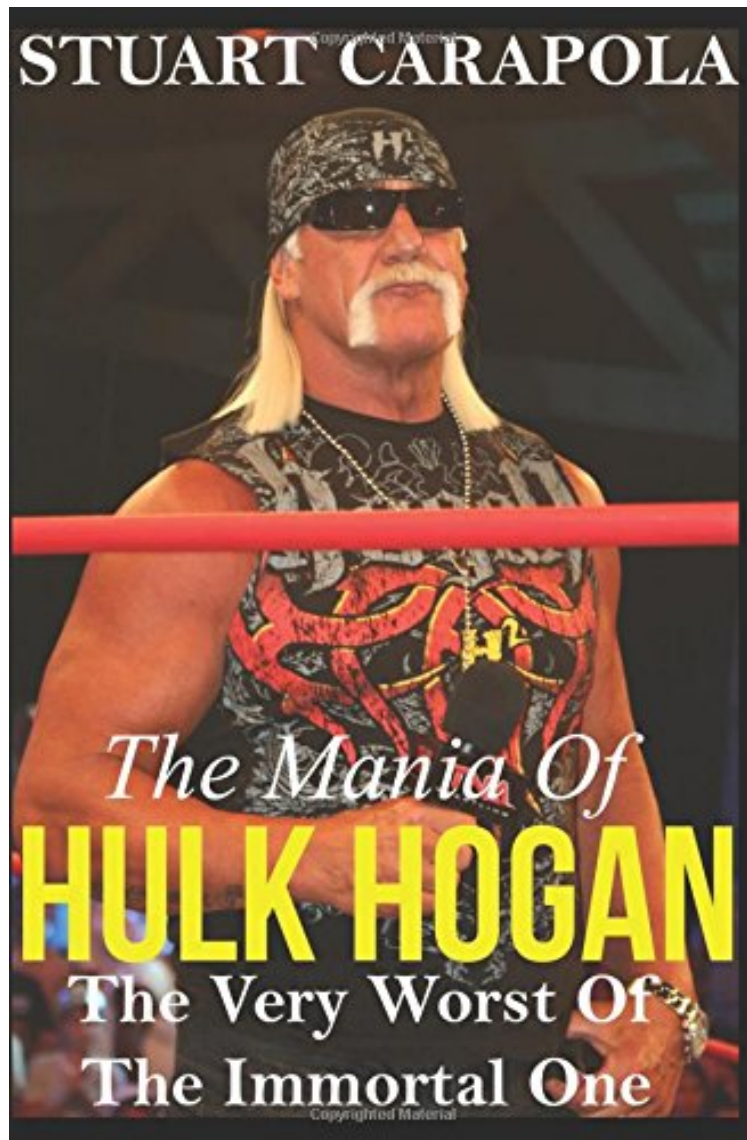


[FREE] The Mania Of Hulk Hogan: The Very Worst Of The Immortal One

## The Mania Of Hulk Hogan: The Very Worst Of The Immortal One

*Stuart Carapola*

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**Stuart Carapola : The Mania Of Hulk Hogan: The Very Worst Of The Immortal One** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mania Of Hulk Hogan: The Very Worst Of The Immortal One:

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. One StarBy JEFFREY L HALSEYSucked0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun read but way too shortBy Michael W. Rickard IIThe dawn of e-books means that there more wrestling books out there than every before. Unlike their paper counterparts, many of these writers are simply

