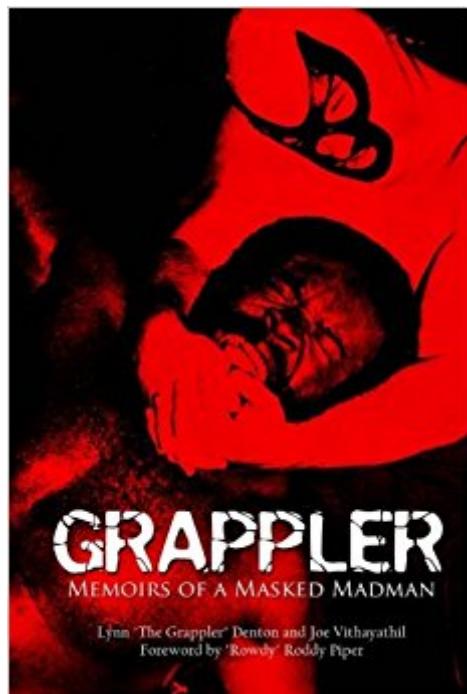


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# Grappler: Memoirs Of A Masked Madman



## Synopsis

"Honest, informative and a great read. Highly recommended."- Jim Ross, WWE Hall of Fame Announcer "A fun read about an underrated talent."- Dave Meltzer, Wrestling Observer "One of the best-written wrestling books I have ever read... honest and endlessly entertaining."- Jim Valley, Pro Wrestling Torch contributor "Grappler: Memoirs of a Masked Madman" is tough to beat." -Greg Oliver, SLAM! Wrestling He defeated Andre the Giant, tutored the Ultimate Warrior and helped Jake "The Snake" Roberts invent the DDT. He was also Harley Race's booker, Ric Flair's driver and Roddy Piper's right-hand man. This is the true story of pro wrestling's overlooked legend. GRAPPLER chronicles the rags to almost-riches journey of Lynn "The Grappler" Denton. A star of pro wrestling's territorial era, Denton worked alongside the biggest stars of the 1980s. GRAPPLER recounts his adventures with wrestling legends such as Bret Hart, Dynamite Kid, Junkyard Dog, Ted Dibiase, Rick Rude, Curt Hennig, Jerry Lawler and Bill Goldberg. Denton also gives wrestling fans a behind-the-scenes look at several legendary promotions, including Mid-South, World Class, Memphis and Portland Wrestling. The book revisits the territories' "glory days", and offers a ringside seat for their demise. From Denton's humble beginnings in a Texas dance hall, to the bright lights of the "Monday Night Wars", this is the story of one man chasing his dream through 35 years of wrestling history. With a foreword from WWE legend "Rowdy" Roddy Piper, GRAPPLER is a must have for any fan who wants to learn about the unsung heroes of professional wrestling. This humorous and heartfelt autobiography is proof that not every legend wears a Hall of Fame ring.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Lynn Denton's book GRAPPLER is an honest depiction of a life of a pro wrestler in the territory era.... It is honest, informative and a great read. Highly recommended.-Jim Ross, WWE Hall of FamerIt's been a long time since I've been so pleasantly surprised by a book... a very well-written and lively read.-Dwight A Jaynes, Comcast SportsNet , 5-time Oregon Sports Writer of the Year (National Sportswriters Association)A fun read about an underrated talent and 35 years of both good and bad luck in life... and the struggles to keep a career alive as the old territorial system was falling apart.-Dave Meltzer, Wrestling ObserverHis constant promo slogan went, "beat me if you can!" And Grappler: Memoirs of a Masked Madman is tough to beat. A -Greg Oliver, SLAM! WrestlingGrappler: Memoirs of a Masked Madman is an entertaining story of Len Denton's amazing journey through the wrestling business. Denton's refreshingly honest portrayal pulls no punches as he takes the reader on a roller-coaster of ups and downs, triumphs and failures, all with candor and humor. -Mike Mooneyham, National Wrestling Hall of Fame member, The Post and Courier columnist and co-author of New York Times bestseller Sex, Lies and Headlocks: The Real Story of Vince McMahon and the WWF

