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**RAGING BULL**

**The Autobiography of the  
England Rugby Legend**

**PHIL VICKERY**

**WITH ALISON KERVIN**

[Dedication](#)

**To Kate, Megan and Harry**

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## [INTRODUCTION](#)

I'm the luckiest bugger in the world. Look at me - this daft bloody farmer from Cornwall and I've travelled the world, been on two Lions tours, two World Cup finals (and won one of them), got an MBE and met the Queen.

Met the Queen. Raging Bull: My Autobiography Me! Bloody hell. There I was, this chubby herdsman in a smart suit, standing in the Palace, surrounded by corgis, sipping tea and eating sandwiches without Raging Bull: My Autobiography crusts. Who'd have thought it? Not any of my school teachers, that's for sure. Not the guys I Raging Bull: My Autobiography grew Raging Bull: My Autobiography up with or the mates I went to school with. I don't think anyone who knew me when I was younger would have believed for one minute that I'd end up at Buckingham Palace. It's been a hell of a bloody journey, from doing the milking down on the farm in Bude and kicking balls through Mum's kitchen windows to having tea in the Queen's house and meeting the Prime Minister. It's not all been great, I'll admit. I've had some back operations that would make your eyes Raging Bull: My Autobiography water just to think of them, but most of it has been amazing.

The reason it's been amazing? It's because of the people I've met. Daft buggers like me who play in the front row, getting their teeth kicked in and their ears bent inside out ... the real men.

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You make friends quickly when you're cheek to cheek with a bloke. You learn to respect someone when you see them operate at such close quarters and you know about commitment when you're staring into the eyes of Raphael Ibanez, Oz du Randt or some big bloke known as 'The Beast', and preparing to shove your head next to theirs and force yourself forward with every ounce of strength you've got. It's bloody great when you feel the scrum move forward and you know you've got them. One little power struggle won for you, one little fight lost for them. Best feeling in the world, and I bloody love it.

Mind you, it's not so great in the mornings. I wake up some days Raging Bull: My Autobiography after playing and everything hurts. Every muscle feels like it's been smashed to Raging Bull: My Autobiography pieces and I'm sure I can hear them screaming when I try to move. Getting out of bed feels like the hardest job in the world. There are days when just moving an arm hurts so much I feel as if I've been shot, but even in the worst moments I wouldn't change any of it. Even on the days after my horrendous operations when I was in so much pain I could hardly see straight, I've never regretted a minute of my life as a rugby player.

I've met some great people, been to some great countries Raging Bull: My Autobiography and lived a life that most people dream of. I'm very grateful to have been given the opportunity Raging Bull: My Autobiography to do this. I am honoured to carry the dreams of millions when I run out in that white England shirt or the red Lions shirt. It's easy to say 'I feel privileged' but I do. I feel as if I'm the luckiest guy ever.

I've had Raging Bull: My Autobiography a hell of a career because so much has changed since I started. Things have happened during my time as a rugby player that have been astonishing to witness -like the game turning from amateur to professional as I was starting out at Gloucester. I'm privileged to have experienced both sides of the sport.

One thing that hasn't changed is the commitment it takes to make it to the top. There's a lovely phrase and I use it all the time ... 'If you're going to fail, die trying.' That's my motto. I believe you should fall at the last; don't cross the line coming second. *Go for it.* I know it's easy to say, and it isn't about rugby or playing for England. To me, it says that, whatever you do in life, give it everything. Fight every problem to the death and throw your weight behind everything that means anything to you. Most of Raging Bull: My Autobiography all, have fun doing it.

That philosophy worked for a tubby farmer from Cornwall who got to meet the Queen .

## CHAPTER ONE: THE BEST PLACE ON EARTH

Cornwall ... I bloody love it. It's a great place, isolated from everywhere and full of the friendliest people in the world. It's more like a village than a county - packed full of daft types who treat each other like one big family. I loved growing up there and hearing about its great history - all

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the myths and legends from times gone by, the stories about wrecked ships mysteriously disappearing, and tales of strange happenings that no one could explain or seemed to know where they'd come from. There's something Raging Bull: My Autobiography about the scenery down in Cornwall and the beauty of the place that inspires writers, poets and musicians and gets people telling tales. There were always famous people moving into the area Raging Bull: My Autobiography when I was young, aiming to find creativity on the wide, golden sands, amongst the big cliffs and in the beautiful countryside. I thought I lived in the most special place on earth.

## Raging Bull My Autobiography

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