



## **Cheating Death, Stealing Life: The Eddie Guerrero Story**

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This is the autobiography of one the top superstars of the WWE - offering a full and frank account of the charmed life of one of the most controversial characters in wrestling.

## Cheating Death, Stealing Life: The Eddie Guerrero Story Details

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## **From Reader Review *Cheating Death, Stealing Life: The Eddie Guerrero Story* for online ebook**

### **Sierra says**

I fell out of wrestling just before Eddie Guerrero died, and I didn't watch again for many years. This book is heartbreaking and moving, and tragic in its foreshadowing of his premature death... I didn't understand the nature of drug addiction until I read Eddie's story, from the depths of absolute rock bottom to the heights of being the WWE champion after his rehab and sobriety. It also explores the relationship Eddie had with Chris Benoit, a wrestler that very few people will speak about, and I'm glad that WWE hasn't censored this book. Through Eddie, we see the vulnerable side of Chris Benoit and the brotherhood the two of them shared, though from reading the book you won't come any closer to understanding the events of June 25, 2007. Overall, Eddie's tale is one of honesty, hilarity, and ultimately, triumph. I could read this over again.

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### **Jorge Ayala says**

I've been a wrestling fan since I can remember and Eddie Guerrero was a big reason for that. I actually read this a few years back around the time of his death and the book really broke my heart. In wrestling he was loved for being a "heel" but in his personal life he was loved for being a great dad and husband. This was the book that gave me a little more insight into the world of professional wrestling, how things really worked behind the ring, what it takes to be able to reach the top, like he did. Eddie Guerrero will forever be someone I remember till my dying days, he was part of my childhood and in a sense helped make me the person I am today.

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### **Luke Koran says**

Contrary to his iconic "Latino Heat" character he portrayed in the WWE, Eddie Guerrero is nothing but open and honest in this thorough autobiography, which was completed the same year of his untimely death in 2005. From his upbringing in the celebrated Guerrero wrestling family to his endless pursuance of being a professional wrestler - from Mexico to Japan to the United States - and to his struggles in making marriage life work along with battling years of alcohol and drug addictions, Eddie scores the perfect Frog Splash in opening up in this brutally honest book.

Addiction seems to be a very difficult thing to overcome, in both a physical and mental capacity. I was so happy to see Eddie enjoy the fruits of an addiction-free life during his last ~3 years of living, though reading through the heartbreaking road of failures he took to get there - as well as the fact that his death came in Year 3 of a newfound alcohol / drug free life - were more tough to read and comprehend than anything else. Eddie reached the mountain top, the pinnacle of wrestling in his final year of life, and he rediscovered his love for family before it was too late. The world is better that Eddie was among us, but it would had been better if he had continued to live as a courageous witness among us a little while longer. ¡Viva la raza!

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## **M J says**

I've been a wrestling fan for about 9 years or so now. I've read a couple of wrestling biographies now, but Eddie Guerrero's has been my favorite.

I didn't know too much about Eddie before I started the book, just what I had seen on wrestling shows plus his death in 2005. Immediately the book hit me with how sad it was going to be to read, knowing how the story ended. Even with the sadness, it's a great book. Eddie speaks openly about his troubles and addictions and owns up to them. He tells you so much about his passion, wrestling. He shares his love for his wife and family with you. And, surprisingly to me, the whole book is a great testament to God's power in a life. It wasn't what I was expecting, but it was a great encouragement. I was much more impressed with this book and than I had expected to be.

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## **David says**

This might have been one of the most heartbreaking books I've ever read. For years, Eddie fought the demons of addiction. He lost his family, many friends, and his dream job over it. But, when he hit rock bottom, he was finally able to overcome them and put his life together. But sadly, Eddie only had a few years left before the damage he'd done to his body finally caught up to him taking him at the seemingly impossible young age of 38.

This book, however, is a great first hand account of the career of Eddie. He grew up around the business, with his father and all of his brothers before him wrestling. He wrestled with some of the legends of the business. And what would be a reoccurring theme in his life, saw many of his peers and friends die at a young age. One of the most significant deaths would be that of his tag team partner, Art Barr, who's death was eerily similar to how Eddie's was years later. The other person in Eddie's life that was the closest too him was Chris Benoit. These two were truly like brothers. Eddie talks about how Chris was always there for him and looking out for him. But, I've always felt like Eddie's death and absence from Chris's life may have been a contributing factor in the dark path he took only a little more than a year later.

To quote the last paragraph of the book, "Life turns on a dime. I don't have any idea what tomorrow will bring. I'm just very blessed to have been able to live what I've lived today. Sure, life would be a lot easier if we knew what was going to happen. But, that's not the way it works. You've got to live by faith, one day at a time." Viva La Raza Eddie! Rest In Peace!

