



## Broken Harts: The Life and Death of Owen Hart

*Martha Hart, Eric Francis*

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## **Broken Harts: The Life and Death of Owen Hart** Martha Hart , Eric Francis

Owen's wife Martha, tells the story of their life together from the days as high school sweethearts, through Owen's rise to fame in the WWF.

### **Broken Harts: The Life and Death of Owen Hart Details**

Date : Published January 8th 2004 by M. Evans and Company (first published 2002)

ISBN : 9781590770368

Author : Martha Hart , Eric Francis

Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Biography, Nonfiction



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## **From Reader Review Broken Harts: The Life and Death of Owen Hart for online ebook**

### **Annette Miller says**

I don't remember when I read this book, but it made me cry all the way through. I couldn't imagine the pain and heartache Martha Hart went through when Owen passed away. Compelling book. It gives you a look at the other side of pro wrestling.

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### **Courtney says**

I feel for Martha, I really do. But I did not love this book, and she did not come off well to me. And there were errors, which always bothers me ;)

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### **Lisa says**

Working in and around the wrestling business for far too many years (I didn't say I was proud of it, but at least I have nothing to be embarrassed about as far as my role is concerned), this story is literally killing me to read. I'll come back to it in a few months.....

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### **Superilla says**

Compared to other wrestling books, this one falls flat. Sadly, the thing that makes this book so readable is that the Hart family and Owen's death are both so incredibly tragic, like a train wreck you can't avert your eyes from.

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### **Cassidy says**

Very Honest, open and detailed. This book's best quality is how raw and emotional every bit of it is. I encourage every wrestling fan to read this book if they want a true look at the events surrounding Owen's unfortunate passing. The book's early chapters had some great stories on Owen's life behind the scenes with his family that you will not find elsewhere.

The only downside of this book, is like many books that are a personal commentary, some of the comments made about the wrestling business are understandably very biased. Martha at points speculates what Owen felt about certain events, contrasting what co-workers have said about the same situation. However, it is interesting to get a full view of each person who knew him if you read this book along with the many other wrestling novels that mention him.

It is a must read, tug at your heart type of book, that was close to having me in tears at several points. It is a

tragedy in every sense of the word throughout the middle, but ends on a more positive moving note.

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### **A.M. Torres says**

This was a very sad book. Whatever people may feel about Martha; she has a right to feel the way she does. Owen's death was so unnecessary and this is what makes his death the most tragic one in the long list of wrestler's deaths. A stunt that never had to happen. It was hard reading this and I believe Martha could have gotten far more if she didn't settle despite the agreement Ellie (Bret's sister)faxed to Vince's lawyers. Then again I can't be fully sure of that. The book was good overall, but very sad to read. There were times Martha could have chosen her words better however. She did refer to Owen's parents as "These people" (I think she was referring to the Hart family in general) and I didn't like that. Stu and Helen were Owen's mother and father, and they could hardly be blamed for the greed of some of their kids who did all they could to use and manipulate them. They did stand with Martha and I didn't blame them for what Ellie, Bruce and others did. And to say that Owen was the white sheep in a very black family was not nice especially when others like Bret, Keith and Georgia had done so much to help her with the suit at that time. She does acknowledge their help in her book, but I agree with Bret when he said she shouldn't have publicly painted them all with the same brush. So she didn't handle everything perfectly, but this was a woman hurting and this book expresses so much of that.

A.M Torres Author of Love Child.

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### **Katie says**

some grammatical errors--but a worthy read for people interested in the darker side of the wrestling business

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### **Shannon Marshall Lush says**

Owen Hart's young widow exorcises a tremendous amount of demons in this book. After the chapter-and-verse, all too brief recounting of Owen's upbringing in the infamous Hart Family (which definitely could have used more fleshing out; at one point, Martha takes note of Owen revealing that he 'always feared' his father Stu, but unfortunately this is used to merely underscore how stern the patriarch of the family was at times, and his relationship with his father is not explored in much more depth than this), and a speed-read of his career, the reader is taken along on that tragic day with Owen, to his last moments of life. Martha reconstructs his final day and what it entailed based on numerous eye witnesses and courtroom testimony. She pulls no punches when it comes to the disdain that she and Owen had for the WWE product as presented at the time, otherwise known as the 'Attitude Era'. She truly establishes that fate dictated that Owen would die in the ring, as he feared he would according to her.

