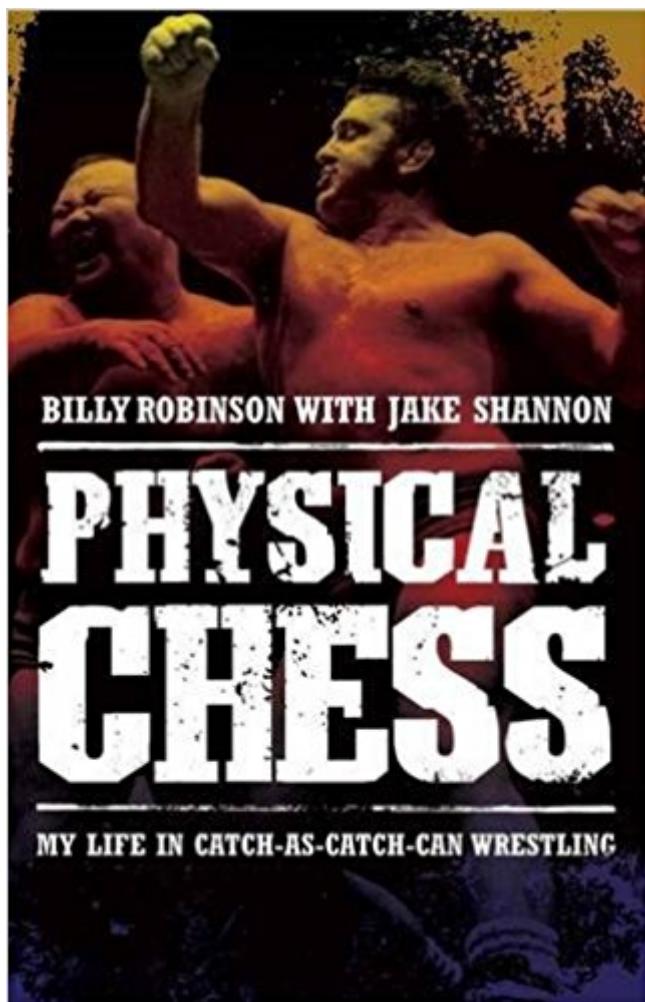


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# Physical Chess: My Life In Catch-As-Catch-Can Wrestling



## Synopsis

In this fascinating autobiography, Billy Robinson recounts his upbringing in post-WWII England amid a family of champion fighters, his worldwide travels as a wrestler, his time as a pro wrestling TV star, and his career as a coach to some of the biggest names in mixed martial arts. For the first time, Billy Robinson sets the record straight on: who won the infamous street fight between him and the grandfather of superstar Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson; how his family was pivotal in introducing "God of Wrestling" Karl Gotch to Billy Riley's gym and the sport of catch-as-catch-can wrestling; the accomplishments of some of the greatest competitive grapplers the world has ever seen and that you've likely never heard of before. This memoir fills a crucial gap in the history of catch-as-catch-can wrestling and shares the intriguing details of Billy's life, in his own inimitable voice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"[A]n opportunity to learn about a legend not only in professional wrestling internationally but in mixed martial arts as well . . . I would recommend this book to anyone who was interested in learning about the early days of Catch-As-Catch-Can Wrestling."

"In this book Billy Robinson takes the opportunity to set the record straight on a number of subjects, but it is much more than that. It is an opportunity to learn about a legend not only in professional wrestling internationally but in mixed martial arts as well. . . . I would recommend this book to anyone who was interested in learning about the early days of

Catch-As-Catch-Can." [www.OnlineWorldOfWrestling.com](http://www.OnlineWorldOfWrestling.com)"Along the way we hear great stories about some of the legendary wrestling cities and stars like Karl Gotch. At 141 pages it's a great quick read with great stories for anyone that is a fan of catch-as-catch-can (today MMA) and pro wrestling." [www.RedCarpetCrash.com](http://www.RedCarpetCrash.com)

Billy Robinson is a British professional wrestler and catch wrestling instructor. He has trained in Japan with mixed martial arts fighters in catch wrestling, and he has won titles nearly everywhere he has wrestled, including the United States, Europe, North America, Asia, and Oceania. He lives in Little Rock, Arkansas. Jake Shannon is the author of "Say Uncle!" and the founder of [www.ScientificWrestling.com](http://www.ScientificWrestling.com). He lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In this memoir, Billy Robinson gives a unique insight into both "show," and "catch" wrestling. A product of the legendary Wigan style. Robinson grew up in a style of wrestling known as one of the toughest and most punishing in the world. Robinson himself had a well earned reputation as one of the toughest, legit performers to ever enter the ring. This little book is filled with his observations of such famous stars of the last century as Lou Thesz, Vern Gagne, Dick Hutton, Karl Gotch, Rikidozan, Giant Baba, and Dan Hodge. He also provides stories on many of the lesser known, but no less remarkable wrestlers who toiled in obscurity. He provides insight into an era when top promoters kept "policemen" on their payrolls to keep order in the ranks, and the line between "work," and "shoot," was sometimes blurred. My only quibble is that as is so often the case with wrestling autobiographies, this one covers a lot of ground without really providing much about its subject. Perhaps that will come in another volume.

I really enjoyed this book a lot. I just wish it were longer and went into greater detail. I worked up in Montreal when Bill was up there. I certainly understand him more as a person by reading Physical Chess. I think most people interested in the subject of Catch wrestling will enjoy it. For those wondering what it was like to work with Ray Stevens or Nick Bockwinkle will be disappointed. I hoped he would talk about his fight with Sailor White. But no.

I found this book to be a great historical read on Catch Wrestling. It's not so much a history of Billy Robinson as it is him paying homage to all the great Catch Wrestlers that trained him. He talks a lot about the mental game of chess wrestling and the strategy that goes on. I liked how he talked about how he was humble and his coach never gave him praise until he won Nationals. I think his quote

from Billy Riley was "I'm hear to tell you waht you did wrong. Not wht you're doing right." Very good book and quick read as I read it less than a day. If you liked the Snowden book called "Shooters" than you will really like this book also.

If wrestling is an art form, then Billy Robinson is an artist. This book is an easy read about the lost art of wrestling. If you think pro wrestling has always existed as you see it TODAY, then you need to read this book. I've read many wrestling biographies. Most wrestling books have a certain amount of fluff. Many tell stories and tales that have been told in other wrestling bios. Not this one. This is a true insight into the exciting life of a living legend. Highly recommended for both MMA and wrestling folks. This book will educate you. (Check out the documentary that accompanies the book on youtube)

Great book and a fascinating read for anyone who wants to know the history behind catch as catch can wrestling. As a practitioner of the grappling arts it is great to get a different perspective than the one that I had heard of in terms of the origin of the moves that we are doing in Brazilian Jiu jitsu.

This is by far one of the better wrestling books I've read. The stories he shares are nothing but amazing. He was the last of a dying breed where professional wrestlers could "shoot".

Great

It was a good read. It made me wish I had met him so I could have heard more of the details of these amazing life experiences.

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