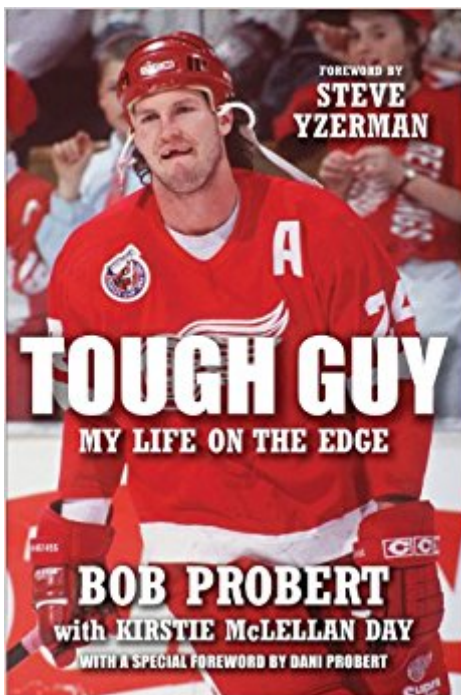


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# Tough Guy: My Life On The Edge



## Synopsis

Documenting his notorious career with the Detroit Red Wings and the Chicago Blackhawks, Bob Probert details in this autobiography how he racked up points, penalty minutes, and bar bills, establishing himself as one of the most feared enforcers in the history of the NHL. As Probert played as hard off the ice as on, he went through rehab 10 times, was suspended twice, was jailed for carrying cocaine across the border, and survived a near fatal motorcycle crash all during his professional career, and he wanted to tell his story in his own words to set the record straight. When he died unexpectedly of a heart attack at the age of 45 on July 5, 2010, he was hard at work on his memoir—a gripping journey through the life of Bob Probert, with jaw-dropping stories of his on-ice battles and his reckless encounters with drugs, alcohol, police, customs officials, courts, and the NHL, told in his own voice and with his rich sense of humor.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bob Probert was a winger with the Detroit Red Wings and the Chicago Blackhawks between 1986 and 2002. He supported many local charities and twice visited troops in Afghanistan. He died suddenly in 2010 at the age of 45 while boating with his family. Kirstie McLellan Day is the author of *Above and Beyond*, *No Remorse*, the number one bestselling memoir *Playing with Fire*, and *Under the Mat*. She lives in Calgary, Alberta. Dani Probert is the wife of Bob Probert. Steve Yzerman is a former player for the Detroit Red Wings, a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame, and the general manager of the Tampa Bay Lightning.

This was a very good book by arguably the best fighter in the NHL. He was certainly the toughest of his era. Probert gives us his tale, posthumously as it turned out, of his formative years, his hockey career with the Red Wings and the Blackhawks and describes life after hockey. He talks about his drug bust, his DUI, his bouts with the law and the difficulties with border crossings after the high profile arrest in 1989. His wife had to finish the book and she went into detail about the post-concussive syndrome her husband suffered from and what the research on his brain tissue has yielded. We lost Probie far too young: he was only in his mid-40s before a heart attack claimed him, but he was a devoted family man who always gave of himself and let his fists do his talking for him. I.e., he wasn't a glory hound, which is rare in this day and age.

Meh! I loved Probie and I love the subject matter, but this was about as inspiring and/or entertaining as a Curious George book only with less pics. Not to kick the guy now that he is gone, but he takes no accountability nor did he ever really seem apologetic. Just a lot of sad stories. Even his tales of blood fell shy of any real meat. He was a tough guy, no doubt, but a writer not so much. How does this book get so many accolades?

This was a tough book to get through. A breezy, and for the most part interesting story, but painful to be a party to. Bob Probert lost his life in July of 2010 while in the company of his family. He was in the midst of writing this book. While from his own account, and those of his teammates, he had the qualities of a person one would want on their side, like loyalty, leadership, and respect, his self-destructive side made this reviewer often cringe. While he often professes in the book his undying love for his beautiful wife and five children, his openness about his alcoholism, drug use, pain killers, and infidelities leads to questions about his character and worthiness. The author, Kristie McKellan Day, who also collaborated with Theo Fleury in a similar tell-all, wide open autobiography featuring similar self-destructive, insane behavior seems to have a knack for wooing these types of athletes who push society's boundaries. Steve Yzerman, who seemed to keep Probert in balance as the Captain of the great Red Wing team, at once describes the good Probert and the bad Probert. It seems to be a war in which the two sides clash often. At the end of the book, there is a sense of foreboding in the writing of Probert, as if he knows his time is drawing near. He rues the hurt he has put on his wife and family, and one can readily see the truth. Frankly, after reading Fleury's story, and Probert's (the two were briefly teammates at the end of their playing careers), the life of a professional athlete seems terrifying. The physical sacrifices, the sycophants, the drugs, and the abuse that people put their bodies through tells a story that is far different from the one I always

imagined when I had sports heroes as a youngster. As Probert put it, when he was high, he had permission to have fun any way he wanted to. It led to injuries, car and motorcycles accidents, breach of marital trust, letting his children down, among other things. The money was good, but the price to pay was astronomical.

I really enjoyed this book...some great insight into an NHL enforcer who is totally unapologetic about his role in the game. Also, love the fact that he doesn't blame anyone for forcing the lifestyle on him...he chose to be a tough guy and he lived up to it on the ice each night. So many guys today whine and complain about having to fight in the league...all they have to do is quit and move on with their lives. Probert seemed so grateful for his time in the league. I read it on a Kindle and the Kindle edition leaves out a major word in chapter 26. A Tactical Landing. Probert is talking about the guys in Afghanistan asking him questions about the NHL and when they ask him who the toughest guy he ever fought against was, the name of the guy he mentions is MISSING!! If anyone reads this and has the book edition of this, please let me know what his response was!! Friggen Kindle!! I should have bought the physical copy like I normally do.

Ya know as a hockey fan I heard of Bob, but what I did not know is how much details was not provided back in the 80's-90's like now. I do not remember the press conferences. Maybe because I am from New England. However, I give Dani credit for staying with her husband through all those times. Drugs, sex and alcohol is enough to put any marriage over the edge. I did find the book boring at times for it spoke of the same again, and again (sex, drugs, ect) and skimmed over some words within the paragraphs. You know he loved the sport, and his "job" as an Enforcer. Hearing him talk about his teammates no matter who they were he respected them for their roles and individual. I disliked Chelos for a long time, but reading what he did for Bob now has another look at the hockey star. He took his job serious and knowing what he was going through he was not a "goon" as others had titled. However, to hear the words, details and story from his point, family and friends I wish more sport athletes would open up for us to understand them as individuals and not greedy sport players. Rest in Peace Bob!

And I thought I liked to party. This was one hell of a journey. All the emotions happen in this read. You laugh, you cheer, you cry, you get mad, you get happy, and you get sad. I bought the Kindle version of this great read on my iPad; but I'm buying 5 hard cover copies for my kids and my best friends. For anybody that loves Hockey, for anyone that deals with addiction, and for anyone that

just loves a good read. God Bless Dani and her kids.

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