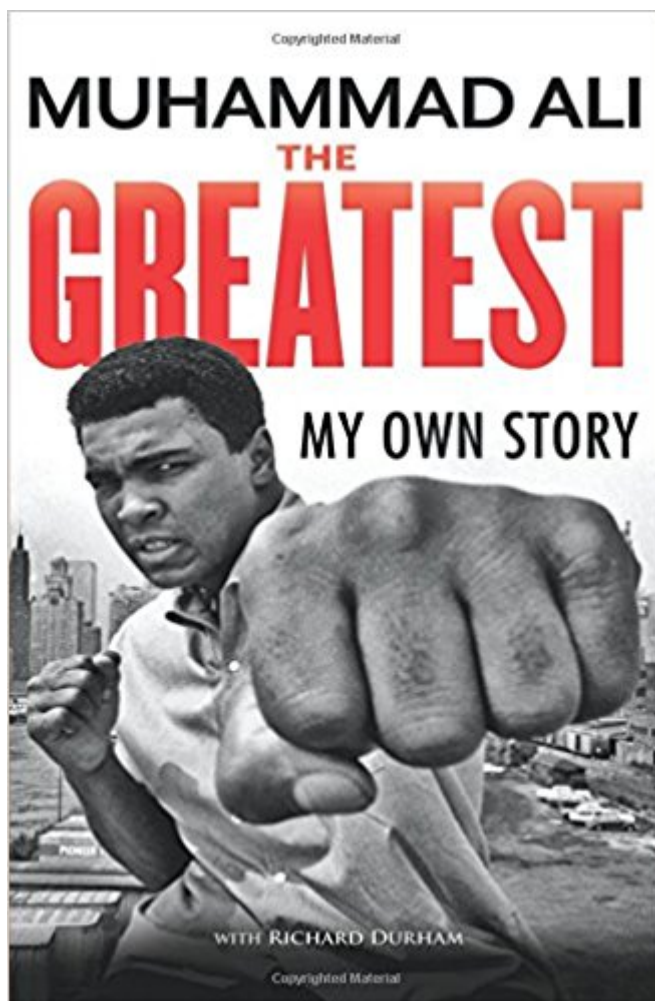


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The Greatest: My Own Story



Synopsis

In his own words, the heavyweight champion of the world pulls no punches as he chronicles the battles he faced in and out of the ring in this fascinating memoir edited by Nobel Prize-winning novelist, Toni Morrison. Growing up in the South, surrounded by racial bigotry and discrimination, Ali fought not just for a living, but also for respect and rewards far more precious than money or glory. He was named Sportsman of the Century by Sports Illustrated and the BBC. Ali redefined what it meant to be an athlete by giving hope to millions around the world and inspiring us all to fight for what is important to us. This is a multifaceted portrait of Muhammad Ali only he could render: sports legend; unapologetic anti-war advocate; outrageous showman and gracious goodwill ambassador; fighter, lover, poet, and provocateur; an irresistible force to be reckoned with. Who better to tell the tale than the man who went the distance living it?

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Customer Reviews

A splendid action-packed hurricane of a book! --The New York Times
The whole man is here as Mailer, Sheed, and a whole raft of sportswriters never caught him...Ali goes the whole route and comes up a spectacular winner. This is an extraordinary sports biography! --Publishers Weekly
No routine athlete's autobiography...honest...very convincing... to read it is like getting Ali alone in a room and hearing him answer all the questions one ever thought to ask. --The New York Times

In his own words, the heavyweight champion of the world pulls no punches as he chronicles the battles he faced in and out of the ring in this fascinating memoir edited by Nobel Prize-winning

novelist, Toni Morrison. Growing up in the South, surrounded by racial bigotry and discrimination, Ali fought not just for a living, but also for respect and rewards far more precious than money or glory. He was named Sportsman of the Century by Sports Illustrated and the BBC. Ali redefined what it meant to be an athlete by giving hope to millions around the world and inspiring us all to fight for what is important to us. This is a multifaceted portrait of Muhammad Ali only he could render: sports legend; unapologetic anti-war advocate; outrageous showman and gracious goodwill ambassador; fighter, lover, poet, and provocateur; an irresistible force to be reckoned with. Who better to tell the tale than the man who went the distance living it?

Saw Ali box *live* on tv once, first and only time, beating Shavers (boy, did he take a punch!). As slave names go, Cassius Clay is honorific. And yet, Ali had to take a new name. And religious identity. How did he know he "had" to? He refused to "serve," do an Elvis tour-- VietNam-- at profound personal risk. He defied the whole System (rightly), and he won. Came back (!), won, lost, beat Foreman (Foreman!). Re-watch the fight, everybody. Round One has no "rope-a-dope" (term was invented, a year later, by Ali with Cosell, Lyle fight, as near as I can tell). So,,, real heroes exhibit a humility, a defiance, an ability to do what *must* be done in the moment, in the moment. And they don't get to understand themselves. Maybe they "brand" themselves ... You know, we fans, beyond the braggadocio, understand you as a quiet soul, receptive-- defiant, human, so gracious.-- So: All I can say is, Ali, forever! Ali, forever! We love you, Champ! (we do)

I was assigned to research Ali for a blog post, so I bought this book with no expectations. WOW. This is a crisp, fast paced well written book - the story of a life that deserves the talented authorship of Mr Durham along with the gift of Toni Morrison's editing. I did not know much about the champ and I am glad for that, as I was literally astounded at the rich depth of his spiritual, physical, emotional and relational life. Well told tale about a well lived life. I am inspired to be more after this read, both as a writer and as a citizen of this world. THANK YOU

I knew he had a great story to tell and it exceeded all expectations! Very inspirational when someone stands up for what they believe in and does it not for personal gain. Despite being demonized for telling the truth, he puts money, fame, his life on the line to speak up for his people who are being oppressed. Truly the people's champ & there will never be another!

Incredible book, a must read. There's a NYTimes quote on back cover that says "it's like getting Ali alone in a room and hearing him answer all the questions one ever thought to ask." No topic is off limits, from personal relationships to his fights, even his car ride from Phila to NY with Frazier. I didn't want this book to end. Ali was truly the greatest of all time, there will never be anyone like him again.

Pretty legendary. He really takes you into his head behind the big moments of his life. The co author really deserves a lot of credit in his writing and arranging the stories

very good read albeit very long!..., get a good insight into the thoughts of the man himself as it is written in his own words. Extraordinary man who transcended sport really..., before I read this I thought he was only a boxer but he was a very intelligent and complex man....

It adds great perspective to today's racism debates. It is from a different time when racism was much more out in the open but probably no less debilitating (or in Ali's case, motivating) to those who endure it. I didn't like him in the 70's, but now I have a grudging respect for someone who could stand their ground for a cause and do it consistently over a long period of time. Next I'm going to look for a biography so I can get a more objective view of his life.

The book was as great as the man was. Mohammed Ali was one of my heroes but it gave me new insight into his motives and how he saw the world. I could not put it down. He had the courage to hold his values, no matter what. He fought for the freedom of African American and also the freedom of all. If you appreciated him, I recommend reading his autobiography.

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