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## **Ray Daley says**

Wonderful book. A warts and all look into the life of one of the most charismatic wrestlers to have ever lived.

I could actually heard Eddie's voice reading this to me.

No heed paid to kayfabe, Eddie gives us the full skinny in his own words. Drugs, almost dying several times, almost getting divorced.

Excellent read, would recommend to any wrestling fan!

RIP Eddie, gone too soon.

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### **Luis Ronquillo says**

Cheating death, Stealing Life: The Eddie Guerrero Story by Eddie Guerrero. This book deserves only two words to describe it. Those two words would be: "inspirational" and "truthful". Eddie explains the hard life that he lived as a wrestler and a person battling his own demons. Some people would say that Eddie was a bad husband and father because of his drug and alcohol and drug problems but Eddie says that he loves his family more than anything. The book follows Eddie on his journey from wrestling in local promotions to his brush with death and to him winning the WWE championship in 2004. His book is brutally honest. With this book Eddie shows the dark side of the glitz and glamour of the wrestling business. It also gives the person a way to take a look into Eddie's life as he struggles with being far away from his wife and children most of the time as he makes money to support them.

I connected to this book. I connected to this book by relating my father to Eddie. Both my father and Eddie give their bodies to support their families. My father by working in construction and Eddie by wrestling. Both will do anything to support their families. In wrestling one can easily seriously injure themselves like tearing a muscle right of the bone. In construction one can cut their hands off, cut their body parts. I praise Eddie by showing that his love for his family is so great that he becomes proactive and starts to battle his demons to save himself.

In the book Eddie talks about numerous topics. One for example is his religion.

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### **NicholasRequejo says**

He lied, he cheated, and he stole our hearts away each night he stepped in that ring. Cheating Death, Stealing Life, is the biography of one of the greatest wrestlers of all time Eddie Guerrero. Even though some of his life's problems became public not all was revealed. What we the audience did not know this books tells. Eddie writes all of his personal life leaving nothing left for speculation. I haven't read a lot of biographies but this book is so personal it leaves a very sad ending. This book was written before he died and the last few pages are so emotional when he says "I can't wait to become champion again". As a wrestling fan this is a fantastic read.

What I learned from the book was to never give up hope. Sure I can pick up a fictional book and learn the same thing, but this is more personal. Probably because it really happened. Yes Eddie's wife and kids did leave him cause of his alcohol abuse. Yes for a few years he couldn't wrestle because there was no more passion. And yes the lowest point was when he was thrown in jail and used toilet paper soaked in urine as a pillow. Through it all Eddie never gave up and through the grace of God rose from the bottom to the top. And when he reached the top we just when Eddie's life is getting better, sadly he dies.

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## **Shantay says**

Cheating Death, Stealing Life: The Eddie Guerrero Story was 1 of if not the greatest autobiography of a great and wonderful wrestler. When I read it when it first came out I did not put it down; it was that good. I have re-read it numerous of times and each that it was wonderful. It was beautifully written. I can also say in his book I could related to him. If you a wrestling fan from back in the day or even now I recommend that you all pick up this book and read it.

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## **Brandon O'Neill says**

I liked Eddie more after reading this, and I didn't. I didn't because he pissed away so much on drugs and alcohol. You wonder why he wasted so much of his life on it, but then again, I admired him more because he was fired multiple times, was down and out (in jail and had used a urinated on roll of toilet paper as his pillow was his lowest point) and came back to re-claim his family, find strength in Christ, and became a popular champion in the WWE before dying in 2005 (an enlarged heart from all his drugging days). So, it was very sad in a way, but inspiring in others.

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## **14 says**

Reading this only reminds me of how much I miss Eddie.

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## **Andy Connell says**

Right up there with the others. Probably the most inspirational wrestling book I have read. Amazing for an under contract worker to be allowed to write so honestly about his life/demons, but then again, I think Vince had the right idea because it is a story of triumph. Eddie did fall to the bottom but he picked himself up and came back, and better at that. In order to tell that story you need to be as honest as you can be. His words on how much God means to him and his family were really powerful because never once did you feel he was preaching to you, he was simply telling you his thoughts and if it helped you great, if not, thats ok no judgment there.

We lost Eddie far to soon, but at least it came after he found inner peace and was able to redeem himself towards his friends, family and most importantly himself.

Rest in Peace Eddie, you were one of the best ever.

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## **Bookreader1972 says**

4 Stars. I have read lots of Pro Wrestlers autobiographies, some very poor. This one is a good one. I don't feel like asking for payment for my wasted time, like some I have read.

