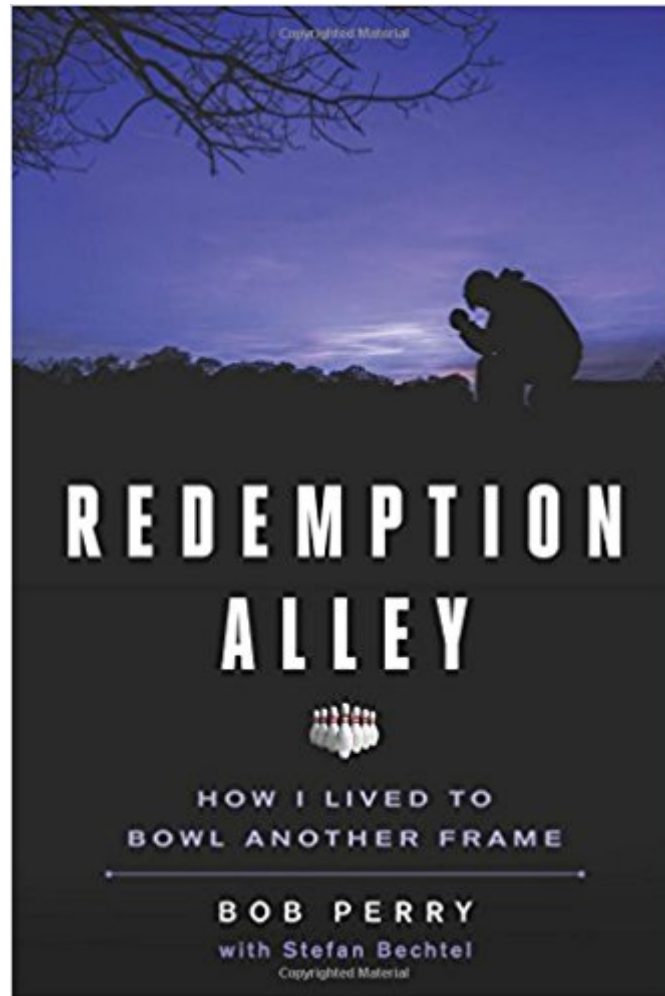




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Redemption Alley: How I Lived To Bowl Another Frame



Synopsis

After hitting rock bottom through addiction, bowling legend Bob Perry learned that religion is for people who don't want to go to hell. Spirituality is for people who have already been there. Perry tells his heart-wrenching, inspiring story of bowling for the mob and drug and alcohol addiction in his new book, *Redemption Alley*. Perry, considered by many to be one of the most naturally-talented bowlers in the history of the sport, had potential to become one of the best even at the young age of 12. Unfortunately, he grew up in 1970's Paterson, New Jersey, where everyone knew someone who was "connected"-with the mob, that is. Instead of training for championships, Perry began doing odd jobs for wiseguys and hustling hundreds of thousands of dollars in after-house "action bowling" for John Gotti, who later became the boss of the Gambino crime family. Perry's connections with organized crime eventually landed him in federal prison, but not before he became addicted to crack cocaine, alcohol, and painkillers and was homeless on the streets of New York. Ultimately, Perry washed up on the shores of St. Christopher's Inn, a shelter run by Franciscan monks. It was there that he had six fateful encounters with an angelic messenger who no one else could see-a monk whose message was so powerful that Bob Perry has now been sober for 22 years. In *Redemption Alley*, Perry not only shares his remarkable story of bowling success, his dangerous association with hoodlums and gangsters, and his recovery from addiction, but also his inspiring, decades-long spiritual quest, and his sober journey back into the bowling world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“There is an underworld in bowling that is as dark, deep and mysterious as anything in

sport. Redemption Alley isn't just a book about knocking down pins; it's a narrative of hope that will strike at your heart. I, put simply, love this book.

—Lars Anderson, bestselling author of *The Storm and the Tide* and *Carlisle vs. Army*

“Bob Perry's walk down the alley of addiction is a mythic, epic tale of the light of extraordinary potential snuffed out by a brain hijacked by drugs and alcohol. He rises from the depths of desperation and a seemingly hopeless state to bask in the light of recovery and grace. This deeply inspiring story carries the message that there really is no hole too deep.”

—Harry Haroutunian, MD Physician Director Betty Ford Center

“One thing that I've always stressed to my players is the importance of never giving up, no matter what. Bob Perry's life is a testament to that. Summoning the strength within himself to persevere against impossible odds, Bob emerged a champion. If I had 22 kids with his heart and resolve, we'd never lose a game.”

—Mike London, Head Football Coach, University of Virginia

“This isn't a movie, because it's real. This isn't fiction, because it bleeds truth on every page. This is the journey of a one-time child bowling prodigy who sank to the bottom of life's darkest whirlpool and then, through sheer determination and guts, swam back toward the light. It is one hell of a book.”

—Jerry Izenberg, columnist emeritus, *The Star Ledger*

Bob Perry is a legendary former professional bowler. Stefan Bechtel has written books that, combined, have sold more than 2 million copies. A founding editor of *Men's Health*, he makes his home in Charlottesville, VA.

