



# **Saint Mick: My Journey from Hardcore Legend to Santa's Jolly Elf**

*Mick Foley*

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## Saint Mick: My Journey from Hardcore Legend to Santa's Jolly Elf Mick Foley

*Saint Mick* from *New York Times* #1 bestselling author Mick Foley is a Yuletide tale like no other: part jolly memoir, part whimsical ode to a lifetime love affair with Christmas, part solemn tribute to the power of finding the best part of oneself in the unlikelyst of places. After a lifetime of putting his body on the line to entertain his dozens (and dozens!) of fans, the Hardcore Legend is paying the price - both physically and emotionally.. Unable to resist the roar of the crowd, Mick returned to the ring too often, risking too much, losing belief in the characters that had defined him, and losing sight of his dreams. When the final bell on Mick's career finally tolled - not with glory inside the ring, but with solemn words in a neurologist's office, the future is far from merry and bright. Until hope and redemption come to him in the form of a beloved figure from his past. Given the chance to become Santa Claus - not dress up, not pretend, but become - Mick Foley rediscovers the joy of performing, finds a character he can believe in, and even finds a way to put his body on the line in commitment to his new craft, enduring an excruciating six hour bleaching so that the beard on his chin can be as white as the snow. Mick charts a course from the heartwarming to the surreal, detailing the drastic measures he takes to keep the magic age of belief alive for his younger children, as well as taking us inside the secret world of the Santa subculture - where -real-bearded Santas- and -traditional- or -mystical- Santas are quite often at odds as to who makes the better red suit ambassadors. Along the way, Mick worries that he will be excommunicated from the Santa world for everything from his colorful WWE background, to his Santa character being run over by a motor vehicle on Christmas Eve on WWE television, to his intentional breaking of -The Santa Claus Oath- by promising toys to families in need, to his participation in a controversial Santa Claus documentary. With *Saint Mick*, Mick Foley sails into the Holiday season with the earnestness of George Bailey discovering how wonderful life can be, the dog-eared determination of Ralphie on his Red Ryder quest, and with the speed and precision of a Buddy Elf snowball barrage. And with the help of an unlikely elf -- 8 time Grammy award winner Norah Jones -- Mick learns valuable lessons about the real power and responsibility of the red suit, and that success as Santa comes not by appearing in front of millions on TV, but by touching hearts and creating -Santa moments- for the young and the young at heart - one memory at a time.

## Saint Mick: My Journey from Hardcore Legend to Santa's Jolly Elf Details

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Mick Foley**

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# **From Reader Review Saint Mick: My Journey from Hardcore Legend to Santa's Jolly Elf for online ebook**

## **Wes Hall says**

Great book to read for the holidays!

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## **Michael Marcela says**

Being a professional Santa myself I was excited to read this book. Mick Foley is a Hall of Fame WWE wrestler who has always loved Christmas and Santa Claus. As his wrestling career faded, he focused on becoming a professional Santa Claus. This book is about his transition from WWE celebrity to Santa. Overall it is a good read.

For most of the book, it appears his original intention after getting into Santa work was to be a Santa to the millions on TV for WWE and to do high profile events for his own selfish purposes. Up until the last 75 pages, he tries to connect his WWE celebrity to Santa and misses the true point and reason for portraying the man in the red suit. At that point I wasn't sure how this was going to end.

But then the book takes a 360 degree turn for the better over the last 75 pages. Things change and Mick changes. I honestly have to say that it was a fitting and touching ending. For all the WWE bombast and his original quest to be a celebrity Santa to millions of WWE fans, Mick Foley, in the end, realizes that the gift and his purpose in being Santa is to bring joy and hope and love to children, one at a time. He ends up doing all his gigs for free in hospitals and for charities and for private sneak-a-peaks. You can see that his role as Santa transforms his heart. Although I was skeptical as I read most of this book, I was proud and teary eyed and very pleased at how Santa changed Mick's heart and motivations and intentions. (Sorry for the spoiler)

The book definitely highlights Foley's love of Christmas and of Santa and how both were/are highly important to him and in providing great Christmas memories for his children. He does respectfully write about the Santas that he worked with and came to know as well. In the end, being Santa for one child in a hospital fighting cancer is more important to Mick than being Santa Claus at Madison Square Garden for 20,000 people. That is the true heart of being a Santa Claus and makes for a great ending. I was glad to see his transformation and explanation of what it means to all of us who wear the red suit.

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## **Nancy says**

A sweet and heartwarming Christmas/Santa themed memoir that I listened to via hoopla. Narrated by Mick Foley himself.

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## **Jeff Schmitt says**

Being a bigger fella, and generally in a jovial mood (and living just short drive from the actual little town of Santa Claus, Indiana), I've often thought it would be fun to be one of Santa's helpers. After reading this book, I know, deep down, that I would never make the cut. As much as I enjoy interacting with children, and making people happy, I don't think I could do the job, emotionally. Heck, just reading this book, and Mick's journey and adventures as an ambassador had me in tears in places. What a kind soul...what a great cause...what an awesome little book

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### **Brandon says**

Former pro wrestler Mick Foley returns with his fifth memoir - this time taking a look at his years in the red suit portraying Jolly Ol' Saint Nick (or Saint Mick, if you please).

When it comes to Mick Foley's memoirs, they seem to have fallen within the law of diminishing returns. His first two are absolute classics while the two that followed lacked substance (at least in my opinion, anyway). However, this time around, I found that Foley once again found his footing in the literary world.