This is an older autobiography, have been released in 2005, shortly after Mr. Guerrero's death. As such it was

unique in that some now deceased wrestlers are referred to in present context. So many have died young. Even Eddie unfortunately died of heart failure, as he in one chapter said he didn't want too, alone in a hotel room. He had been clean & sober for 3 plus years, but the abuse he put his body through caught up to him. I am glad that reading this book allowed me to know the man a bit better. I enjoyed his wrestling for years.

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### **Sharon Velez Diodonet says**

This book tells the story of Eddie Guerreros life, struggles with addiction. wrestling career and ends with his attainment of the WWE Championship. Eddie is incredibly honest and tells his raw story holding nothing back. His genuine honesty and unwavering faith is inspirational. His outlook on life and growth as a person evokes hope. He drops many insightful gems throughout the book.

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### **Ryk Stanton says**

I wasn't watching wrestling when Eddie Guerrero was in WWE, but I have seen some of his work on the network's archive of PPVs. One of my college students let me borrow this book, and I am thankful that she did.

Poor Eddie. He talks honestly in this book about his addictions and how they destroyed his life, and then he talks about his recovery and his devotion to God, ending with his winning the WWE Championship. It's quite a story, one well worth hearing for many reasons, and is terribly tragic because he died so soon afterwards.

From a sheer book-critique perspective, the narrative is uneven in many places and could have been more tightly woven. But for all that, the voice that shines through is heart-breakingly sincere. You can hear how much he loved wrestling and his family, how devastated he was to have caused the pain he did because of his addictions, how profound his love of God is, how appreciative he is for everything he's been able to do - and how achingly optimistic he is about his future in wrestling, even though it was not to be.

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### **Jennifer says**

Guerrero's writing isn't as snappy, ironic, or engaging as wrestling memoirs by Mick Foley, Chris Jericho and others. What it lacks in those areas, however, it more than makes up for in another: an agonizing miasma of looming tragedy. The reader can't help but be aware (literally, due to the preface by Vince McMahon) that within a year of writing his tale of hard-fought victory over drug and alcohol addiction, Eddie Guerrero would be found dead in a hotel room, victim of a heart attack brought on by years of abuse.

Foley and Jericho write with an exuberant, tongue-in-cheek trash-talking tone and a deep love of wrestling; Guerrero writes from the depth of the wrestling life, laying out how easy it is to become desperately hooked on alcohol, painkillers, and taking risks with your life. There's little joy in the story, just a grim determination to be honest as he details how low he fell (waking up in jail using a urine-soaked roll of toilet paper as a pillow is pretty low) and how hard it was to get (and stay) clean and sober.

This is a hard book to read, because even as Guerrero gets his life turned around, the reader is painfully aware of how fleeting his triumph will be. Thus the happy moments can become even sadder than the sad ones. I was forced to constantly remind myself that the ending is a happy one--Guerrero is reconciled with his estranged wife and children, he is redeemed at work, he dies clean. Even knowing what's going to come later doesn't take that away from him. But so much of the impact of such wrestling memoirs rests on the knowledge of tragedy, and when Guerrero writes at length about his best friend, Chris Benoit [who, a year after Guerrero's death, killed his wife, child, and himself], and how special their bond is--well, it's hard reading at an existential level.

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## **Dan Schwent says**

*Cheating Death, Stealing Life* is the biography of Eddie Guerrero, chronicling his early life up until shortly after he won the WWE Heavyweight title.

**Confession Time:** I was a big professional wrestling fan for a quarter of a century. Eddie Guerrero was one of my favorites ten of those years and his death was one of the big reasons I quit watching.

One of the early indicators of how much I'll like a pro-wrestling biography is how quickly they make with the wrestling action. This book wasted no time. The wrestling stuff started on page one.

Eddie covered a lot of ground in the early goings, from growing up in a wrestling family and eventually breaking into the business in Mexico. He touches on his partying lifestyle early, which is good since later parts of the book show how much that lifestyle would threaten to destroy his life. In fact, it probably contributed to his early death.

Eddie's story goes from Mexico to Japan, from ECW to WCW, and finally to the WWE and the battles with addiction that eventually got him fired. Unlike in the ring, no punches are pulled. Eddie talks about all the times drugs and alcohol nearly cost him everything, eventually seeing him living in a crappy apartment and wrestling on the independent circuit just to make ends meet. When Eddie finally got his shit together, his life got back on track and he was called back up to the WWE. It was actually pretty hard-warming for a wrestling book.

Other than my usual gripes about there not being enough interesting road stories, this was a solid book. *Cheating Death, Stealing Life*, frog-splashed its way into my wrestling book top ten. Four out of five stars.

