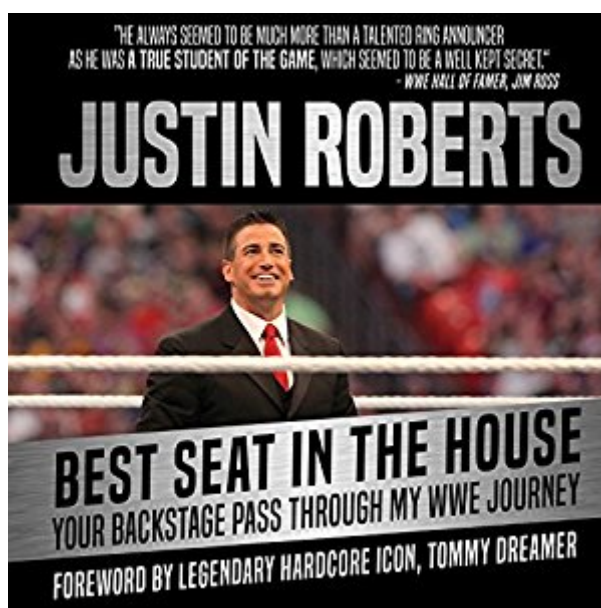


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# Best Seat In The House: Your Backstage Pass Through My WWE Journey



## Synopsis

Justin Roberts always dreamed of being a ring announcer at World Wrestling Entertainment. From playing with action figures of the Ultimate Warrior, the Heartbreak Kid Shawn Michaels, Bret Hitman Hart and Hulk Hogan to actually announcing these larger-than-life characters to the ring, Roberts lived out the dream of countless, passionate wrestling fans worldwide. *Best Seat in the House* is the inspirational story of Roberts' ambitious journey to becoming a full-time ring announcer at WWE, performing all over the world and announcing weekly live events, TV shows, and the enormously popular pay-per-view spectacles for more than a decade. In addition to announcing the top wrestlers in sports entertainment from Nature Boy Ric Flair, Rowdy Roddy Piper, Sgt. Slaughter, King Kong Bundy, and the Iron Sheik to Dwayne the Rock Johnson, Stone Cold Steve Austin, John Cena, Brock Lesnar, CM Punk, Chris Jericho, and the Undertaker, Roberts also relives entertaining and candid moments with his real-life superhero coworkers, workplace politics, grueling travel schedules, harsh requirements of WWE talent, and the overall merciless treatment from the higher-ups whose decisions can affect nearly the entire wrestling industry. This book is the all-access backstage pass for those who have always wondered what it would be like to work at WWE under the infamous Vince McMahon and travel all over the world in cars, buses, and planes with the biggest stars of professional wrestling. Justin Roberts pulls no punches and gives you an uncensored, raw look at the journey of a young man chasing, catching, and living his dream.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In a word...wow. Just wow. There is no way anyone with even the most intricate knowledge of the wrestling business could possibly know everything that goes into being the ring announcer for WWE. I've been a diehard fan for 27 years, and had absolutely no idea. When he was with WWE, ring announcer Justin Roberts made it look so seamless, so easy that you had to think "He gets paid to do that? Wish I had that job. Piece of cake." But no, it isn't easy. It isn't simple. Sure, Roberts made it seem that way, but that's only because his passion for the product, his mind-blowing work ethic and his desire to be the absolute best at what he does. And make no mistake about it -- Justin Roberts IS the best at what he does. "Best Seat in the House" takes you from the bedroom floor of a child playing with his wrestling action figures to the most famous arenas in the world as that child grows into the primary ring announcer for the largest, most profitable sports entertainment company on the planet. Roberts didn't use WWE as a stepping stone on the path to a bigger dream. Simply put, working for pro wrestling's top company WAS his dream. Like many wrestling fans at a young age, Roberts gawked at the wrestling talent with stars in his eyes while attending countless shows and watching on TV every week. But unlike 99% of us, Roberts managed to parlay that fanatical fandom into a job where the entire world got to hear his voice on a weekly basis. Climbing the ranks through the minor leagues of wrestling, Roberts absorbed knowledge with every announcing gig. He learned his craft the old fashioned way, honing his skills and treating small shows in front of 30 people feel like big league events. His hard work and persistence paid off when Roberts got his dream gig announcing the biggest names in the business: The Rock, John Cena, The Undertaker, CM Punk and literally hundreds more. You can truly feel Roberts' passion for the business in this book. If you've ever been wrestling fan -- hardcore or casual -- you should give "Best Seat in the House" a read. This isn't a "shoot" book where he throws dirt on his former company. It isn't a "tell-all" where he divulges all the dirty little secrets of his former co-workers. What it is, however, is one man telling a story that will resonate with both fans of the wrestling industry as well as anyone who can appreciate a unique, heartfelt autobiography. Sure, the book can be seen as a wrestling road diary at its core, but Roberts' uplifting personal stories and his genuine tone are the real stars of the show. If you've ever been frustrated by your boss or thought your job was taxing, you'll be inspired. Roberts rolled with the punches and never once crumpled under the pressure despite lack of recognition from his management as well as apathy and outright bullying from his peers and higher-ups. If you've ever questioned whether or not you should chase your dreams, you can't miss "Best Seat in the House." For as much as it definitely is an inside look at the wrestling industry from someone who had, ahem, the best seat in the house, it's more an inspirational story about a boy who chased his loftiest goals into adulthood and ticked