fans who want to throw their two cents in about the squared circle. Others are from wrestling writers such as James Dixon whose recent books *Titan Sinking* and *Titan Shattered* are excellent. However as the saying goes, not everyone grows up to be an astronaut. In 1958, science fiction author Theodore Sturgeon addressed what he felt was undue (and certainly frequent) criticism of science fiction writing as inferior. The result was what he called “Sturgeon’s Revelation” wherein he said, “I repeat Sturgeon’s Revelation, which was wrung out of me after twenty years of wearying defense of science fiction against attacks of people who used the worst examples of the field for ammunition, and whose conclusion was that ninety percent of SF is crud. Using the same standards that categorize 90% of science fiction as trash, crud, or crap, it can be argued that 90% of film, literature, consumer goods, etc. is crap. In other words, the claim (or fact) that 90% of science fiction is crap is ultimately uninformative, because science fiction conforms to the same trends of quality as all other artforms” Sturgeon was by no means the only author who felt this way. Raymond Chandler, the famed author of hardboiled detective fiction also argued that there was good and bad amongst all genres. Like Sturgeon, he too felt that there was more trash than treasure. One exception in my opinion is that of wrestling books. Since professional wrestling has typically been seen as a low culture form of entertainment no surprise that wrestling books are often seen the same way. Fortunately there have been a lot of good wrestling books, particularly since Mick Foley’s first wrestling book *Have a Nice Day: A Tale of Blood and Sweatsocks* (Just check out Bulldog’s Bookshelf for reviews). Since then, there have been many excellent wrestling biographies, autobiographies, and historical analyses. The proliferation of self-publishing (especially electronic books) has led to an explosion of wrestling books over the last few years. E-books can provide a cheap way to get a book. While some people still prefer a hardback or paperback book, some people (myself included) don’t mind spending three or four dollars on a book if it looks good rather than spending a lot more for a paperback or hardback. has a feature called Kindle Unlimited in which customers can purchase an account that grants them unlimited access to select e-books. Over the past year, I’ve had the pleasure of reading several wrestling books by lesser known authors. I’ve reviewed these books including *The Lost Art of Tag Team Wrestling* and more recently *Titan Sinking* and *Titan Shattered*. Recently, I discovered a book entitled *The Mania of Hulk Hogan: The Very Worst of the Immortal One*. With a title as outrageous as that, I had to check it out. However would it live up to the other books I’ve reviewed? Stuart Carapola has written other wrestling e-books including *The New WWF Generation: The Years WWE Would Like (You) To Forget* and *The Most Offensive Storylines in WWE History*. He is a former writer for the site PWInsider.com, arguably the best site for wrestling news which isn’t a copy and paste of *The Wrestling Observer* (While I haven’t visited PWInsider.com in several years, it was my go-to site for wrestling news for a long time up until 2010). While Hulk Hogan has many fans, there are more than a few people who have not enjoyed his run on top, both fans and people in the industry alike. These complaints include that Hogan is a poor worker, that he has refused to put people over, and that he has looked out for himself more than the business. Then there is something crazy like this book about Hulk Hogan. Judging by the book’s title, one might think that the author has nothing but contempt for Hulk Hogan; almost as if reading Bobby “The Brain” Heenan in kayfabe mode talking about why Hulk Hogan is a personal disgrace to the wrestling industry. However the author clearly states in the book’s dedication that he recognizes the Hulkster’s contribution to wrestling, arguing that Hogan is the reason for the wrestling business as we know it. This book concentrates on Hulk Hogan’s time in World Championship Wrestling (WCW), a time that started off unevenly, turned incredibly successful, then petered out before the company’s demise in 2001. By doing so, the author limits himself, and diminishes the book’s value as we shall see. Carapola looks at Hogan’s unlikely arrival in WCW then proceeds to chronicle how things went downhill from there. In the past, wrestlers kept themselves fresh by jumping from one territory to another. By 1994 there were only two national promotions in the United States, the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) and WCW. After spending nearly a decade in the WWF as the company’s standard bearer, Hogan jumped to rival WCW. WCW provided Hogan with a new audience as well as a variety of fresh opponents. Hogan’s first opponent was “Nature Boy” Ric Flair. If Hogan represented the WWF, Flair was WCW except for a brief period in 1991 and 1992 when he worked for the WWF. Although Flair was seemingly brought into the WWF with the idea of a dream match between him and Hogan, the WWF left loads of money on the table when what fans thought was a guaranteed *Wrestlemania* matchup failed to materialize. WCW did seem ready to repeat the WWF’s mistake and booked the dream match right out of the gate. However, as Carapola points out, the way that WCW booked the dream match ended up being a harbinger of what WCW fans could look forward to in the next few years-Hogan destroying WCW’s top stars and diminishing their value in the eyes of fans. The author follows the Flair fiasco with Hogan’s unbelievably bad program with former WWF star Brutus Beefcake (now known as “The Butcher”, one of several failed WCW incarnations), a program that main evented WCW’s flagship pay-per-view *Starrcade*. Longtime WCW fans who’d seen such main events as Ric Flair vs. Harley Race in a steel cage and Ric Flair vs. Vader had to be scratching their heads After the *Starrcade* debacle, WCW fans were given a glimmer of hope when WCW signed a bout between Hogan and WCW’s monster heel Vader. As much of a dream match as Hogan/Flair was, Vader presented the fans with a powerful opponent for Hogan, clearly Hogan’s physical equal. Just as they had with Flair, the Hogan/Vader program was a disaster, making Hogan look strong and Vader weak. If the fans had any doubts about Ric Flair’s value, WCW managed to diminish it even further by interjecting Flair into the

