

Best Of 2022 Awards (Last Part)

We'll wrap it up here and move on from last year.

Worst Match Of The Year

5. Men's Royal Rumble – Royal Rumble
4. New Day vs. Brawling Brutes – Wrestlemania XXXVIII
3. Nikkita Lyons vs. Lash Legend – NXT – April 26
2. Vince McMahon vs. Pat McAfee – Wrestlemania XXXVIII
1. Ric Flair/Andrade El Idolo vs. Jay Lethal/Jeff Jarrett – Ric Flair's Last Match

Like this could be anything else. This wasn't so much a match as much as it was a horrible embarrassment/a cry for help. There were parts of the match that were acceptable, which you knew would be the case with the other three involved. But then Flair teased a heart attack and had to lay on the apron because he couldn't stand. This match made me feel wrong to be watching it and you could almost feel Flair and Conrad Thompson counting the money in their heads throughout the whole thing. This is a runaway #1 and nothing is touching it.

Rookie/Newcomer Of The Year (As in rookie/newcomer on a show, not new to wrestling. And no, I won't be cutting them off if they had a match or two in 2021.)

5. Raquel Rodriguez
4. Roxanne Perez
3. Pretty Deadly
2. Hook
1. Logan Paul

Like this could have been anyone else. I had barely heard of Paul before he showed up in WWE but then he gets announced for

a match at Wrestlemania. Then he's winning there, beating Miz at Summerslam, and blowing it out of the park in a Saudi main event against Roman Reigns. This is something that felt like it should have been a horrible joke and wound up being a massive success. Paul has more than proven himself and it was a blast to watch him more often than not.

Worst Wrestler Of The Year (Not counting people who had one or two matches that is)

5. Shanky
4. Kip Sabian
3. Lash Legend
2. Top Dolla
1. Aliyah

Aliyah debuted in NXT in 2015. Roman Reigns hadn't even headlined Wrestlemania yet and Aliyah had her first match under the WWE banner. How in the freaking world has she not picked up SOMETHING yet? There are worse wrestlers out there, but how is it possible that she hasn't gotten at least the basics down at this point? I had to think about this one for a bit and then thought back to what Aliyah had done in her career. Realizing how long it had been was enough to put this one over the edge.

Worst Angle Of The Year

5. Jade Cargill And The Baddies
4. Andrade/Hardy Family Office Contract Nonsense
3. Drew McIntyre vs. Happy Corbin/Madcap Moss
2. Jay Lethal/Jeff Jarrett vs. Ric Flair/Andrade El Idolo (There was a build to that monstrosity.)
1. Kip Sabian Has A Box On His Head

This went on for months and for the life of me I still cannot tell you what in the world the point was supposed to be. Sabian literally sat there for months (without being acknowledged for most of the time), eventually unboxed, and

then lost to Pac before the whole thing was dropped and not mentioned again. I have no idea what they were going for here and I don't think AEW does either.

Title Reign Of The Year

5. Bron Breaker – NXT Title
4. Josh Alexander – Impact Wrestling World Title
3. Roman Reigns – Undisputed WWE World Title
2. Usos – WWE Tag Team Titles
1. Gunther – Intercontinental Title

This has been the year of the long title reigns and really, some of them are getting boring. We've seen the Usos and Reigns hold their titles for so long that you know nothing is going to happen to them for a very long time. The same is true of Alexander and Breaker, as there are only a few people who are going to take the title from him. That left me with Gunther, who has made the title seem so much more important, while also having the longest title reign in over ten years (even if you might not have realized it). Gunther takes this one for me, as I want to see how much longer he can hold the thing.

Surprise Of The Year (In-Ring/Storyline Only)

5. Bray Wyatt Returns
4. Cody Rhodes Returns
3. Bayley/Damage Ctrl Returns
2. Sami Zayn Makes The Bloodline So Much Better
1. Steve Austin Wrestles

This is one of those things that I never thought I would actually see and then it actually happened. That is the kind of wonder that you do not get in wrestling very often but dang is it a special moment. I don't think there was any doubt that Austin would do something physical, but how many people had "Steve Austin is going to main event Wrestlemania" back in October 2021? This wins by a landslide and it felt special,

even to a not very big Austin fan.

