



Bobby the Brain: Wrestling's Bad Boy Tells All

Bobby Heenan , Steve Anderson , Hulk Hogan (Foreword)

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Bobby the Brain unleashes the life story of Bobby Heenan, better known as “The Brain” in wrestling circles. He tells all about his experiences with Hulk Hogan, Andre the Giant, Vince McMahon, and all the other personalities that every wrestling fan knows like a relative. Just like his career, this tell-all has no holds barred.

Bobby the Brain: Wrestling's Bad Boy Tells All Details

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From Reader Review Bobby the Brain: Wrestling's Bad Boy Tells All for online ebook

Joe Bohn says

Fun read. The book may not be structured perfectly but it brings Bobby spirit back to life. There is a lot of heart, laughter and wrestling wisdom in these stories.

Nial says

A fun book with good stories as I was a fan of his growing up. The only problem is that he goes from one time period to the next and would have been better if he kept going in a straight line. Stories are great though but it just needed someone to keep him on track!

Andy Vitale says

Definitely avoided the boring backstory and kept me entertained throughout.

Jeff Lynsky says

After having read a number of the recent biographies of wrestlers (Foley, Dynamite, Angle etc), and enjoying them, I thought I'd take a look at this one. I was always a big fan of "the Brain's" commentary on the WWF shows of the late 80's & early 90's, so I thought this book would be an entertaining read. The book begins with a look at how Bobby got started in the business, and continues to go through his early days of managing in the 60's, going through the various territories that existed at the time, such as Indianapolis, Detroit, St Louis, Florida & others. Going into the seventies, the book gives an account of his time spent working for the Gagne's in Minneapolis (AWA), before moving onto the 80's and the period of his career when he became a national star, while working for Vince McMahon in the WWF. There are a number of humorous stories from his time spent managing Andre the Giant, and also his work with the late Gorilla Monsoon, who hosted the WWF's TV shows with Heenan. The final part of the Brain's career was spent working for WCW in Atlanta. Bobby didn't have many kind words for the organization, or many of the people who worked there. Although I did enjoy this book, I found it to be very short, & would have preferred it to be at least twice as long. There are many instances in the book, where something or someone is just brushed over in a paragraph, where a whole chapter would have been more appropriate. Having said that, the book is an entertaining read, especially for people who were lucky enough to watch Heenan in his prime during the 70's & 80's. I would rate it 3rd of the Wrestling Biographies I have read, behind Mick Foley's 'Have a Nice Day' & Dynamite Kid's 'Pure Dynamite'.

J.T. Wilson says

One of those cases where I'm prepared to overlook the literary criticisms (i.e. poor structure, lack of narrative, nonsensical flow) and the dirt-cheap publishing because of the strength of the anecdotes and characters involved. A sterner hand on the rudder would have meant a 5-star book, but despite its flaws it's enjoyable to have this collection of memories from Heenan's 40-year career in print. The Andre the Giant stories are my personal favourites.

Mort says

I was thinking about how I've known who Bobby 'the Weasel/Brain' Heenan is for 30 years. I still have fairly vivid memories of seeing him on tv during the AWA days and I think I may have seen him in person in Fond Du Lac at a wrestling event starring Jessie Ventura, Jerry Blackwell, Baron Von Rashke and the Crusher. That was when wrestling was real and is one of my fondest memories as a child. I was hoping to re-live that memory and those AWA days by reading this book but unfortunately it didn't happen.

The Brain was somewhat disparaging toward my childhood hero the Crusher. And his one-liner humor that was so brilliant on tv didn't really translate well in print. I didn't expect much in regard to the writing (although there was seen ghost writer) but even so there was no real storyline. It was rather random in the way the events were described. There were many interesting (to someone interested in old wrestling) anecdotes but they were rarely wrapped up and didn't have any overriding reason for being other than they happened.

All in all I don't recommend this book and it unfortunately changed my idea of Bobby Heenan a little...It didn't make me think he was an asshole or anything, it just took away the illusion of him being the brain, a little.

