

WWE: Storytelling and the Rise of Roman Reigns

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Although the majority of WWE fans seem to be behind Roman Reigns, the internet remains a place for his detractors to criticize his mic work and to question the longevity of the character.

Reigns is not bad at all on the mic when allowed to [loosen up and have fun](#) instead of having to regurgitate scripted lines that minimize the character or insult his intelligence.

Popularity is not an issue, either. Recently, the majority of fans have cheered for Reigns, even before he reunited with Dean Ambrose.

Here are the real questions now: What is the best way to move the character forward, place him in the right rivalry, and place the WWE title around his waist? Should he remain a face or become either a heel or an anti-hero in the vein of the Rock and Stone Cold?

To answer these questions, one must consider the general conditions of the WWE. Removing an overused "heel heat for the boss" gimmick as well as developing meaningful yet organic rivalries and angles would allow Reigns and several other superstars to receive better creative treatment.

First, the Authority desperately needs to go. Even if the Authority remained, they do not need to appear on almost every show, every week. Most of their airtime could be replaced with more interaction between active wrestlers.

Furthermore, the writers need to commit to longstanding storylines. An example of a storyline that ended abruptly this year was Bray Wyatt versus Dean Ambrose. The characters are still at odds, but they are not currently feuding.

Speaking of Ambrose, another example is that WWE should not curtail his alliance with Reigns. Of course, Reigns deserves much more than his current role as the powerhouse who has Ambrose's back, but they should not split up or turn on each other until long after one of them wins the WWE World Heavyweight Title.

On the June 6, 2015, edition of "[The Ross Report](#)," Jim Ross had this to say about the state of sports entertainment:

"The vast majority of wrestlers these days are not good promo talents. Reason being is that creative staffs seemingly have to justify their existence by role playing with these individuals and scripting virtually every word that the talents say. That system is both outdated and unproductive as fans today can recognize a wrestler reciting a promo from memory instead as from their heart within a few sentences."

Wrestlers should be allowed to speak from a place that is comfortable as well as an amplification of some aspect of their personalities. That improves the quality of their delivery and makes them more believable. They should be allowed to "shoot" as long as they can do it within the parameters of how a particular episode or event is supposed to drive the story forward.

Creative conditions need improvement, but Roman Reigns will be just fine with or without a manager and as a face, heel, or semi-heel.

Sources:

“The Ross Report”

<http://www.jrsbarbq.com/>

“Roman Reigns has fun on the mic with Kane”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPbpRC3ZoHA&index=26&list=FLvcztHoF4DU8qOPcO_RV2VA