By parts tragic, by parts revealing, this book reinforces that Owen Hart was by and large what many fellow wrestlers and people who encountered him said: a devoted, loving family man who wished to make a career for himself outside of the wrestling world, yet felt the pull towards it due to genetics, natural ability, and literally being born to be a wrestler. Martha at times expends a great deal of bile towards the entire wrestling community and (understandably) WWE, and her tendency to run off on tangents about them tend to detract from the purpose of the book as a biography: in short, it is more to do with the 'death' than the 'life' of Owen

Hart. There is the usual Hart family in-fighting and backbiting, prevalent in nearly every DVD or book in which they are the subject matter. Owen as a person is only ever referred to in the most glowing terms; even his accidental injury to Steve Austin is glossed over and Martha speculates that Austin 'faked it', shifting the blame to the victim.

This book fails to reveal intimate details; it rarely recounts Hart's own words to his wife, other than his general feelings of not being satisfied with his WWE career for numerous reason. It is a sad tale nonetheless, of a life wasted for no clear reason other than to pursue a fleeting moment of entertainment to wrestling fans. The finger of blame falls squarely, in Martha's eyes, on the WWE, and the latter half of the book details her bitter and painful lawsuit with WWE. While readers would have appreciated a much more detailed exploration of Owen Hart's life, Martha is guarded in her comments; to this end, the book feels like reading someone's private journals, and it feels like it was not written for the general public as much as for Hart's children, in order to preserve a positive memory of a good father. As a biography, it is a selective one. As a document that recounts in some detail the sad and tragic death of a Canadian icon, it stands up well. This book is worth reading, despite its flaws.

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### **Kimberly says**

Owen Hart is the main reason ( even though he passed away in may of '99 ) why I still watch wrestling every single week. so far I am enjoying it very much. I can feel Martha Hart's pain while I read this, a very emotional read indeed !!! I remember how hysterical I was when Owen passed away and reading this book brings me back to that very night and what I did when I heard the news about Owen's passing.

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### **Ryan Madland says**

I really wish this was a book Martha Hart didn't have to write. She does a great job of giving us some insight into the details of Owen Hart the man, as well as the wrestler. She does go into some graphic detail about his death as well, but its not too over the top, where its unnecessary, but she does it so we know what Owen went through. I went into it thinking she was going to be bitter, which she would have every right to be, but she really handles herself with class. As a fan of wrestling or even if you're just looking for a good biography, then I definitely recommend this book to you.

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### **Greg says**

This book is decent but the author is a little too into her own world. I do admit that I have to admire the philanthropy she has done in Owen's name.

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### **Melyssa Dawn Michaels says**

Having grown up watching this man on television and in pay per views, even going so far as to meet him at shows over the years before his untimely death, reading this book again was a pleasure for me. To be reminded of the man he was, in and out of the ring and the person he was when he was performing. This was

a very well written, concise book and one that I will continue to read over and over as the years pass. Martha not only gives us a few into her life with Owen, but also a very deep look into the way in which he died which for any fan of the wrestling business, I think is much needed since there wasn't much shown or said by the WWE following his death.

My son recently used this book as the one he wished to write a book report on which sparked me into reading it again after purchasing it the year it was written. Going back in time to that fateful day in May of 1999, it was like watching it happen all over again.

I was one of the people watching on pay per view that day and I will never be able to ever forget what happened and I don't think anyone else that watched that night will either. That was the day wrestling, and the world as a whole lost one of the greatest men to ever step into the ring and one of the most giving people the world has ever seen and to this day I still mourn him.