Bookreader1972 says

Not the best wrestler bio, not the worst. Jumps around a lot, but thankfully it's not overly long like some wrestling bios.

Oliver Bateman says

Heenan comes off as a decent enough guy with a few strong opinions. His understanding of how to work a match is quite keen, and most WWF fans of the 80s won't know just how good he was in the ring back in the AWA in the 70s.

Mr. Pease says

As is to be expected from one of the most colorful personalities in the history of wrestling, The Brain's first

book is a hilarious set of anecdotes from his years in the business. A must-read for fans of wrestling from the 80s to today.

Sam Honeycutt says

It was a great book. Ok. I admit it. I'm a mark. This has some of the funniest wrestling stories I ever heard. I still remember my favorite matches of Bobby, Dick The Bruiser, and Crusher in Chicago and Hammond Indiana.

John says

"The Brain" was a personal hero of mine. He was so damn good on the mic. This book is great because it's just him telling stories. I wish it was way longer though; his time in the business would probably see a book the length of Webster's.

GilliansCafe says

If you're old enough to remember wrestling in its hayday (AWA, WWE /F) then the name Bobby Heenan is pro-wrasslin' Royalty, even if he traded in the crown for a weasel suit.

In spite of his villainies or maybe even because of them, I liked him. He talked big and then he got his head handed to him. Who doesn't like to see a loud mouth get shown up? But he was different from the other guys. Heenan had a natural wit and sarcasm that could make you laugh, even as you were watching Greg Gagne or Andre the Giant give him what for! Now, all these years later, it was great fun reading about the behind the scenes stuff, and even the story behind how "The Brain" /Weasel got to where he was.

I'm now reading his second book, "**Chair Shots**" and while I won't go into too much on that one just yet....I will admit that the real Bobby/Ray Heenan has genuine honest counsel to offer. Once upon a time, it was called "COMMON SENSE". (Pardon the language). He talked about how, if you don't want to become premature parents, don't do what will make you parents, or at least cover yourself...literally . In some respects...apart from the wrestling, it's almost like reading Bill Cosby...minus the rape cocktails.

If you need a light , humorous and insightful bedtime read, I recommend both **Bobby the Brain** and **Chair Shots**

Phil Stokoe says

The book got 3 stars because I couldn't give it 2.5 stars.

To be honest, it's not the worst wrestling book that I've read, and I have read a few, but it's just the disjointed narrative that I didn't like about this one. Although, that said, I can imagine that sitting having a conversation with Bobby Heenan would be a lot like reading this book, with him jumping from one story to the next and

leaving you with a feeling that he didn't quite finish up the previous story in its entirety.

But for long time wrestling fans there is a lot of good in this book if you can get past the slightly annoying narrative style, from how the business has changed from the old territory days, right up to the monopoly of the business by the WWE, (or WWF as it was when the book was written). I guess I'd recommend it more for long term wrestling fans rather than those who have just come to it in recent years as they won't have a clue who half the people mentioned in the book even are, and for the long time fans it's interesting but not really in depth enough. For all it's tagged as "Wrestling's Bad Boy Tells All" you're left with the feeling afterwards that he really didn't tell all and that there's a whole lot that he left out.

Certainly worth a read if you're a wrestling fan though, just not as good as I had hoped or expected.

Joe Loncarich says

I loved Bobby "The Brain" Heenan growing up, so I really wanted to like this book, but it was not good. It probably doesn't deserve three stars, but it was good enough for me to finish which gives it two automatically, and it was a book about Heenan, so I had to give it an extra star. There are about 4000 stories in less than 200 pages as almost every story is one paragraph, and then clumsily moves onto the next one. You can never really get fully engaged in any of it. Still, if you really love pro wrestling from the 80s and 90s, it's worth a skim through at least.

Scott says

There were a lot of great stories from a great personality. It was a little disjointed at times, but it felt like conversation with a wrestling legend. RIP Brain
