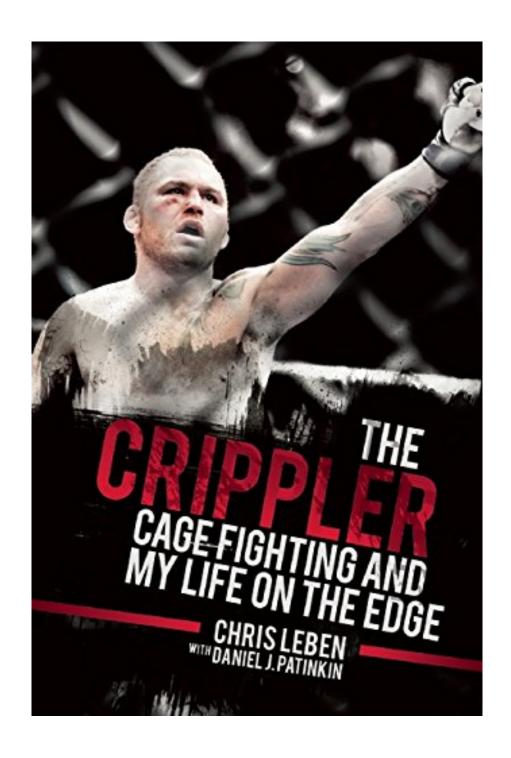


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#### Review

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It takes a certain kind of person to do whatever is necessary to make a living as a mixed martial arts fighter. And it takes another kind of person to stand out from all the rest as both a wild man and a rock star. Chris Leben, otherwise known as "The Crippler," is that kind of person.

Leben's reputation started when he appeared on the inaugural season of The Ultimate Fighter, a reality show and competition where hopeful fighters live together and vie for a UFC contract and a path to greatness. He quickly made a name for himself with his controversial and abrasive behavior. During his subsequent tenyear career in ultimate fighting, Leben became one of the most recognized figures in the sport, enthralling audiences around the world with his wild, head-first style of fighting as he took on some of the world's best fighters, including Anderson Silva, Yoshihiro Akiyama, and Wanderlei Silva.

But Leben's success in the ring and international fame hid a troubled background. Abandoned by his father at a young age, Leben's mother worked long hours to raise him and his two siblings, and Leben learned early he had to be tough to fend for himself. For most of his life, Leben struggled with alcohol and narcotics, and he was suspended by the UFC for nine months for testing positive for performance-enhancing drugs. The Crippler is not just an exciting account of his rise to prominence within the UFC; it's the incredible story of a renowned wild man dealing with his personal demons and learning that the toughest opponent is always yourself.

Skyhorse Publishing, along with our Arcade, Good Books, Sports Publishing, and Yucca imprints, is proud to publish a broad range of biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs. Our list includes biographies on well-known historical figures like Benjamin Franklin, Nelson Mandela, and Alexander Graham Bell, as well as villains from history, such as Heinrich Himmler, John Wayne Gacy, and O. J. Simpson. We have also published survivor stories of World War II, memoirs about overcoming adversity, first-hand tales of adventure, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

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7 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

another dull expose'.

By Don Herakovich

What a surprise!!! Heard about this book while eavesdropping in the gym..there was a lot of buzz about "The Crippler". I went to Amazon and

read about it and promptly ordered one for myself. I COULD NOT PUT THIS BOOK DOWN. I expected it to be about MMA as blood sport, i.e. another dull expose'....NO, it was more about the humanity (and sometimes the endured inhumanity) of this fighter's life--his struggles, his addictions, his triumphs, his hard-to-believe-but-true life experiences--it is about more than just a jaw-breaking uppercut or a kick-to- the-head (although there are many of those), its a great read. Prepare to be "knocked out" by this AWESOME book.

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Cagetastic

By Ryan Michael Doolittle

Once again Dan Patinkin brings the noise AND the funk with his cagetastic tale of Chris Leben's unreal life experiences as an MMA fighter and beyond. If you like MMA and you like words on a page, "The Crippler" belongs in your life.

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What a great book

By rustybeans

Wow. This book was honest, revelatory, fun and impossible to put down. I learned a lot not just about Chris Leben and MMA but about the internal life of someone from incredibly adverse circumstances. I have the feeling that people will see more of themselves in Chris's story than they'd care to admit, though in Chris's case the demons are born of things that would derail most people before they got started. So many of the themes of the book are universal - trying to transcend one's past to build relationships, external competition vs. internal demons, the individual vs. the corporation, how the professional and the personal are intertwined. It's rare that a book is so unflinching in its look at a person's real life. It's like a window into someone's soul. Keep fighting Chris Leben.

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