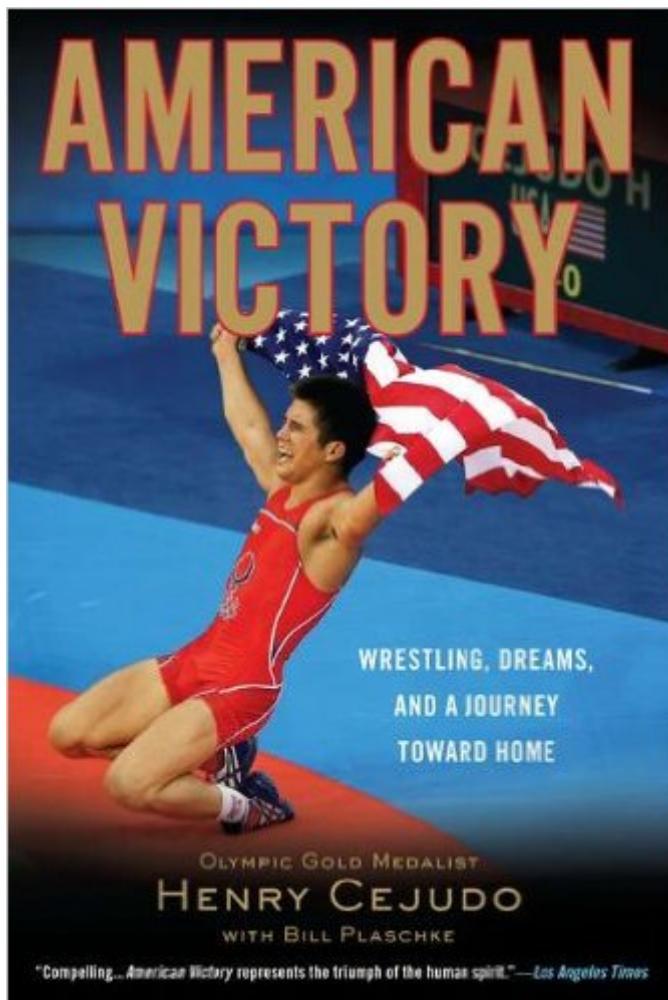


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# American Victory: Wrestling, Dreams And A Journey Toward Home



## **Synopsis**

"Compelling...American Victory represents the triumph of the human spirit." --Los Angeles Times

Henry Cejudo's remarkable journey follows an unlikely hero, the son of illegal immigrants, from the mean streets of South Central LA to the glory of the Beijing Olympics. The first American in sixteen years to win the gold medal in freestyle wrestling and the youngest American gold medalist ever in this event, Henry's grit, passion, and resolve on display in China was a culmination of a life spent fighting-both on and off the mat. American Victory is his poignant and powerful memoir of how he rose above the statistics and dangers to become a winner-and a hero that embodies all that's best and most hopeful in the American dream.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Celebra (January 4, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0451232038

ISBN-13: 978-0451232038

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #221,414 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 inÂ  Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Hispanic & Latino #60 inÂ  Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Boxing, Wrestling & MMA > Wrestling #123 inÂ  Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Wrestling

## **Customer Reviews**

This is the kind of book that makes a person stand up and cheer. It is a great read not only for people involved in the sport of wrestling, but for all Americans. This book reminds everyone why this country is so great. This book is also proof that anything, no matter how hard, is possible. People can rise above some pretty tough challenges and not only make their own life better, but the lives of countless other people. A great read that everyone should read.

My 10 & 12 year old boys really look up to Henry and the story has some inspirational parts. The problem I have is Henry putting fairly graphic details of his relationship with Clarissa Chun in the book. Why? What's the point? Do we really need these details in order to be inspired by his

incredible rise from poverty to Olympic champion? There is another sex scene in the book where Henry is a teenager and walks in on a couple. Why do we need the details? It shows really poor judgment on Henry's part to add these to the book knowing that thousands of young boys will want to read it.

This book is the American Dream come true. This book will show you the triumph of the American spirit, and how anyone can achieve their dream if they want it bad enough and are willing to pay the price to make it happen.

I was so inspired by this book that I have put into a motion a play version of it. Arizona State University will be producing the play, adapted by graduate student Jose Zarate, and directed by myself, Guillermo Reyes, in March 2012. It's a play that belongs in Arizona. While Henry Cejudo was winning the gold for the U.S., folks back in Arizona were debating on whether or not to take away U.S. citizenship from kids like him---you know "anchor babies." The debate reached all the way to the legislature. State Senate leader Russell Pearce seriously proposed it, and then the voters in his district recalled him! Who's the patriot in this story?

Sometimes you just have to laugh when someone under the age of twenty-five writes their autobiography. This however isn't one of those times. Written by Henry Cejudo, with sports columnist Bill Plaschke, this book is about hard work, hope and everything that makes America the greatest country in the world. Cejudo came from the mean streets of South Central Los Angeles, the son of undocumented parents. He could have easily ended up a "dead end kid". Instead he became, at twenty-one, the youngest American to win a gold medal in Olympic wrestling. I recently received this book as a birthday gift. But if I hadn't I would have purchased it myself. It's truly inspirational.

The life of wrestling and Henry Cejudo. Tough life growing up and in the end a nice ending to a wrestling career that could have gone in many directions. Saw him wrestle Nick Simmons in his final match at the Olympic Trials in Iowa City. Great stuff. Hope he stays on the path.

This is the moving life story of Henry Cejudo, the son of a Mexican immigrant growing up in poverty. Growing up in the slums of California and New Mexico, Henry and his family lived day by day, not knowing if they would have food or a roof over their head the next. Growing up Henry stood behind the shadow of his older brother as they wrestled on the streets and in school. Finally Henry had his

breakthrough when a local wrestling coach believed in his ability to be one of the best wrestlers in the state. With so much talent Henry was eventually asked to accompany his brother to train at the U.S. Olympic Wrestling Team training facility in Colorado. From there the rest is history. Henry went on to win the gold medal for freestyle wrestling in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. This is truly an inspiring story of a poor young boy living the dream and fighting to the top.

I loved this book. Great story about Olympic Champ Henry Cejudo. My thoughts about him changed a lot after reading this book. I really respect the hard work he put in to it to reach he's goals. Also book is not just about wrestling. He tells some cool stories about he's relationships and personal life. Highly recommended anyone who needs motivation and specially must read book for every single wrestler around the world.

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