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## **Steven says**

I've always been a fan of wrestling, and Eddie Guerrero was always an amazing athlete, so reading his autobiography is a no brainer right? Well, the fact that he has also died since the release inspires me to read it even more. Anyway, the book is really good, it is a very honest inside look on how the business, the wrestlers life, actually is. You see how they are on TV and you think that they must have it great, but when you hear about all the drugs, drinking, and adversity that comes along with it, you truly learn to appreciate the work they do. Hearing all the stories of Eddie's fall into addiction of alcohol and it taking him down to a

point where he loses his job and family, it really shows you that addiction is not just a word to be thrown around or something that is not important, it is a real problem. I think that him hitting such a low point, possibly the lowest you could ever hit, and then coming back better from it, winning back exactly what he had except better, it really showed that it is possible to take addiction head on. It also shows that you shouldn't mess with anything involving addiction, it ruins your life to a point where most people can't come back from. Overall, I think that this book is very good for anyone who has any of the problems of addiction to alcohol or is a fan of wrestling. Both stories of Eddie's life are a worth experience and reading from the wrestler and from the human behind the wrestler truly makes you feel like you get a deeper understanding of how much pain comes with the pleasure they can get out of it.

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### **Ronnie Justice says**

Eddie isn't Shakespeare and the story isn't new. It is however a touching outpouring of his life. This book really isn't about Eddie Guerrero the wrestler as much as it is about Eddie the man. He talks some wrestling and about people that meant a great deal to him, but at some point you realize that this is his testimony; this is how Christ gave him the strength to finally beat back his addiction and put his monster in a box.

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### **Artiom Karsiuk says**

Now I don't want to piss off all the Latino Heat fans, because after his passing Eddie developed somewhat of a cult following - but this was not a great book. It was a good book with some cons and pros.

#### **THE CONS:**

- It was a "WWE Books" *product*. That means that [most likely than not] Eddie never sat down to write a single word of this on his notebook. What probably happened is a gentleman by the name Michael Krugman made a lot of notes and tape recordings of his conversations with Eddie and then gave birth to this book. Because of this, I really failed to hear Eddie's voice in clarity. And that's something I really appreciated about Chris Jericho and Bret Hart - they actually sat down and wrote their books the old fashioned way. They owned the "voice" in which their books were written. Though, I can't hold it against Eddie: it takes a certain person to *really write a book*. Very few wrestlers have what it takes in terms of writing talent and vocabulary.

- It was a PG-13 born again christian book. That means that you can forget about any "dirt" on his fellow wrestlers and any crazy stuff like shitting on Ric Flairs bed (Hitman's book) or visiting hardcore fetish sex establishments in Germany (Y2J's book). He only goes as far as criticising himself for being a horrible human being. Moreover, the book smothers you with his love for the WWE and Christian values.

#### **THE PROS:**

- The book gives you something very special - a look inside the mind of a man who REALLY hit rock bottom. And not some whiny "My girlfriend left me and I lost my job" type of rock bottom, but *the whole nine yards*: alcohol addiction; drug addiction; steroids; a broken down body; your wife leaving you and taking the kids; you being jobless and owing the IRS tens of thousand of dollars. Some pages were so heavy that I felt depressed just reading them. Eddie takes you to some dark, dark places - tells you about his suicide attempts, desperation and helplessness. You really get a glimpse of what a broken man feels. So the next

time you want to throw a pity party for yourself, you may snap out of it and realize what a silly weak bitch you are.

- This entire story of his decline helps you understand that alcohol addiction IS a disease. You can have an iron will and be a man of your word, but after years of alcohol abuse, your body chemistry is rewired and not just a taste, but even the smell of alcohol can take away your sobriety like it was nothing. I admit that I was a bit ignorant and thought that "alcoholism is a disease" was just a convenient excuse - but to hear Eddie tell his story and struggles was eye-opening.

- Like a phoenix rising from the ashes. This whole book is an emotional roller-coaster and sometimes it was even overwhelming. But I loved the part of the book where he finally gets his shit together, reconnects with Vickie and his family, starts sorting out his financial troubles, finds God and sobriety and is given a second chance by the WWE. No doubt, his life is very inspirational: from the lowest lows to the highest highs (he was supposed to win the World Heavyweight Title the day of his death).

P.S. It was very disturbing (in retrospect) to read about his relationship with Chris Benoit. This book sent a very clear message that Chris was the most important person in Eddie's life following Vickie, his three daughters and his parents. They shared a very close bond and it is hard to imagine the sense of loss that Chris felt with Eddie's passing.

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