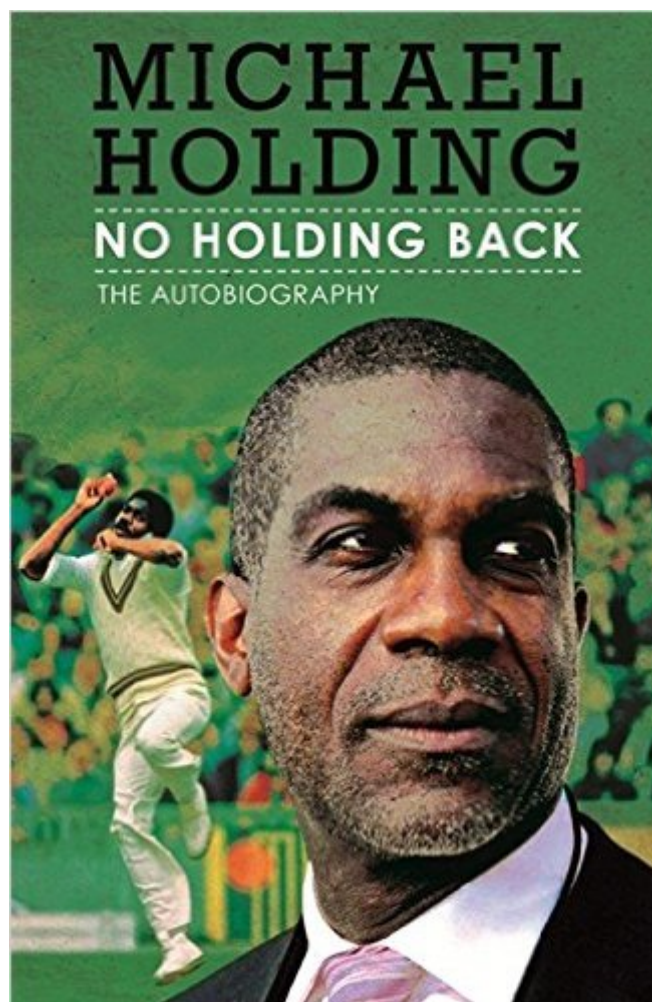


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# No Holding Back



## Synopsis

The autobiography of West Indies fast-bowling legend turned Sky pundit, Michael Holding. As one of the fastest bowlers the world has seen, Michael Holding went by the haunting nickname 'Whispering Death', claiming 249 Test wickets. Despite having not laced his bowling boots since 1989, it remains a fitting sobriquet. As a commentator and administrator, Holding has delivered his views on cricket in the same manner that he played the game: he speaks softly with a rich Jamaican rhythm and is calculated in either criticism or compliment. NO HOLDING BACK charts his effortless transition from one of the great players to one of the great pundits. Holding graphically describes his days as a player, looking back at how he tried to deliberately hurt batsmen on the wastelands of Kingston, and his first match for Jamaica when he almost collapsed from exhaustion - after only four overs! There is time, too, to divulge what it was like to tour with the West Indies, and unmissable insights about sharing a dressing room with other legends of the game like Clive Lloyd, Sir Viv Richards and Malcolm Marshall. Holding does not shirk the big issues, as he discusses how the West Indies have slipped following their halcyon days, openly assesses Brian Lara and laments the hypocrisy over the state of the game in the region. The controversy surrounding the Allen Stanford \$20m spectacle, the ICC's handling of the abandoned England v Pakistan match, player power, illegal bowling actions and the threat of Twenty20 to the Test game are all subjects which Holding tackles with characteristic knowledge and class.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Was given this book as a gift, though I wanted Botham's Head On. It has a lighthearted, anecdotal

start, but then it veers off on different tangents. In an interview on CNN Sports, Michael Holding stated it's not an autobiography as such but more of a discussion on various issues, including the ICC and test cricket. There are a few photos ranging from his childhood in Kingston, to his different careers, to holidays in Sri Lanka with his 2nd or 3rd wife Laurie-Ann Holding, who looks either Pakistani or Arabic. Well, I didn't like the book. I noticed a real ulterior motive and that was the catalyst in my changed opinion of Holding. It's the Allen Stanford chapter that I find especially ridiculous. I remember clearly, when Michael Holding would wax lyrical about Stanford being the savior of West Indies cricket. After all, Stanford was paying the Legends (including Michael Holding) an exorbitant amount of money for absolutely nothing. Allen Stanford is now awaiting trial, and I'm wondering how he'll react if he reads this. On page 154, Michael Holding provides more redundant triviality by stating he did not know that he had to wear a dinner jacket to The Pavilion Restaurant in Antigua when he had to meet Allen Stanford to negotiate a deal for his wife's company to run the Stanford cricket events. What a load of baloney! He's just so pretentious. I nearly stopped reading the book then. Huge revenue was lost by Holding's wife & her business partner when they no longer had Stanford as a client. Michael Holding, the Legends, West Indies cricketers, his wife's company Kelly-Holding Ltd, all made a fortune out of Stanford. But when the funds stopped rolling in, the vitriol took over.

What a disappointment! I was expecting an autobiography, instead I read excerpts of certain incidents in Holding's career as a commentator & cricketer, in his failed attempt to sound sincere. There's very little on his private life. Some recollections of his childhood in Kingston. Then it goes on to briefly cover his days as a cricketer, the transition to cricket broadcasting, and to gloss over phases of his career as a cricket pundit. But what I found even more hypocritical is that he's so adamant to defend himself in his involvement with Allen Stanford (the Texan billionaire currently awaiting trial in the US). In numerous publications, Holding is credited as introducing Stanford to the game of cricket. But the Stanford 20/20 series failed in the West Indies. It's obvious that Holding wrote this book to whitewash his own involvement & no doubt to profit. Holding's current wife Laurie-Ann Holding, who hails from Antigua and is an accountant, was running the Stanford cricket events from her own small company in the Cayman Islands (how convenient). Nice business arrangement for Holding. Stanford ended all this and so Holding's wife's company was no longer on the receiving end of an income from Stanford. This has been reported in the press. Google Image Laurie-Ann Holding & Allen Stanford to view a photo of them at work. I expect an autobiography to reveal personal details about one's life. There's little mention of his numerous children, all of whom

he's fathered with various different women, including one with another ex-wife. Only that he had to pay for two of his daughters' university fees. How petty of him to mention this. Holding's passion for horse-racing covers another chapter.

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