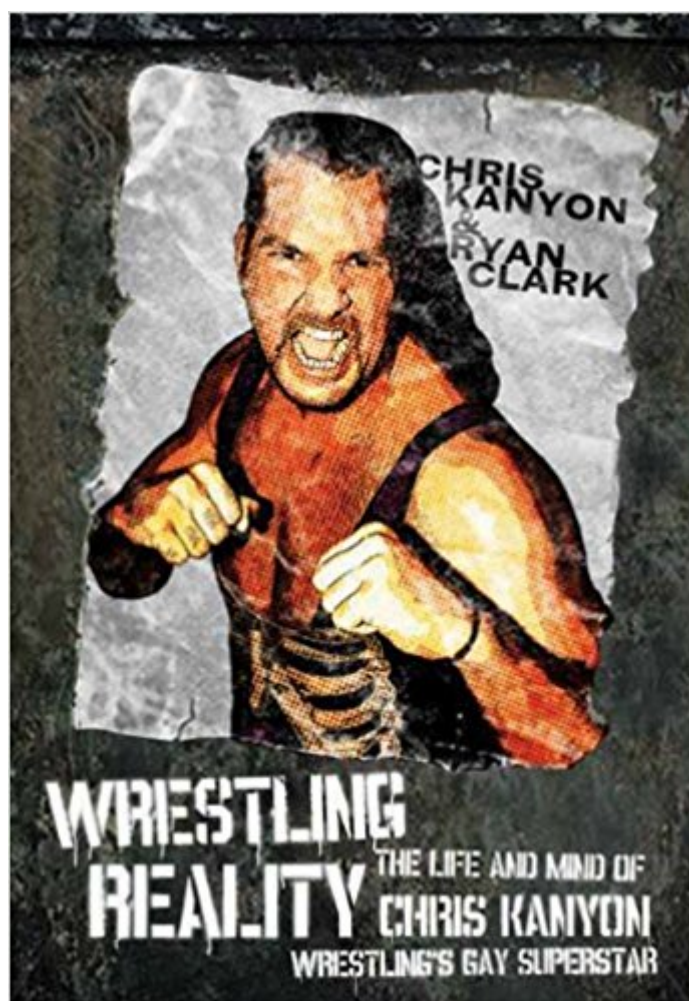


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# Wrestling Reality: The Life And Mind Of Chris Canyon, Wrestling's Gay Superstar



## Synopsis

A rare glimpse not only into the life of a professional wrestler, but the life of a gay man in a straight world, this tragic memoir is told in Chris Kanyon's own words, with the help of journalist Ryan Clark. One of the most popular wrestlers of the late 1990s, Kanyon kept his personal life private from his fans until finally revealing his biggest secret in 2004: he was gay. Going through the various roles that Kanyon played, both in the ring and out of it, as well as his battle with manic depression, this book explores the factors that led to his suicide in 2010. In his voice and the way he wanted it told, these are Kanyon's last words about his experience rising through the ranks to the top of the professional wrestling world while keeping his sexuality hidden.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Kanyon is brutally honest about the wrestlers he meets, his decision to take steroids, and exploring his sexuality." [www.unshelved.com](http://www.unshelved.com) (December 2011)"[I]n-depth, honest and touching. It is not only the best biography that I have read on a wrestler, it is one of the best biographies I had read ever . . . period." [www.BookLegionDotCom.blogspot.com](http://www.BookLegionDotCom.blogspot.com) (December 2011)"[T]he book is fascinating, both as a look at Kanyon personally and a trip through his wrestling career." [www.BleacherReport.com](http://www.BleacherReport.com) (November 2011)

Chris Kanyon (1970-2010), born Christopher Klucsarits, was an American professional wrestler best known for his work in World Championship Wrestling and the World Wrestling Federation. Ryan

Clark is an editor, an instructor at Northern Kentucky University, and a writer for the "Cincinnati Enquirer." He lives in Burlington, Kentucky.

