

Reviewing the Review – Monday Night Raw: March 16, 2015

With two weeks to go before Wrestlemania, normally the idea would be to cram as much of a build as you can into the final weeks, but by this point it's just too late for me. There hasn't been enough good stuff to set up this coming Wrestlemania to make me really care about it. However, the last two shows before the biggest night of the year are always worth checking out so maybe these could be good. Let's get to it.

The Authority was in the ring to open the show and Rollins yelled at them all for allowing his beatdown last week. Rollins accepted Orton's challenge for Wrestlemania but they had to fight tonight first. Good grief just let them have a street fight or whatever and get on with it. Oh wait we can't do that because EXTREME RULES is right after Wrestlemania. There are a lot of problems with Wrestlemania this year but this one might be the worst for the entire show. I mean.....just dang man.

Between the botched return of Orton and wasting our time with the infiltration because where else was that story possibly going? That's why I didn't like it. There was ZERO need for it other than to add in needless "drama" before wasting Orton's big beating of Rollins which could have been saved for Wrestlemania. Oh and Stephanie getting to yell at Orton and everyone else because she's Stephanie and therefore above everyone else. I need to get off this before I go on about it for two hours.

Nikki beat AJ with the Rack Attack in one of the longest Divas matches I've seen in a long time. It's just setting up the tag match and trying to make Nikki look better, but the commentary still makes my head hurt in that Vickie Guerrero way instead of the "dang she's a good villain" way.

Kane and Big Show teased tension with Rollins and I'm sure this is completely legit and not part of a not so hidden plan.

Ryback beat Miz. AGAIN. I have no desire to see these guys in the ring ever again. Miz beat Mizdow up post match. Our hero of course.

The contract signing for Rusev vs. Cena was about Rusev insulting America and Cena talking about how serious this match was. Oh and of course there was a horrible Russian lawyer, who JBL was told to bury on commentary and make the whole thing a comedy bit after Cena talked about how important this whole thing was, because the people who run this show have the attention span of drunken gnats. Rip on his for the rest of the show or whatever if you REALLY have to, but let the serious stuff be serious.

Cesaro and Kidd beat the New Day and Los Matadores came out for a brawl. Not really the best but it's just for the preshow match.

Rollins threw the Stooges out for the night.

Brock had a sitdown interview to show that he's far clearer on his character than Reigns. Lesnar is here to destroy people and dominate while Reigns is here for his family because he can do it. Whatever that's supposed to mean/or for whatever reason I'm supposed to care about him.

Big Show beat up Rowan. Again. Just put the Family back together again if this is the best you can do with someone who looks that freaky.

Larry Zbyszko is going into the Hall of Fame. Not the worst idea, but who is supposed to be the second big name behind Savage? Arnold? That's the best they've got?

A bunch of midcarders had an unofficial mini battle royal with Mark Henry standing tall. Not that it matters as Sheamus is probably winning the thing but this was short and acceptable.

Heyman and Reigns had the same exchange they've had like five times now. Again, Lesnar and Reigns not being together in this build since the snowed in Raw is KILLING this story as Heyman is just out of ways to say "Lesnar is going to beat you up."

The Intercontinental Title match people minus R-Truth had a long six man tag with the bad guys losing. Not much to see here but it was fine. Barrett wound up getting his belt back.

You might be noticing a pattern emerging here but Bray Wyatt said the exact same thing, though this time he was nice enough to mention Abigail

for the first time in like, ever.

No match between Rollins and Orton (I would say duh but given this company lately....) because it was a SWERVE. Sting came out for an admittedly awesome save, but I need to hear Sting talk for a change. And not some voiceover that longtime fans ignored to say "that's not Sting's voice."

That last issue highlights the biggest problem this show has: people not showing up/not talking. Lesnar has only had a hand full of promos, Sting has had a voice distorted speech and Undertaker lit a chair on fire. HHH, Heyman and Wyatt can all talk, but they can only repeat themselves so many times before there's nothing left to say, and we reached that point around Fast Lane.

As for the show....it exists. There's nothing interesting on most of the last shows before Wrestlemania and they're a great way to tell how well the build has gone. By this point you're either dying for Sunday to get here or indifferent to the show. Unfortunately I'm the latter, but it's gotten better in recent weeks. The build here is terrible though and there isn't much they can do at this point to save it.

Since next week is Wrestlemania, I probably won't be doing one of these for the next show. I mean....is ANYONE going to care about a detailed recap of the last Raw before Wrestlemania?

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