Best Of 2021 Awards Part 3 (Last Part)

We'll wrap it up with some sad parts of the year.

Worst Angle Of The Year

5. Karrion Cross Keeps Losing
4. Cody Rhodes vs. QT Marshall
3. Fiend/Alexa Bliss Exist
2. Nikki Ash
1. Lilly

I was going to go with Nikki, but then I thought of that doll. That stupid, rotten, horrible, no good doll, WHICH WINKED AT THE CAMERA AND THEN APPEARED IN A MIRROR. WWE went out of their way to destroy a lot of people and things for the sake of pushing the idea that Alexa Bliss had an evil doll. It was some bad horror movie come to life and I could not stand this stupid thing, which is somehow following us into 2022, because of course it is.

Angle Of The Year

5. CM Punk Is An Old Gunslinger
4. The Rise Of RKBro
3. Baron Corbin Is Broke And It's Hilarious
2. Hangman Page Wins AEW World Title
1. Whose Side is Paul Heyman On

WWE is pretty terrible these days but this is must see

television. Paul Heyman is one of the greatest performers in wrestling history and the things he is doing in this story has been even better than I would have thought possible. Above all else, he made me want to see where the story was going next and it was nothing short of amazing to see every single week. The story is still going in the new year and I really want to see where these things go next. Or just whatever Heyman is going to do.

Worst Match Of The Year

5. Charlotte vs. Nia Jax – Raw – August 30
4. Randy Orton vs. Bray Wyatt – Wrestlemania
3. Alexa Bliss vs. Eva Marie – Summerslam
2. Miz vs. Damian Priest – Wrestlemania Backlash
1. Kenny Omega vs. Jon Moxley – Revolution

This is one where your mileage may vary, but ultimately, this was a bunch of barbed wire violence before the lamest ending you could imagine. It was like some sparklers going off in place of an explosion. Ignoring the total disaster of the ending, you had the carnage for the sake of carnage, all because AEW wanted to recreate some angle from Japan, down to Eddie Kingston trying to cover Moxley and selling the....well nothing really. This was bad on all fronts and is still somehow even worse than I remember.

News Story Of The Year

5. NXT Gets Its Own Sequel
4. Ring Of Honor Hiatus
3. Huge Stars To AEW
2. Fans Return
1. WWE Releases

I don't know how it could be anything else, as WWE did not so much take the roster apart but completely gutted the thing. Over the last year and a half, WWE has literally released over

a hundred wrestlers. That isn't just going to shake up the WWE, but also the wrestling world as a whole. In addition to weakening the WWE roster, it opened up the flood gates to all kinds of other promotions. Several wrestlers have since moved elsewhere, which has made some other companies that much more interesting. This was a game changer, and the amazing part is it might not be done yet.

Feud Of The Year

5. Roman Reigns vs. Edge
4. Pinnacle vs. Inner Circle
3. Edge vs. Seth Rollins
2. Kenny Omega vs. Hangman Page
1. Roman Reigns vs. John Cena

This might have been short, but what mattered was how big this felt. That's the kind of thing you don't get to see very often, but Cena can make it work so well. Above all else, this felt like a feud that belonged in the main event of one of biggest shows of the year. Then the match wound up working too, which shouldn't be a surprise. It wasn't long, but Reigns defeated Cena in a huge main event and it felt like a showdown.

Title Reign Of The Year

5. Bianca Belair – Smackdown Women's Title
4. Young Bucks – AEW Tag Team Titles
3. Bobby Lashley – WWE Championship
2. Kenny Omega – AEW World Title
1. Roman Reigns – Universal Title

The words "of the year" apply here, because Reigns was champion for the entire year. That is not something you get to see very often but it has been pretty incredible for a very long time now. Reigns comes off as the biggest star in all of wrestling and has been bringing people up just by association.

This was an easy pick to make, because holding the title for a year is hard to fathom back in the day, let alone modern times.

Best Of 2020: Worst Angle Of The Year

These are the ones you remember. There are so many angles and stories that take place over the course of the year that it is natural to have something stand out as worse than others. WWE tends to have a corner on the market for these things but there are always a few others that sneak through. That may be the case again this year, but you never can tell. Let's get to it.