Hogan/Vader feud. From there, the Hulkster battled increasingly cartoonish opponents such as Kevin Sullivan's Dungeon of Doom and the coalition of heels known as the Alliance to End Hulkamania. Along the way, WCW's stars saw themselves become second bananas to Hogan and an alarming number of Hogan's cronies from the WWF. The book then focuses on the many dream matches Hogan did and could have. Given Hogan's caliber as a talent, there were many possibilities. These include Hogan's matches with Flair, his matches with Sting, a money feud between Hogan and Bret "The Hitman" Hart that failed to launch, a Hogan/Shawn Michaels program that ended after one PPV match, and arguably one of the biggest dream matches in wrestling-Hulk Hogan vs. "Stone Cold" Steve Austin. From there, the author details a list of Hulk Hogan's foul deeds, things such as Hogan ruining Randy Savage's career, Hulk Hogan physically assaulting Sherri Martel, Hogan winning matches under tainted circumstances, and Hogan dodging powerful opponents such as Earthquake. Here, the author is really padding the book but they're amusing. The book concludes with a look at Vince McMahon's many failed attempts to duplicate the success of Hulk Hogan. Some of these attempts include the Ultimate Warrior, Lex Luger, and Diesel. While Vince McMahon has created stars in their own right, it's difficult to argue that anyone except the Rock or "Stone Cold" Steve Austin eclipsed Hogan in terms of popularity and neither man had Hogan's staying power. The book is competently written. I don't want to damn it with faint praise but it's a workmanlike effort. The book is an opinion piece and any knowledgeable fan isn't going to come away with any new information from the book. While they may get a chuckle out of some of the good-natured poking at Hogan, it's hard to justify buying the book. It's barely over 100 pages long. If you're the kind of person who likes something very light to read to unwind, you may want to invest \$2.99. If you own a Kindle and have Kindle Unlimited, it's definitely worth checking out. While I've always been a fan of quality over quantity, when you have an average book, the more pages the better.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sort of disappointing

By Robert Wright

This book had a nice look and an interesting premise. The focus on one of the most polarizing figures in wrestling history should have delivered more. A few interesting tidbits but overall disappointing.

Hulk Hogan may be the biggest superstar in the history of the wrestling industry, but he is also responsible for some of the worst stuff to ever grace our TVs. This book covers many of Hulk's most infamous and cartoonishly bad moments, and how heavily responsible he was for ruining every wrestling company he worked in after leaving the WWF in 1992 (including the stuff he pulled when he went back to WWE a decade later). Over the course of this book, you'll get to relive: -Hulk Hogan's epic debut in WCW (and how spectacularly everything about it backfired), -His impressive collection of surefire, can't miss dream matches that all went horribly wrong, -A rundown of the very, very few matches he ever lost (and almost never did so cleanly), -His significant history of committing underhanded acts while masquerading as a respectable role model, -And much more! This book also contains the bonus title Wrestling History Revisited: Rebuilding WCW After Starrcade 1997, which became necessary after Hogan's backstage politics ruined the single biggest show in WCW history, and began the downward spiral that led to WCW's eventual destruction!