every box on his professional bucket list along the way. In time, "Best Seat in the House" will stand alongside the autobiographies of Mick Foley, Bret Hart and Chris Jericho as the quintessential reading material for wrestling fans. It's not a WWE-produced fluff piece. The writer never once tries to "get himself over" with hyperbole or bravado. What Roberts does, however, is give you a touching look into his life, one that just happened to include being the voice of a company for many, many years.

Well-written and it flows through the chapters. I am a lifelong wrestling fan and I never expected a former ring announcer to have such great stories and inside knowledge of the backstage politics of this protected business. But it only makes sense, right? He travels with them like every other guy on the roster and sees all that they do. His stories are gold. Starting out with a dream of being in the business somehow to getting to the big show, i.e., the WWE, is one remarkable feat. And all the while in the book, it flows like a professional novelist wrote it. The now famous "JBL" bullying tales that have come out of this book being published are a bit disturbing, but it has put some disinfectant on this rat. I recommend this book, two thumbs-up to any wrestling fan who wants to get a whole different perspective on the business from a perspective of a younger voice.

Growing up a longtime friend of Justin Roberts is a blessing and a privilege. In many ways it makes me completely biased but, to say I was excited to finally read his new book, *Best Seat in the House*, is an understatement. What I wasn't prepared for was this book being one of the best autobiographies that I have ever read. It made me smile, laugh, and cry. I literally couldn't put the book down. I even learned new things about my friend and at the end I was left feeling inspired. It doesn't matter if you are a fan of sports entertainment wrestling or not. This book is filled with a message that is as inspirational as his rise to the top. His stories will keep you turning the pages. Justin describes in the book how he chased his lifelong dream to become a WWE ring announcer and he never settled for anything less along the way. Justin transports readers to his childhood of watching wrestling on TV, becoming a die-hard fan, playing with his wrestling action figurines, and attending live shows at the Rosemont Horizon in his hometown of Chicago. He brings you along to the local hotel lobbies he used to camp out at to seek autographs and photos of his heroes. Justin introduces the reader to his greatest support system, his loving parents and older sister. He shares funny stories throughout his elementary, junior high, and high school years centered on his love of entertaining others. The self-professed class clown lived to entertain others around him often at the expense of many teachers in