As usual, in no particular order until the winner at the end.

Raw Underground

I'm not sure how terrible this was, but it was so random and came and went so suddenly that I think it warrants an inclusion. Above all else, it was barely used and didn't really advance anything, so I'd call it more lame than bad. That being said, I'm rarely a fan of something along the lines of "this is the REAL fighting" on a wrestling show and while it was far from the Brawl For All, it wasn't exactly great.

Retribution

It bothers me to have to put this one on here but it was such a pathetic story for so long that it's hard not to. I like most of the people involved and I was really glad to see Ali get something to do, but egads how worthless did this team

seem for so long? They're getting better now, albeit at such a low level that it's hard to make myself care. T-Bar had some amazing moments in NXT and Ali is one of the easiest people to cheer for in WWE today. Why is this the best they can do for them?

Viking Profits

Now I know this one was popular with some fans and that's fine enough. I did like pieces of it but the whole thing went on for SO long without actually having a match that it felt more like a badly scripted reality series (The Raiders can play basketball but get confused by various common modern references?) than anything else. The cinematic deal with the ninjas and various Marvel/Star Wars references was entertaining, but (and yes this is the old school traditionalist in me), when you advertise a match after weeks/months of buildup, I'd kind of like to see it happen rather than another wacky skit.

Goldberg Returns, Wins Universal Title

So this one was the most infuriating at the time, especially when it was designed to set up the Battle Of The Spears at Wrestlemania, but Goldberg was in the ring less than ten minutes. We're long past the point where WWE is going to care about how annoyed fans get at Goldberg, so you just kind of learn to live with it. Annoying yes, but at least Goldberg was gone at Wrestlemania, never to be seen....never mind.

Then there is this, which is worse for one reason.

Braun Strowman vs. Bray Wyatt

As I saw pointed out on SCF, this went on for THREE MONTHS with three pay per view matches, including Money in the Bank and whatever the Swamp Fight was. WWE seemed to think that Strowman was interesting enough to carry half of this feud and oh sweet goodness no. This clinched the worst as soon as you

realized that they were going to a third pay per view no matter what. Strowman isn't very good in the first place (at least not in situations like this) and then he feuded with Wyatt for three pay per views because he was an enforcer for the Wyatt Family (one of three). This just kept going and that's enough to be the worst.

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Best Of 2019: Worst Angle Of The Year



IMG Credit: WWE

We'll finish up with a pair of fun awards as the most interesting things about these are the worst of the year. You

can often get a near unanimous answer to the best of things, but the worst side is a lot more divisive. The bad side of things is just more interesting a lot of the time and it might bring back some things that you have forgotten about over the course of the year.

Lana/Bobby Lashley/Rusev

I'm starting with this one because I don't think it's as terrible as some. It's really bad and one of the worst things of the year, but it's hardly the all time terrible one that a lot of people would seem to think that it is. Yeah it's gone on forever, it shows little sign of slowing down and egads I'm terrified of what they're going to do with the finish, but it's not as bad as it seems.

Now all that being said, this is some wretched television with the soap opera drama that is designed for one small group of fans rather than what the masses might want to see. It's going on so slowly and it is almost hard to believe that we are still doing all of this stuff. Lana has gotten some good heel heat out of the whole thing, but let it end already because we are now in the fifth month of this story. How is that the best use of TV time?

Usos Prank The Revival

I was there when this one started and my goodness it made me cringe. This was 1000% a Vince McMahon idea and you can imagine him sitting in the back laughing his head off over all of this nonsense. The idea is as simple as it sounds: the Usos decided to mock the Revival and did it week after week. This wasn't funny and it was a waste of two perfectly good teams, which is where it becomes a bigger problem.

WWE has all the talent they could want and this is what they do with them? The Usos are one of the best teams WWE has ever had and the Revival are an actually different kind of team but for some reason their best idea is to have them in something

that would be on a bad Nickelodeon show. This was insulting to the fans and a huge waste of the talent involved. Is there any wonder why the Revival wants out?

Shane McMahon: Best In The World

This one speaks for itself. It was a story that just kept going and going no matter how many people were sick of seeing it continue. Shane was around every single week, often wrestling, won a title in the process, and then went on to win at Wrestlemania. This is all for the boss' son, who NEVER LOST ANYTHING. Shane went months without a singles loss and probably should have been #1 contender to the Smackdown World Title at various points.