I've been a wrestling fan my entire life and when it comes to autobiographies I tend to favor those written by wrestlers who are not currently under contract and have nothing to lose by telling the truth. The story of Chris Kanyon is unlike any I've ever read. Because we know how it eventually ends we know it's bound to be more honest and from the heart than most. Towards the end of the book it was obvious, to the reader, that Chris had nothing to gain or lose in writing this. As a fan, I was able to read the story, with Chris' voice in my head. His story is absolutely beautiful. All in all Chris was a boy with a dream of being a professional wrestler. He had a full understanding of paying his dues and doing what it took to make it to "The Show". Sadly his dream involved an industry full of self-conscious macho men as well as the man who ruled the wrestling world with his ego. Unfortunately, Chris sacrificed learning who he was as a gay man and enjoying his life, to pursue becoming a wrestler. This book is very well written. The reader is able to envision the reading; whether they are a wrestling fan or not. As you read you're able to reference the stories through youtube, including Chris' lowest point in the business he loved. The reader is able to empathize with Chris; feeling his highs and lows with every word. This book has the ability to change the way the reader views everyday life as we should learn to appreciate it more.

Heartwrenching and heart warming. This book really pulls you in and keeps your attention. I watched Kanyon wrestle on TV as a kid. I had no idea about the struggle he went through and as an adult struggling with PTSD and ADHD this book really paints a picture of what can happen to the best of people if they do not have the best help. Amazing read.

The book was published after Kanyon's suicide, which makes it somewhat morbid but Ryan Clark's writing quickly gets past that and it's like Kanyon is alive and telling the story of his life right there in front of you. It is an interesting study of the macho world of pro wrestling meeting issues of homosexuality and the coming out process. His stories of growing up in New York reminded me of my own youth-hanging out with friends, drinking beer, playing ball, breaking curfew, going to the matches. But he did this all with a secret and a burden that no doubt effected him later in life. There are not as many "road stories" as most wrestling books but by the time he made it big there were only 3 territories and the business was shrinking. Overall much different than the other wrestling books I've read and you need to go into it with an open mind. While it will appeal to wrestling fans

and maybe gay people this book is really about the struggle to live in conflicting worlds when you love (and hate) aspects of both.

Vince every dog has its day bitch. After reading this book I feel so sad for this awesome wonderful person. I can't fathom what goes through anyone's mind that convinces them suicide is the answer. It's not but to these dear angels it is. Rest in peace Chris

A sad ending to a remarkable but tragic life.

Wrestling Reality: The Life and Mind of Chris Kanyon Wrestling's Gay Superstar This book opens with one of the most haunting and uncomfortable prologues I have read in a long time. The journey Mr Klucsarits takes through the world of wrestling, his struggles with his mental health, and his need to hide from his own reality and sexuality strikes a loud call for greater freedom, and for the end of the mindless fear and hatred of gay people. His fear of rejection, and his felt need to hide from those he loved, and who loved him, is a call to all of us, gay and straight that it is time to deal with our own fear of who or what we are or may be. The institutionalized hatred and rejection of gay people under the guise of religion, is not unlike the call in the 1950's by many of the churches for the continued discrimination of blacks It is mindless, and it is not in keeping with the message of faith. The pain, and ultimately death, of even one man, out of fear and self loathing is too much to be permitted to be continued or condoned. Mr K's mental health issues were easily treatable, with meds, and with some therapy, yet the constant fear that he was not good enough, or not worthy to be accepted, or able to be ridiculed by the mastodons of the WWE led in large part to his death. The need to one man to prove himself better than another by acts of ridicule, cruelty, or the need to prove his manliness by domination reveals only how small and insecure that man must be. His wealth might be great, and his ego massive, but his heart and soul are clearly lacking.

Fantastic read. I absolutely recommend it.

I was always a fan. and finally getting to read the book has brought me to know the innovative and amazing wrestler who I idolized as a boy.

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