The way in which this book was written, you can immediately see the heart in it, and the love Martha had for her husband and what he did for a living throughout it. She holds nothing back and she gives answers that people surely have been wondering about for years that were not privy to what happened that day.

I loved this book and most definitely recommend anyone, either a fan of the wrestling business or not to give it a read.

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### **Tim Dunn says**

A little much drama sometimes in this book, but when it comes to this family that's hardly unexpected.

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### **Michael says**

Incredibly sad, Owen was one of my favorite wrestlers.

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### **Brandon says**

For years, I was kind of annoyed at Martha. Yes, I understood that the wrestling business, which she had so many reasons to loathe, took her husband and destroyed her family but there were countless fans of Owen's (including myself) that wanted a DVD retrospective of Owen's career. However, without Martha's blessing, this was never going to happen. After reading this book, I can fully understand why she would never want to associate her husband with the product again.

In the first half of the book, Martha briefly takes you through Owen's humble beginnings as a part of the most insane wrestling family I've ever read about (with this book, marks the 4th exposure of I've had to the Hart family - not counting the first 5 pages I read of Diana Hart's tell all book which is mostly regarded as complete garbage) to his attempt to distance himself from the business time and time again yet only to get pulled back in. The second half is spent on the death of Owen, the investigation that followed and the massive lawsuit issued by Owen's family.

Martha paints a picture of Owen as the ultimate devoted husband and the absolute epitome of perfection. While it's clear to Martha that Owen loved his family, she describes Owen as someone who hated his job about 80% of the time. While it's been noted in the past that Owen never wanted to pursue professional wrestling as a full time career, several others have gone on record to state that Owen was generally having a

great time more often than not when on the road. Part of me would have to give the benefit of the doubt to the man's wife but the negative attitude Owen seemed to have against the business at times seemed a little surprising as the reader might begin to wonder if Martha's feelings are leaking into Owen's perspective.

Regardless, Owen did have many reasons to hate the product in the late 90's. While some wrestling fans may consider that of the Attitude Era to be the most compelling television the "sport" has ever produced, the exact opposite of Owen's character was pushed to the top of the food chain leaving the devoted family man square in the middle or near the bottom. Add that to the fact that his entire family had left the company following the infamous "Montreal Screwjob" leaving Owen to fend for himself. Martha does go into detail about Owen's frequent calls home describing his disgust for the late 90's product we all know and love.

The book at times made me angry at how this whole thing occurred, that this ridiculous and completely unnecessary stunt destroyed a family. While I can understand the ratings war and I can understand the storylines needed to drive the emotion within any given feud, the fact that the production team wanted Owen to be able to snap loose from his harness in a matter of seconds rather than fumbling to try and get it off for a tad bit longer is ridiculous; would it have really made a difference?

Martha's description of the Harts and how they basically turned their backs on her in order to procure jobs for their husbands was awful, a fact echoed in Bret's book released in 2007. In the early stages of the reaction to Owen's death, the Hart brothers and sisters lashed out at Vince and the current state of professional wrestling. Shortly after however, they (aside from a select few) were seen as being very cordial to Vince in an attempt to convince McMahon to hire Jim Neidhart and Davey Boy Smith for another WWE run, a turn of events that sickened Martha.

The book goes on to take you through the eventful and lengthy lawsuit that followed as both sides bickered back and forth on a settlement. Following that, Martha goes on to cover how her life had changed several years later. Following Owen's death, Martha created the Owen Hart foundation, an organization used to benefit several charities as well as pursuing her goal to work in the field of psychology.

I can't believe how hesitant I was to read this book, at times, I was annoyed as it wasn't what I thought it was going to be as it only covers a small portion of Owen's life and focused mainly on the death, funeral and lawsuit more than anything - which still ended up being very interesting to say the least. Just as long as you're well aware of this before reading it; it's not a bad read.

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