What in the world was the positive of this? Yes Shane did get attention, but he drew an audience because he wasn't around very often. When you put him out there every single week, it's an old guy who looks like he ran a marathon on the surface of the sun after about thirty seconds and can't throw a punch to save his life. Shane is fine in doses, but we got the whole bottle this year.

Roman Reigns' Attacker

WHAT WAS THIS??? In August, someone started attacking Roman Reigns and tried to take him out. Eventually it was revealed to be Erick Rowan was the attacker, eventually aligning with Daniel Bryan. Somewhere in there, this turned into a story involving a doppelganger (which went nowhere), a bunch of twists and lies, Buddy Murphy (which went nowhere) and eventually Luke Harper returning

AND NONE OF IT MATTERED! That's what the whole thing wound up meaning as Rowan started messing with something in a cage, Harper got released and Bryan is on fire as a face again. The problem is the story went spiraling out of control and I don't think anyone knew what was going on by the end. It nearly became entertaining in a way to see where it would go next

because it didn't make sense and was such a mess by the end that it didn't even matter to anyone.

I was looking at the list of nominees and this one stood out hard.

King Corbin Thinks Roman Reigns Is A Dog

The more I think about this, the less I can believe I actually watched it. Ignoring the whole boring Reigns vs. Corbin (again) feud, this was actually the focal point of the whole thing. Corbin even had a guy in a dog suit pretending to be Reigns and a major point was dog food (that part seems almost like an accidental gem in this mess). The feud is still going and managed to bring in Dolph Ziggler and Robert Roode for that big shot of charisma.

Much like the prank deal, this had Vince written all over it, because he thinks that Reigns beating up Corbin for TREATING HIM LIKE A DOG BECAUSE HIS NICKNAME IS THE BIG DOG is going to make Reigns the biggest hero in the company. It takes something special to make me hang my head and just want to hit things, but they did it every single time this story was on screen. And now it's going to keep going in the new year!

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the paperback edition of KB's Complete 2004 Monday Night Raw Reviews (also -available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2019/08/26/new-book-and-e-book-kbs-complete-2004-monday-night-raw-reviews/>

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Best Of 2018: Worst Angle Of The Year



IMG Credit: WWE

And then there's all the awful stuff, which really is something you can't escape. Some of these things are downright horrible and some of the worst angles I can remember in a long time. This year was particularly terrible in some instances, which is covering a lot of ground given how bad some of these have been over the years. There were so many options this year that I trimmed off some that would have been favorites in previous years. It's been that bad.

Smackdown Swept At Survivor Series And.....Nothing

This is a combination of two things. First of all you have the problem of the Kickoff Show match not counting towards the score (after it counted towards the score), but then there's the fact that Smackdown got swept. WWE had hyped up the fact that Raw had won a few times and then they did again in even more dominant fashion. There was no drama at Survivor Series and the latter half of the show felt unimportant. Then a grand total of nothing happened as a result. Survivor Series is a

major show, but they made it feel less important than Starrcade.

DX vs. Brothers of Destruction

Where do I even begin with this one? Let's see: the youngest person involved was just south of fifty years old, the match was a disaster, it brought Shawn Michaels out of retirement for a match that didn't seem to mean anything, and there's the whole building a match with scenes in front of a grave on a show whose controversy centered around a journalist being murdered. I think we can move on now.

Drake Maverick and Bobby Roode's Robe

This doesn't need an explanation. It was bad.

Brock Lesnar As Universal Champion

Lesnar spent most of the year as champion despite the fans not exactly being thrilled with what's going on. I know you don't have to have the World Champion on TV every week, but you would think that they would have him show up every now and then instead of just letting him be around every few months. That's fine every now and then but as of Wrestlemania this year, it's going to be two years (save for two months) of Lesnar as champion mostly out of residence. That's insane and shows no sign of slowing down.

