



Muhammad Ali: His Life and Times

By Thomas Hauser

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A sweeping biography of one of the greatest and most provocative athletes of all time—“a life that needs to be understood whether you care a whit about boxing or not” (*The Boston Globe*).

Athlete, activist, rebel, poet, legend—Muhammad Ali stood larger than life in the imagination of hundreds of millions of people around the world. A gold medalist at the 1960 Olympics, he won the heavyweight championship at age twenty-two by conquering Sonny Liston in dramatic fashion. In the weeks after the upset victory, he confirmed his membership in the Nation of Islam and told reporters he would no longer answer to his “slave name”: Cassius Clay. The political establishment stripped him of his heavyweight title when he refused induction into the United States Army during the height of the war in Vietnam.

Ultimately, Ali returned to reclaim his crown, prevailing in epic fights against the likes of Joe Frazier and George Foreman. His talent and charisma—and above all, his adherence to principle—made him a cultural icon and one of the most beloved sporting figures of all time.

But that is only half the tale. *Muhammad Ali: His Life and Times* is also the story of Ali, the man. Author Thomas Hauser got closer to Ali than any previous biographer. His work—told in Ali’s own words and those of hundreds of family members, friends, rivals, and others who interacted with “The Greatest” over the decades—reveals a deeply spiritual, complex man, whose public and private battles, including his struggle against the devastating effects of Parkinson’s disease, gave new meaning to the word *courage* and changed forever our conception of what makes a champion.

Heralded by the *New York Times* as “the first definitive biography of the boxer who transcended sports as no other athlete ever has,” *Muhammad Ali: His Life and Times* is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the legacy of one of the twentieth century’s most charismatic and controversial superstars.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Hauser compiles opinions from a wide-ranging roster of interviewees to create a portrait of the controversial boxing champ that bristles with insights, jabs and tributes. Photos.

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From Kirkus Reviews

A detailed, if hagiographic, account of Ali's public career and private life. Hauser (author of one of the best books ever on the fight game, 1985's *Black Lights*) is an obvious and uncritical fan of Ali's, whom he apotheosizes early on as "the most recognizable person on earth." In aid of what might be called oral biography, Hauser draws on over 200 sources--acquaintances, associates, opponents, friends, enemies, blood relations, and celebrity observers of the sometime title-holder--to create a composite portrait that's longer on sympathetic assertions than reflective insight. The ranks of the commentators include the oddly coupled likes of: Cassius Marcellus Clay, Sr. (Ali's dad); Joe Martin (the Louisville cop who taught Ali to box); Olympic teammates; Atallah Shabazz (the daughter of Malcolm X who helped convert Ali to the Nation of Islam); trainer Angelo Dundee; Jimmy Carter; Leon Spinks; George Plimpton; Sylvester Stallone; referee Arthur Mercante; Chuck Wepner (a human punching bag widely known as "The Bayonne Bleeder"); and Carl Walker (the black assistant attorney general who tried to make the federal case against Ali for draft evasion). Overall, Hauser does a good job of marshaling a wealth of facts into a cohesive whole and providing behind-the-scenes glimpses of a ring lion in the autumn, if not winter, of his years. Throughout, however, the author makes almost no attempt to conceal the genuine regard and admiration he feels for his subject. A walkover for Ali but a disappointment for those with even a passing interest in the sweet science's grittier realities. (Twenty-four pages of photographs--not seen.) -- *Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

"The first definitive biography of the boxer who transcended sports as no other athlete ever has." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"Extensive and fascinating detail; first-rate. The triumph of the witness technique in biography may be judged complete." —*New York Daily News*

"A magnificent book about a life that needs to be understood whether you care a whit about boxing or not." —*The Boston Globe*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edward Robinette:

It is possible to spend your free time to read this book this reserve. This Muhammad Ali: His Life and Times is simple to deliver you can read it in the park, in the beach, train along with soon. If you did not have much space to bring the printed book, you can buy often the e-book. It is make you much easier to read it. You can save the actual book in your smart phone. Therefore there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

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Nathan Kelly:

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