This book has extremely harsh language -- that reflects the life Bob Perry was leading -- so you've been warned. Most people who wind up in the gutter like Bob did never get out of it. It's an incredible story. I grew up in the New York area and was a bowling fan, but this gave some insight into the high stakes "action bowling" that I was too young to know about and even too young to understand. But I know so many of the names and the bowling alleys and can even figure out who some of the anonymous people were, even some of the mob guys. So I was interested in the book for that reason to start. Then what was going on in Bob's life is playing in the background and then comes to full center stage. My eyes were tearing as I read about how he was thrown out of rehab, only to go back to the Graymoor friars after sinking even lower, to have an incredible spiritual experience that touched my heart. I could not put it down. His "ghost writer" did an incredible job of capturing the details and the emotions. Kudos to Rodale for publishing a book like this. If you've seen the movie about Bob called "High Roller," it barely touches the surface. This is an incredible book and an incredibly wasted life that is transformed to inspire others, even those who have not

dealt with addiction, to reach higher with greater purpose. I got more than expected from this book. There is hope for addiction. There is greater hope for the human spirit.

Joseph Schwartz Finished reading Bowling for the Mob which is about my friend Bob (Perry) Purzycki. Here is my take on it. Bowling For The Mob: A Memoir of Redemption I knew Bob during the Bowl-o-mat days. I saw some of what was going on in his life and I was there during one or two of the scenes he describes in the book. I read the book in two sittings and read it aloud to my wife. One of the reasons was that I had always talked about my Bowl-o-mat days and always mentioned Bob. THE BOOK IS A GREAT READ AND A MUST READ FOR ALL. IT HIT ME HARD AND I ACTUALLY CRIED AS DID MY WIFE. PEOPLE WHO KNOW ME KNOW I AM NOT A CRYING TYPE OF GUY. BUT HERE IT WAS, MY FRIEND AND ONE OF MY HEROES IN BOWLING TELLING THE WORLD ABOUT HIS TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS. THE STORY GRIPS YOU FROM THE START AND DOESN'T LET YOU GO TILL THE END. When the Bowl-o-mat closed it's doors I dropped out of bowling and unfortunately I lost contact with Bob. As I read the book I realized how naive I must have been during those days. I didn't see what was happening to Bob. The thing that blinded me was his amazing bowling talent. This book takes you on a wild ride and you want to step into it and say stop! From the top to the bottom, back to the top and redemption. It sounds made up but it's not. It's all true. Bob is now devoting his life to others and once again is a hero to me. I LOVED THE BOOK AND I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT PEOPLE READ ABOUT BOB'S LIFE. First and foremost I consider Bob the best bowler I ever saw. There was something different about the way the pins reacted when his ball hit them. They exploded. There was no wasted energy in his approach. He once told me to imagine I was a plane landing on a runway and on each step I had to come in lower and lower till I released the ball. Quite a simple way to describe the start through the finish. But in actuality when I watched him that's what I saw. The only difference about Bob and other bowlers was at the point of release. He got revs out of that ball like nobody I ever saw. For him it seemed effortless. In a word GREATNESS.

I've known Bob Perry for close to 40 years. He was one of the most feared and respected bowlers around. He had unlimited potential, an up and coming superstar, and a self confidence that you couldn't miss. He had a beautiful physical game, a high backswing, uncommon back in the 70's, but you knew he was in control. As the years rolled on, he slowly faded, and rumors started to pop up concerning drugs and alcohol. Then reports of a near fatal accident with a taxi in Manhattan. Then he disappeared for some years. I ran into him in Las Vegas in 2008 where I had come to bowl the

Senior High Roller. He had aged a lot, and moved stiffly. I heard he had won the High Roller a couple of years back. We exchanged pleasantries and he watched me warming up. He whispered in my ear "Get your swing under your shoulder, and don't go past the second arrow." Priceless, next thing I know I was in the winners circle. I don't know if I would have won without his advise, but it was almost easy. This book tells of the ups and downs of this bowling icon. How he came full circle from a prodigy, to a homeless addict, to a champion, to the present. I can seriously relate to him, having grown up in NYC, losing friends and family to drugs and alcohol. The book is well written, easy reading, and gives the reader a look into the inner mind of one of the great bowlers of our time.

Do you know the real Bob Perry? Read this book. Do you really know the physical and mental suffering or hopelessness of an addict? Read this book. Do you know anyone who was knocking at death's door and someone answered? Read this book. Its a truly amazing story. This book is a must read for anyone who is down and out with nowhere to turn. Truly inspirational. Once I started reading it, I couldn't put it down.

After meeting Bob in 1981, in Toledo, at the US Open. I thought this guy was going to be one of the top bowlers the PBA ever saw. Working the drill press for Litchco. I got to meet everyone of the tour professionals. I used to watch the night squad at ever tournament and watched Bob this night. His game was much more than 95% of the 300 or so bowlers this week. But I never so him again until at a back home local Tournament, at East Providence Lanes, in Rhode Island. He was just a mess and almost got into a beef with Barry Warshafski. Fast forward the book, it tell tales his life story and its hard core life he lived. The last 4 chapters were just a unbelievable ending, exciting and refreshing that he got passed all his demons, GOOD LUCK,Bob

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