his path, which helped him later proudly earned the "most likely to get a teacher off topic" in his senior year superlatives. The drive and determination that Justin exhibited in his quest to reach the big show of wrestling is eloquently written in the pages of this book. Justin by no means had any opportunities handed to him, he paid his dues at all levels. Justin lets his readers see what working shows at all levels is really like. Justin worked hard and took advantage of every opportunity that he ever was given so that he could become a better announcer. Throughout his book readers can see that he never took anything for granted and remained a fan of wrestling throughout the entire process. He has stories in this book involving many wrestlers including current WWE talent and nostalgic heroes he grew up watching. Justin is extremely honest about his 12-year career with the WWE. He tells the reader about all the highs and lows. His book doesn't come from a place of anger and this book isn't a tell-all but rather honest, sincere, and genuine just like the author himself. Justin provides that backstage access and answers many insightful questions through his own personal experiences. Justin's favorite pay-per-view event throughout his lifetime is the Royal Rumble and in January 2014 at the Royal Rumble in Pittsburgh this same event changed his life forever. Outside of Justin's blog he finally is able to voice the full story of Connor "The Crusher" Michalek within the pages of this book. The heartwarming real explanation of how he met Connor, how he took him backstage that night, developed a friendship and bond through daily conversations on Facetime, and the experiences that Justin created for Connor to serve as the best medicine for him in his final days. This part of the book is particularly sad yet inspirational at the same time, but it does demonstrate how WWE the company is more focused on outward perception rather than the truth. Within this chapter Justin is able to honor Connor, thank those who helped him along the way, and provide the fans with the truthful explanation that they deserve to know about this champion little boy rather than the "scripted" presentation that was portrayed to the public. As a friend Connor's chapter demonstrates Justin's heart and compassion towards others. I remember this time vividly and how much this little boy meant to him along with the events surrounding it and how it took a toll on Justin, this book provides the readers that same access. As a reader it helps you understand that Connor was the spark of inspiration Justin needed at that time in his career. It wasn't chance that their two paths crossed that day and without Justin making a difference in a small act of kindness this little boy wouldn't have lived out some incredible experiences. While the narrative was twisted and spun, Justin rewrote the narrative within the pages of this book not as a means to gain

personal recognition but rather share the real version and more importantly let fans know the truth that they deserved to know. What an outstanding tribute to such precious little fighter who impacted so many at a young age! The heart of this book is his message to *Follow your dreams*. Justin lived his impossible dream! Throughout his career he fought hard to make the show better for the fan because at the end of the day he was still a lifelong fan of wrestling! He faced incredible odds, work a grueling schedule for 12-years, he faced adult bullying repeatedly yet he is so humble by his experience that he shared his stories within the pages of this book. If you are lucky enough to know Justin or have heard him announce you will hear his voice throughout the pages while reading this book, which is an incredible testament to his talent as a writer. It is as if he is in the room himself. There is an amazing forward written by Tommy Dreamer and two sections of hilarious colored photos of his journey. As a fan and friend I *can* say he has one of the most genuine hearts of gold you *will* ever meet and the book exhibits this by letting his fans know that his actions are always sincere, completely real, and never scripted. Within his stories you can feel his quest to always want to make other happy and make a positive impact in everyone's life. A role model of excellent character that you'd want any young fan to model after. The book also lets the reader see how respected he was by others within the business. The day I got the book I explained to my 5th grade class that the WWE has anywhere from 1-3 ring announcers, so his dream job had inconceivable odds against it. That never stopped him. He didn't grow up in a wrestling family but rather grew up as a fan. This made him the perfect person for the job, the perfect representative of the WWE brand, and the perfect author to share a motivational message to DREAM BIG, follow that dream, and live that dream to the fullest! Justin Roberts *Best Seat in the House* is definitely a must read for all wrestling fans. However I would argue this isn't a wrestling book but a beautifully script journey into a fascinating world. It literally is one of those rise to the top books that could easily translate to an excellent movie someday! You don't have to love wrestling or know Justin in any capacity to be motivated by this book's message. It will captivate all readers cover to cover on how important dreams, tenacity, and hard work still exist in this world! It is an amazing book about an epic career and equally incredibly genuine man. You will not regret purchasing this book and riding through his roller coaster with him.

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