Bayley and Sasha Banks' Unwild Ride

Note that this is NOT the fault of the wrestlers. They're stuck on this treadmill of bad booking and there's no end in sight for it to this day. Their feud with the Riott Squad will likely continue for several more months because WWE doesn't see the need to change anything. Other than that one week where Sasha was in love with Bayley, nothing has changed and that's such a waste of everyone involved.

But at least there's something to waste, unlike on the winner.

Baron Corbin Runs Raw

I don't remember the last story that got to me like this. The biggest issue here is very simple: Baron Corbin isn't that good. He's a perfectly serviceable big man, but he was the centerpiece of Raw for months. What WWE sees in him is beyond me, but he's still near the top of the card even after being removed from power. They eventually turned him into a scapegoat for the lousy booking because that's the kind of missing the point that WWE can pull off. This was terrible and easily the worst thing WWE did all year.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the paperback edition of KB's Complete 1997 Monday Night Raw Reviews (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2018/11/20/new-paperback-complete-1997-monday-night-raw-reviews/>

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2017 Awards: Worst Angle of the Year

As usual, Kurt isn't an option.

As much as wrestling fans like to talk about great things in

wrestling, they seem to love to complain about the bad stuff even more. That's what we're looking at today with the worst stories of the year. Some of these will be more focused on the stories themselves but some of them are built around the matches, as you can classify both of them as angles for all intent and purpose.

Let's get one of the big ones out of the way: Jinder Mahal as WWE Champion. It wasn't exactly the most pleasing story to most of the fans, the matches weren't good and the promos were even worse. Mahal shouldn't have been the World Champion and it kept getting worse the longer it went. This is going to be hard to top but I think there's something in there.

We'll stick with Mahal and go with his feud vs. Shinsuke Nakamura. Not only did Mahal beat him twice but there were the terrible promos with Mahal making fun of the way Nakamura looked and laughed, which was a combination of both unfunny and rather racist at times. I have no idea who approved of this stuff but it was really bad, which is as nice as I can be about it.

In the third straight Smackdown story, there's Shane McMahon. What about Shane? Everything for the most part. He's around way too often and the idea of forcing him into the face role isn't working. I have no idea why I'm supposed to cheer for him but WWE seems obsessed with pushing him in that role no matter what. Somehow we might be getting a Daniel Bryan heel turn out of it, because that's where things need to go. Shane is a horrible character and one of the worst parts of the entire show, which is covering a lot of ground.

We'll head over to Raw for a change now and a story that made me thankful for the outbreak of a viral disease. For reasons that I don't want to comprehend, WWE decided that Bray Wyatt should be taken over by his sister, a witch named Sister Abigail, to fight against the Demon version of Finn Balor. As usual, WWE would rather beat you over the head with a concept

instead of showing you a little something and letting you figure it out on your own. Thankfully (work with me here), Bray got sick and the story was canceled. It was bad enough while it lasted and I can't imagine how bad it would have been if it had finished.

I'll also throw in the American Top Team invasion from TNA. This was designed to showcase Lashley but wound up showcasing that MMA fighters can beat wrestlers, because that's the kind of story that every wrestling fan wants to see. The story went on way too long and wasn't interesting in the first place, while also bringing in two MMA fighters for cameos at Bound For Glory, where there was no one else who could possibly have used the exposure.

There's a big one left though and interestingly enough, it also involves Bray Wyatt. This time though it's the entire Wyatt vs. Randy Orton feud, which not only managed to have horrible matches and segments but also managed to sink Wyatt's main event career. He won the title, but then lost it in a match involving maggots and worms being projected onto the mat. For some reason someone thought this would be a good idea, and I feel that person should be taken out back and be forced to watch the match until their eyes rot out.

EOTY Awards – Worst Angle of the Year

There are a bunch of options for this. But it's pretty easily Cole in general. If I had to specify something, it's the overuse of Twitter. If you look at the Survivor Series buyrate, it came in low. Do you think that if maybe Rock had

gotten something other than Cena's Lady Parts trending it might have been better? Like maybe, Survivor Series This Sunday? That's the problem with this Twitter obsession: they're using it for the wrong things. Who cares if Alicia Fox is trending? She's on TV for a minute a week. Get something where it's advertising a PPV or better yet, ADVERTISE THE FREAKING PPV. I'll stop there because I could go on for a week about this.

Your thoughts/picks?