon some of Roddy's more controversial moments. I really would have liked to hear more about his match with Bad News Brown at Wrestlemania, which saw Roddy paint half his body black. I also would have liked to hear him say more about Owen Hart, besides his confrontation with Vince Russo about the subject.

If you are a wrestling fan, I think you'll definitely enjoy reading this biography. As I mentioned before, it really is one of the better wrestling biographies that is available to read. I hope that he does come out with another one as a follow up that details his battle with cancer and some other stories of his career.

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## **Matt says**

This was maybe the most self-serving book I've ever read. This was not really the autobiography I was looking for. It was really a collection of wrestling stories, some from the "old days" and some from the WWF. Quite often it seemed like just a platform for Piper to rip certain people he didn't like, mainly promoters. I've no doubt his feelings are justified but it seemed like there was probably another side to most of his stories that would be quite different from how he remembers it. I think a little more personal responsibility and less self promotion would have gone a long way.

Like most other 12 yr. old boys in the 80's I was into WWF and Piper was a big part of that for sure. I've heard interviews w/ him where he mentions his tough childhood in Saskatoon, living on the streets as a kid, etc. I was really hoping for him to get into that since it seemed so interesting. Either he wasn't comfortable getting into that part of his past and family or thought people only wanted to hear about wrestling. Also, there is really no discussion of his movie career. By and large the stories he does tell are great but I got the feeling you could write a book out of the stuff that was omitted from this book.

Finally, the writing is just pretty bad. Many things aren't written clearly, things were obviously written out of sequence and things not explained initially, are revisited again later, etc. I put the blame for all of this on the book's ghost writer and editor. Piper's personality and gregariousness certainly comes through and it's the

only thing that saves the book.

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### **George says**

A rollicking tale of one of the greatest wrestlers & entertainers of the modern era of wrestling. For those who are used to seeing the glitz, glamor, & goofiness of what's called wrestling today, Piper's story shows how much hard work & paying one's dues went into his career.

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### **Bobby Parker says**

Really awesome. Crazy, crazy wrestling stories. Replacing a guy who has severe asthma's inhaler with lighter fluid and him convulsing/near dying on the ground? What a crazy world.

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### **Brent Darling says**

Easy read, I ripped through it in a few hours. But overall, a letdown.

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### **Matt Murphy says**

An okay autobiography, but as I've written about many old-school wrestlers' books, it's hard to believe everything that's written in it. That said, the story itself was entertaining.

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### **D says**

It flew through 1987-1992, peak years in WWF.

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