What a great read. Great read. My only criticism is: It's too short. Not really, it's over 200 pages, but I wish it was double or triple that amount. That's how much I enjoyed Lynn's book. Very well written and edited. It almost feels as if he's sitting in front of you, relaxing in a rocking chair just spinning his yarns. I only knew the Grappler from the Apter mags of my youth. Only saw him in his short World Class run on ESPN. I knew he had been in all the territories that I didn't get to see on tv. I also knew that he was a booker. The creative guy who masterminds all of the great (and some not so great) storylines, that captivate the thousands of fans every week. So I was really excited when I saw he was releasing this book. I had high expectations, as I love reading about all the crazy characters of this sport (both in and out) of the ring. The out of the ring stories are usually the best! Let me tell you: this book is a home-run. Many of the stories he relates, are ones I have never heard. He touches on every territory that he was in, year by year. Then he pulls back the curtain and lets us in some of the fun and sometimes frightening situations he found himself in. The best part is that Lynn's is written for true fans of pro-wrestling. He doesn't waste time telling the origins of the sport, or describing individual wrestlers histories. He assumes you know all the basics coming in. All the stuff that has been written and rewritten, and retold in dozens of other wrestling books. He hits the

ground running. I've read a lot of the pro-wrestling books that have been published ("Too many" my wife says, rolling her eyes), and I will say with all honesty: This is, far and away, one of the best. Between a great introductory chapter, and succinct epilogue, is a great story. The mean and nasty Grappler actually comes across as a very humble guy. He lays it all out there, and he lets us know about the good and bad decisions he has made (and the ramifications of both). Lots of ups and downs, and I found myself rooting for him all along the way. There isn't much gossip or dirt in this book. No mudslinging. It doesn't need it. It is an inspiring tale. It shows how hard-work, humility and dedication pays off. That nice guys can come in first. Go Grappler!

Grappler - By far the best book ever written about professional wrestling. The Grappler (Lynn Denton) begins life as a teenager in Humble, TX who after attending his first Professional Wrestling show and was hooked a few weeks later he used his life savings of \$3,000.00 (still in high school) to become a student at Joe Mercer's wrestling school. From there we travel with Lynn / The Grappler for the next 35 years to both big and small wrestling venues from coast to coast and into Canada. We learn about the small paydays long work schedules with no days off no time to heal injuries. One of the things I've learned from this book is that professional wrestlers in the old territories days maybe not so much now had no job security of any kind and could be out of work at a moments notice on the whims of the promotion owner or the booker. Lynn goes on to explain the reasons for the steroids and pain killers so prevalent in wrestling. Is Professional Wrestling Real ? Real is such a misunderstood word. Well maybe the winners and losers are predetermined but the slaps, punches, falls and holds are real and still hurt resulting in sprains, pulled muscles and broken and fractured bones are all to real. These days The Grappler is doing some work for Championship Wrestling from Hollywood seen Nationally on MAV-TV and it's fun watching a promotion modeled on the old local territories promotions. If you're a fan of Professional Wrestling you must read this book because if you don't you may be paid a visit by a masked bad guy with a loaded boot.

Love The Grappler he is one of my all time favorite wrestlers and this book exposes so much of his incredible career from his early days up until the now off the air Portland Wrestling Uncut - so many great stories in this book involving many stars who would go on to be huge in the world of pro wrestling from Junkyard Dog to Ric Flair to Andre the Giant it is all here - there are a lot of funny things in this book as well as juicy tidbits about how things really are in pro wrestling. If you don't know who The Grappler is you are missing out - buy this book - read it and smile just like I did.

They've got a name for you when you're the greatest wrestler in wrestling today, they don't call you a great wrestler...they call you THE GRAPPLER...BEAT ME IF YOU CAN!!

Great Book. Lynn is humble and honest about his exploits in the business. It's funny to read books by the "Superstars" of years past and see them constantly putting themselves over as a worker or shooter. Usually both. But he showed his honestly by relating an incident regarding chewing tobacco and a veterans Cowboy boots out of the gate. This is not a book by a guy concerned about making himself look like anything that he wasn't. Lynn as most people in the business know was a talented hand that was a asset to any office he worked for. He is honest about a great opportunity he had but blew because of immaturity. I read the book in one sitting. My only complaint was it wasn't longer. Highly recommend!

Lynn Denton had an impact on pro wrestling that far exceeded the fame he received from his days in the ring. This is an entertaining and interesting read that is presented with honesty and highlights the passion he has for the business. Denton is forthright and pulls no punches, while still managing to be diplomatic. He shares some fun stories from the road and provides insight into the politics behind the curtain without coming across as bitter, even when he had reason to be. A must read for any old school wrestling fan that captures the essence if wrestling in the days of the territories and beyond.

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