

Reviewing the Review – Monday Night Raw: November 10, 2014

The main story this week was the revolving door around the Survivor Series main event. They've been doing a good job of setting up the people in the match not named John Cena, though I have a feeling HHH is going to wind up in the match somehow. A lot happened this week so let's get to it.

The opening segment got the ball rolling on the big story of the night. Cena came out and talked about what it would mean to get rid of the Authority and said he had a new team member in Jack Swagger. Other than that though, he wanted to sign the new free agent that is tearing stuff up again: Ryback. The Big Guy came out but the Authority, complete with new team member Mark Henry, interrupted them.

Cena and HHH went at it with HHH taking credit for various wrestlers who have recently been injured, including Bryan and Ryder. Now this is something that I REALLY liked. Here's the thing: Ryder and Bryan's injuries had nothing to do with the Authority but they're taking credit for it anyway. WHY HAVEN'T PEOPLE BEEN DOING THIS FOR YEARS??? It's such an easy thing to do and makes storylines out of real life issues. Most important of all is we never see them do these things, but it adds a realism to the story by making the Authority seem that much more evil.

The Authority looks evil, Ryder and Bryan serve a purpose while injured, and you might have a story for them when they come back. I have no idea why this hasn't been done more often over the years. Blurring the line between reality and fiction is a great way to get heat on people and all it boils down to is "these people are the reason you can't see your favorites. Now I'm going to try to get rid of them. WHO'S WITH ME???" It's as simple as that.

Anyway, the Authority promised Ryback a bunch of money and opportunities, Cena warned him of the pressure that came with the spot, and Ryback planted Cena with a spinebuster before leaving with the villains. The

segment got its job done but as usual went on WAY too long. That's what drives me crazy about these things: why do we need to take twenty minutes when we can do these things in maybe ten? We didn't need HHH babbling about everything being on the line for five minutes. We get the idea already so why keep hammering it in with that slow voice of his?

The revolving door of teammates kept going as Seth Rollins Curb Stomped Swagger into oblivion. Swagger looked to have a concussion so Seth Curb Stomped him again, likely putting him out of the PPV. That certainly was a quick way to get rid of a loser like Jack.

Ambrose talked about fighting demons much tougher than Bray Wyatt. I'm not sure why most of this feud is being played out on Smackdown but it gives me something to look forward to on Friday nights.

I'll cover a lot of segments at once here. Kane told Ryback that he'll be at ringside for Ryback vs. Cena but Ryback didn't seem interested. Kane basically told him to watch it and left. The rest of the Authority came in and said various things to Ryback all night, each one getting on his nerves more than the previous one. They weren't exactly being subtle with where this story was going.

Paige easily beat Alicia Fox for the hometown pop. Nothing wrong with this one.

Stephanie recruited Rusev for Team Authority. Let me get this one out of the way now: GAH! I hated these segments as we've had Lana and Rusev shouting down everyone from Henry to Big Show to Sheamus TO THE ROCK, but they cower in fear of Stephanie freaking McMahon? Seriously? Well of course seriously because Stephanie is the most beautiful, intelligent, dominant, talented and intimidating yet caring and charitable woman IN THE WORLD.

Stephanie and HHH were worried about Vince making the decision to put their futures on the line. I'd be more worried about why Cena has nothing on the line.

Rusev had a victory celebration and then a good match with Sheamus. The Stooges came out to help Rusev win by countout, which is supposed to

justify the Russians doing whatever Stephanie wants. You know, because they couldn't beat Sheamus on their own, like Rusev did just a week ago. Lana agreed to put Rusev on the team after the match.

Miz/Mizdow beat Los Matadores in a match without much to talk about.

HHH literally danced in on a meeting between Cena and Ziggler to say Cena can't be at ringside for Ziggler's match.

Ziggler beat Mark Henry via DQ when Henry used a chair. This was the HENRY SMASH bit to keep softening Dolph up before the PPV. Big Show came out for the save and is of course part of Team Cena.

Kofi Kingston is part of the New Day with Woods. Just waiting on Big E. now.

Sheamus joined Team Cena as well. Makes sense.

AJ Lee beat Brie Bella in some angle advancement. Nikki beat up AJ after the match.

The Bunny cost Adam Rose a match and got kicked in the gut for his efforts. They better have someone good under that costume.

Wyatt talked about being sin and being able to save Ambrose. He got in a great line with "if God lived on this earth, he'd make oceans to walk on to get away from me."

Cena and Ryback had a good main event until Kane cost Ryback the match via DQ. Sheamus and Big Show came out and got beaten up but Ryback cleaned house, including the Authority.

Ziggler was thrown into the Authority's office by Luke Harper, who told HHH and Stephanie that he's a team player to end the show.

This show was all about furthering the main event and believe it or not they're doing a great job of making it feel important. The wrestling wasn't bad and there's actual stuff happening. That's one of the major criticisms lately in WWE: nothing has been happening. Now there are actual stories going on, even if they're not the most interesting in the

world. I'm interested in where some of them are going and that's more than I've been able to say for a long time. Good show this week but they need to deliver at Survivor Series.

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