My unabashed love of Christmas could have played a role in how much I enjoyed this, but I truly feel this is a story worth telling. Mick has written about wrestling in four prior books, and while that's his bread and butter, this entry felt both fresh and deeply personal. You will read about his charity work with RAINN (rape and incest national network), his struggles with his growing children and their diminished belief in the magic of Christmas - especially his son Mickey and his autism diagnosis, as well as the documentary he hosted that led to his entry into the world of Santa Claus - I AM SANTA CLAUS.

Of course, this being a Mick Foley book, there's going to be some wrestling talk. He discusses his various portrayals of Santa Claus on WWE television - some great, some not so great - but clearly something he enjoys doing. His trademark wit and humor is again on full display in telling stories about performing with Norah Jones on stage, interacting with WWE superstars and working alongside his kids as Kris Kringle.

If I had to rank Foley's books, I'd put this in third place just below Foley is Good and above Countdown to Lockdown with Have a Nice Day in first and The Hardcore Diaries finishing in last place. If you're not a fan of Christmas and you're looking for a wrestling memoir, this might not be for you. However, Mick is a rare genuinely good person and it's nice to have your faith in humanity restored once in a while.

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### **Matt Spaulding says**

A fabulous book that filled me with love and joy and an even deeper desire to be one of Santa's ambassadors. Foley's deep and abiding love for Christmas, his family and spreading joy to others shine through in this book and I couldn't help but smile.

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### **Jenny Hinkley says**

Mick Foley IS Santa. Anyone who disagrees can fight me in a shell cage match! No seriously this book was so amazing. If Christmas is magical to you this makes it 100times more magical. The way Mick explains his love for Christmas and the holiday season is mesmerizing. Highly recommend this book to anyone who loves

Christmas and or WWE.

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### **Tony Christ says**

#### **Foley**

Different from Foley's other autobiographies. There is almost no wrestling talk but a lot of Christmas stories. I loved it.

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### **Sarah says**

This was a great book. Very positive and inspiring. It'll rekindle your belief in Christmas Magic and Santa!

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### **Ben says**

Technically finished this yesterday right before I took it back to the library but didn't get a chance to write this up until now. (This probably falls in the 3.5 category more than 3 or 4 stars.)

This was book #90 for the year for me and completes my reading challenge for the year as well. (Just in the....Mick of time.....budum-dish.....)

This was another good autobiography from Mick Foley. And a different and interesting one from him, that's nothing like his previous (obviously since this is about Santa and being a volunteer Santa Claus, whereas his previous autobiographies mentioned his love for Christmas and Santa but were much more linear and about his life especially his wrestling.)

This was fun, very interesting look at his time and work as a volunteer ("ambassador") Santa. It was fun to see him mention Hershey and HersheyPark's Candylane (he's a big fan of Hersheypark). There were a lot of editing errors in this, and at times it could have been cut down and you could tell it was just his rambling and things weren't edited correctly (a paragraph he basically writes twice with just slightly different sentences back to back, maybe one was supposed to be removed before going to printing, not sure.)

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### **Jen says**

I listened to the audiobook, read by the author. It was so fun and really worth it.

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### **Barton says**

I enjoy Mick Foley thoroughly. This was a good book!

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### **Ryk Stanton says**

You will like this book.

Let's get this out of the way: Yes, this is Mick Foley from WWE. So you'll like it if you like wrestling.

But this is also a book about Christmas. Not \*a\* Christmas - all Christmas. It's about the spirit of Christmas, about Christmas magic, about a man becoming Santa Claus. So it's great for that reason.

It's also a book about a father. Mick and his Christmas experiences with his family - great stuff.

Speaking of his family, this is also a book about Mick Foley's autistic son. And the magic this father created for his high-needs son. Such an incredibly sweet man.

And it's a book about change - this is the hardcore wrestling legend Mankind/Cactus Jack/Dude Love ... and how he has changed from being a character on a wrestling show to becoming Santa Claus. Not \*a\* Santa Claus - Santa Claus. Just ask Norah Jones.

It's not a wrestling book; it's a Christmas memoir.

I was fortunate to get the book as part of a wrestling subscription box, but I also discovered the audiobook available for free streaming from the library (via Hoopla) - and listening to the warmth of Foley reading his own book added to the magic. Especially near the end, when this man reading aloud the book he wrote allows his emotions to choke him up a bit.

I wish I could MAKE you read this book; it's that good. Five stars all the way.

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### **Wes Branscum says**

Was fun listening to Mick talk about his journey into become Santa Claus. If everyone followed their dreams no matter how others felt, the world would become a much greater place.

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### **Angela says**

I love Mick and have been an avid reader of all of his books. He has always made it a point to show his abiding love of Christmas and Santa, and this book highlights that in spades.

Why three stars then? This book suffers from poor editing overall. And I don't blame the author for that. I would just consider that a book like this, that may be unlikely to receive future printings, and serves a niche audience, would have been better off with an editor that cared a bit more about the finished product.

Further, some of Mick's jokes just don't translate so well on the page. Mostly his ongoing disappointment at

a decision to have him be Santa on a third-string show rather than the main one. But also his repeated misspelling of someone's name, and then joking about how he found the right one, but that was then spelled wrong again later.

Overall, beautiful book that highlights this man's love and dedication to the right reasons for the season, just needed some fine-tuning.

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