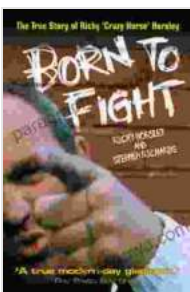


# Born to Fight: The True Story of Richy "Crazy Horse" Horsley, a Combat Sports Legend

In the annals of combat sports, few names evoke such reverence and awe as Richy "Crazy Horse" Horsley. Born into a life of poverty and adversity, Horsley rose to become one of the most feared and respected fighters in the world, leaving an indelible mark on the sport he loved. His story is a testament to the indomitable human spirit and the power of determination to overcome seemingly insurmountable odds.

## Early Life and Struggles

Richard "Richy" Horsley was born on January 19, 1966, in the impoverished city of Buffalo, New York. From an early age, he faced numerous challenges. His parents divorced when he was young, and he was often left alone to fend for himself. As a result, he developed a rebellious streak and a strong desire to prove his worth.



## Born to Fight - The True Story of Richy 'Crazy Horse'

**Horsley** by Richy Horsley

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 352 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 215 pages



Horsley's childhood was marked by violence and instability. He witnessed firsthand the brutality of his stepfather and was frequently involved in street fights. At the age of 15, he was arrested for assault and spent a year in a juvenile detention center. Upon his release, he vowed to change his ways, finding solace in the art of martial arts.

## **Discovering Martial Arts**

It was during his time in juvenile detention that Horsley discovered his true calling. He began training in boxing and karate, quickly gaining a reputation as a natural talent. Upon his release, he continued his training at a local gym, where he encountered legendary fight coach Gene LeBell.

Recognizing Horsley's exceptional abilities, LeBell took him under his wing and became his mentor.

Under LeBell's guidance, Horsley honed his skills in various martial arts disciplines, including boxing, wrestling, judo, and kung fu. He developed a unique and aggressive fighting style, earning him the nickname "Crazy Horse." His ferocity and indomitable spirit soon became the stuff of legend.

## **Rising to the Top**

Horsley's reputation as a formidable fighter spread throughout the combat sports world. He competed in various tournaments and fought some of the biggest names in the sport, including Chuck Norris and Benny Urquidez. In 1982, he won the Massachusetts State Karate Championship, cementing his status as a rising star.

In 1984, Horsley made his professional boxing debut, knocking out his opponent in the first round. He quickly won several more fights, establishing himself as a contender in the light heavyweight division.

However, his boxing career was cut short in 1986 when he was diagnosed with a rare eye condition that nearly cost him his sight.

Undeterred, Horsley turned his attention to mixed martial arts (MMA), then a relatively unknown sport. In 1995, he made his MMA debut at Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) 5, facing off against top grappler Kimo Leopoldo. Despite the odds being against him, Horsley shocked the world with a stunning victory, submitting Leopoldo with a rear-naked choke.

## **MMA Dominance**

Horsley's UFC victory catapulted him to stardom. He became a fan favorite for his aggressive fighting style and unwavering determination. He went on to win several more UFC fights, cementing his status as one of the most dominant fighters in the sport's early history.

In 1996, Horsley faced his toughest challenge yet when he fought Mark Coleman at UFC 10. Coleman was a former NCAA Division I wrestler and a formidable opponent. Horsley, however, was not intimidated. He fought back valiantly, but Coleman's superior wrestling skills proved too much. Despite the loss, Horsley earned the respect of fight fans and experts for his incredible heart and determination.

## **Return to Boxing**

After his retirement from MMA in 1998, Horsley returned to professional boxing. He won several fights, including a victory over future world champion Bernard Hopkins. However, his boxing career was again cut short due to injuries.

## **Legacy and Impact**

Richy "Crazy Horse" Horsley's legacy in combat sports is undeniable. He was a pioneer in the early days of MMA and helped to pave the way for the sport's eventual mainstream acceptance. His aggressive fighting style and indomitable spirit inspired generations of fighters.

Horsley's story is a testament to the human spirit's ability to overcome adversity. Despite the challenges he faced throughout his life, he never gave up on his dreams. He used martial arts as a tool for self-empowerment and became a legend in his lifetime.

### **The Book: Born to Fight**

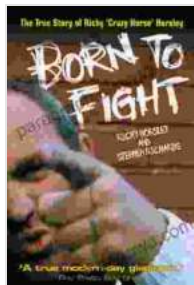
The book "Born to Fight: The True Story of Richy 'Crazy Horse' Horsley" is the definitive account of Horsley's life and career. Co-written by Horsley himself and acclaimed sports journalist Tim Thomas, the book provides an intimate look into the mind and soul of one of the most enigmatic and inspiring figures in combat sports history.

Through detailed interviews and extensive research, Thomas brings Horsley's story to life with vivid prose and insightful commentary. The book explores Horsley's troubled childhood, his rise to fame, his struggles with addiction, and his eventual redemption.

"Born to Fight" is a powerful and moving tribute to a true combat sports legend. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of MMA, the indomitable human spirit, and the enduring power of the fighting arts.

Richy "Crazy Horse" Horsley's story is an extraordinary tale of resilience, determination, and triumph over adversity. From his impoverished beginnings to his legendary status in combat sports, Horsley's journey is

both inspiring and unforgettable. His legacy continues to motivate and empower fighters and fans alike, serving as a testament to the indomitable human spirit and the enduring power of the fight.



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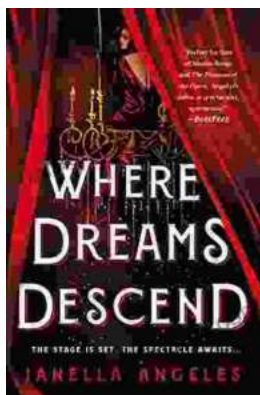
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