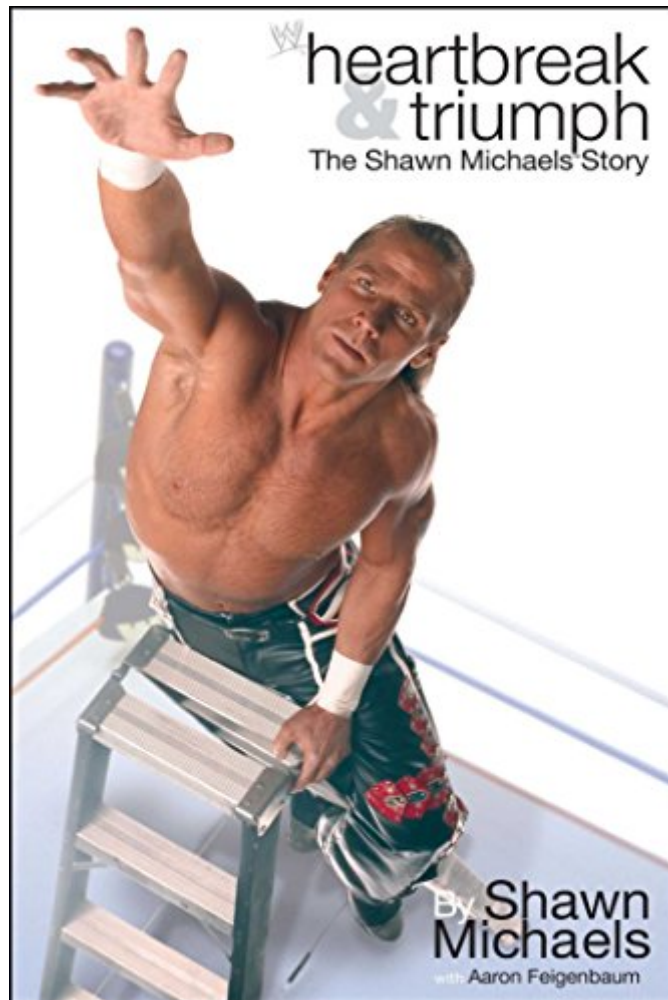




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Heartbreak & Triumph: The Shawn Michaels Story (WWE)



Synopsis

World Wrestling Entertainment fans think they know "The Heartbreak Kid." He's "The Showstopper" who pushes his high-flying abilities to the limit in the squared circle, on ladders, and in steel cages. He's the company's first "Grand Slam" champion. And of course, he's forever the guy who conspired with WWE Chairman Vince McMahon to screw Bret "Hitman" Hart out of the WWE Championship in Montreal at Survivor Series on November 9, 1997. But that's the side "HBK" has allowed you to see...until now. > introduces us to Michael Shawn Hickenbottom, the youngest of four children whose "really conservative upbringing" made him shy and "afraid that people wouldn't like me if I showed who I really was." But upon discovering Southwest Championship Wrestling (SWCW) on TV one Saturday night, the preteen Hickenbottom realized instantly what he wanted to become, and later would convince his father— a colonel in the U.S. Air Force— to let him pursue his dream. From there, Hickenbottom fully recounts the events that led to "Shawn Michaels's" tutelage under Mexican wrestler Jose Lothario; working matches at Mid-South Wrestling under the guidance of Terry Taylor and the Rock 'n' Roll Express's Robert Gibson & Ricky Morton; flying high with Marty Jannetty as "The Midnight Rockers" in the American Wrestling Association (AWA); and how a barroom confrontation in Buffalo almost prevented the tandem from ever joining the World Wrestling Federation. While reliving the crippling back injury that forced him to retire in his prime, Michaels credits the new loves in his life— his second wife Rebecca, his children, and his newfound faith— with giving him the strength to kick his habit, recover physically, and make a jubilant return to the ring at SummerSlam 2002. Now back on top and doing what he enjoys most, the WWE Superstar regards > as the perfect means "to review my life, and attempt to figure out how I became the person I am."

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Customer Reviews

I thoroughly enjoyed this genuine portrayal of a lifelong passion towards an industry that is jeered and the seeking of a purpose when that passion abandons you. As a child of the late 80's and early 90's I was disillusioned when I learned that wrestling wasn't real. Still a nostalgic fan of Shawn Michaels and intrigued to learn he was now a born again Christian I looked forward to hearing his story. I was touched by his honesty in these pages. The most surprising realization from this memoir that I hate to admit is the respect I now have for those dedicated to the profession. I finally understand why they say it's real even if the final outcome is planned.

This was a very interesting autobiography. Shawn Michaels takes us through his childhood and all the way through his career in the early 2000's. His account of the Montreal Screwjob is straightforward and honest. While he has a few choice words for other wrestlers, Shawn also takes responsibility for his own choices and behavior, showing us that a man can grow and mature with a little help from above. I was inspired by how his faith essentially saved his life and his marriage; so much so, in fact, that I also bought "Wrestling for my Life," another winner, albeit less focused on the business of wrestling.

Being a fan of HBK, I really enjoyed this book. It read fast and held my attention. I liked getting some details on key matches and his thoughts after they were over.

The problem I have is I don't feel there's much honesty. He tweaked his knee prior to Wrestlemania 13 (little pain, according to Shawn) and didn't wrestle at Wrestlemania. The following year he had herniated disks (severe pain, according to Shawn) but still wrestled at Wrestlemania. Why would he

wrestle at Wrestlemania 14 but not 13? Is it because of the opponents? No explanation is given. Sunny has said she dated Shawn for months. He doesn't acknowledge this, but he doesn't deny it either. Sunny is ignored for the most part. I thought that was strange. I enjoyed the stories (wish there were more though). As a fan I look for honesty with the wrestlers and didn't feel it applies to this book. I still think he's a great wrestler, but could do a better job as an author.

Shawn doesn't come right out and admit that he was a pain in the ass when he started out, but he did say he could be difficult at times.

INTERESTING!!

Excellent

I really don't read, but I finished the book in two days haven't put it down. I had always loved HBK and it was great to learn about his real life. I also found out some more things about wrestling that I find did not know. And I felt for him when he was alone and depressed, and I know what it is like powering through injuries... I'm a gymnast, just tape it up and hope for the best. The only downside is it doesn't go through his whole career not even the second DX. But later I found out it was written in 2005 so I got over it and I'll just have to buy a DX book which I hope will be just as great.

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