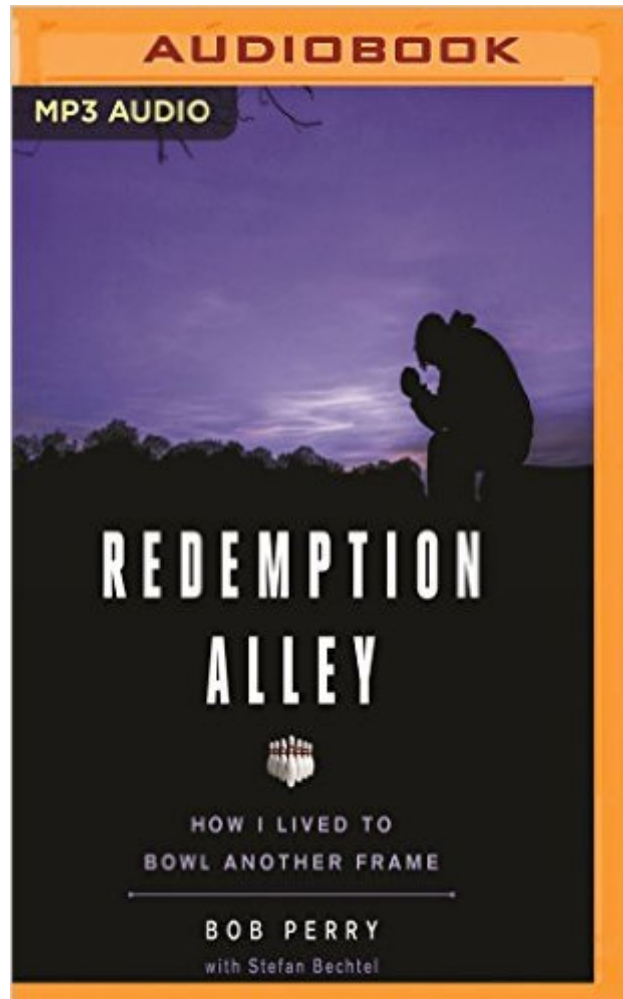


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# Redemption Alley: How I Lived To Bowl Another Frame



## 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 1970s 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

A person with an incredible talent is so very rare, we'll never know what might of been if Bob hadn't

had those two horrific accidents... Earl Anthony called Bob the greatest bowler in the world... If the right people, the real deal people get behind a motion picture about Bob's life it will be a blockbuster, I have no doubt about it, it will be incredible because his life and his talent is incredible... It's what makes great movies... Spielberg, DiNiro, Eastwood, where are YOU... This book is out and out great, it has it all and the ending is fantastic, almost unbelievable but true... I couldn't put it down...check out this video about Bob winning the high roller... [...] Brooklyn Butch aka Clifford Nordquist Sr.â "

I could not put this book down; once started, I just wanted to keep on reading! The episodes of late-night 'action bowling,' where tens of thousands of \$\$ in bets are put at risk between colorful characters like "Ruby Red" and John Gotti, when the young, brash, gifted Bob Perry steps up to the line--wow! These episodes are as vivid as movie scenes. Author Stefan Bechtel does a terrific job conveying Bob Perry's inimitable way of talking. His "voice" is so strong, so interesting, so peppered with a certain regional dialect, so personal, and so insightful at times--that you feel like you're across a table from him, listening in amazement, rather than reading of his life in a book. And does Bob Perry ever "hit the skids"! You can't believe anybody could survive--and yet he did, in quite a miraculous way, which included some very difficult work on his part, with vital help from AA. Altogether, *Bowling for the Mob* is a real "page turner"!

"As I read "Bowling for the Mob", I felt like I was in the passenger seat...stomping on the air brake and grabbing for the safety handle as Bob Purzycki went full skid. I loved the rawness of it...the no sugar coating, no shame, and no covering up of his journey to hell and back up to the top of the world. Most people never publish a memoir. Heck, most people cannot even share their feelings and experiences face-to-face. Thank-you, Bob Purzycki, for your courage, honesty, and most importantly for DEMONSTRATING that OVERCOMING life's obstacles IS POSSIBLE!"

WOW--this is not simply a sports memoir, or a recovery memoir, or an autobiography about riches to rags and back--it is much more than all of that! Sure, Bob's bowling career did see some incredible feats (back-to-back-to-back perfect games while drunk!!!), but his talents are the occasion for his rich reflections on what life's all about. The scene where John Gotti breaks Bob's face . . . his many near-death experiences . . .his nauseatingly inevitable descent into addiction and alcoholism . . . these are page-turners. And his comeback in the Super Bowler High Roller is the stuff of Hollywood endings! But what I enjoyed most was Bob's wisdom about God's grace, without which

there would be no redemption and no alley. To stay clean and sober for twenty-three years after living on the street is a miracle. This book is not only exciting . . . it's a reminder that we're all in this together. Stefan Bechtel (author of the beautifully-written *\_Roar of the Heavens\_* *Roar of the Heavens: Surviving Hurricane Camille* does such a great job capturing Bob's wiseass/wiseguy voice. And the descriptions of Seventies fashion are fantastic. This book will make your heart soar. *Redemption Alley* will make your heart soar. And Bob's journey from crest to trough and back again will encourage you not to give up on your dreams.

I met Bob Perry (Purzycki) in 1972 while bowling the John Vargo Classic at Carolier Lanes. I bowled very well that day eventually finishing in 2nd place. Bob was there to offer congratulations, which I thought was very nice. He introduced himself and I knew who he was because of his reputation as one of the best young bowlers in the country. After that I ran into him at several tournaments in the northeast and saw myself what a great bowler he was. Recently I was surfing the internet at Action Bowlers site and saw that there was a book about to be released, *Bowling for the Mob*, Bob Perry story. Wow, I thought, I knew Bob, but didn't know about that part of his life, so I purchased the book. I'm not a book reader, (haven't read a book since high school) but I couldn't put this down once I started reading. Being an avid bowler with many of the dreams Bob had, I was totally entranced by the book. What Bob went through with drug & alcohol addiction is hard to imagine, but his recovery is remarkable. His bowling accomplishments and community involvement after recovery are astounding. I will be recommending this book to all my friends in the bowling world. I wish Bob the best of everything in the future. A TRULY REMARKABLE STORY!

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.

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