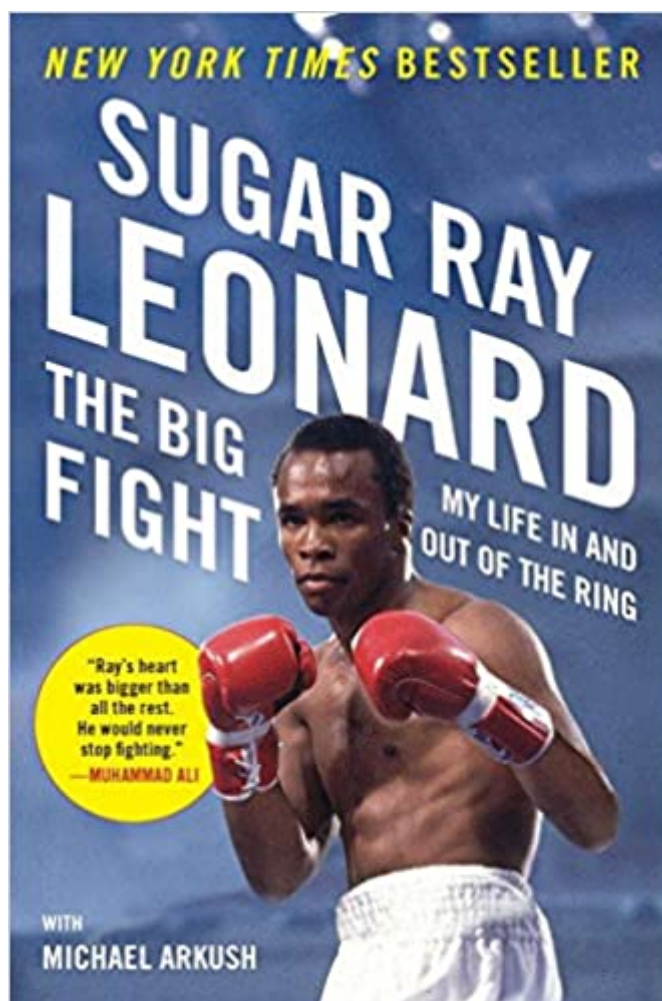


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# The Big Fight: My Life In And Out Of The Ring



## Synopsis

In his New York Times bestselling memoir, one of America's greatest boxing legends faces his single greatest competitor: himself. "Champions come and go, but to be legendary you got to have heart, more heart than the next man, more than anyone in the world. Ray's heart was bigger than all the rest. He would never stop fighting." Muhammad Ali in Washington, D.C., during the 1970s, a black man could get into the newspapers in one of two ways: crime or boxing. Sugar Ray Leonard chose to fight. After winning a gold medal at the 1976 Olympics, Ray wanted to call it quits and go to college, but his family's financial needs made him go pro. Boxing history was made. All the while, another, darker Ray—one overwhelmed by depression, rage, drug addiction, sexual abuse, and greed—battled for dominance. In *The Big Fight*, Ray comes to terms with both these men and shares a brutally honest and remarkably inspiring portrait of the rise, fall, and ultimate redemption of a true fighter—inside and outside the ring.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The intelligence and self-reflection that helped Sugar Ray become one of the greatest fighters of his generation, have also stood him in good stead outside the arena." The Boston Globe "Champions come and go, but to be legendary you got to have heart, more heart than the next man, more than anyone in the world. Ray's heart was bigger than all the rest. He would never stop fighting." Muhammad Ali

Sugar Ray Leonard worked as a boxing analyst for ABC and HBO after retiring from the ring. He lives with his wife and two children in California. Michael Arkush is an award-winning sportswriter and has written thirteen books, including *The Last Season* with Phil Jackson, *The Big Fight* with Sugar Ray Leonard, *"Rush!"* the bestselling unauthorized biography of Rush Limbaugh, and *Fairways and Dreams*. Arkush lives in Oak View, California, with his wife, Pauletta.

"The Big Fight: My Life in and out of the Ring" is an autobiography written by Sugar Ray Leonard with Michael Arkush. The hardcover book is 320 pages in length while the Kindle e-edition is a 449 Kb download. This book, details in a chronological fashion, many events throughout Sugar Ray Leonard's life...beginning with his childhood, the circumstances that lead him into boxing, his rise to fame and glory within the boxing world and maybe most importantly, how that life of success and achievement almost destroyed this remarkable athlete. Initially I found a lot of childhood info, particularly in early chapters, that while may have important and interesting to some, was not what I'd bought this book for. I had expected that Leonard had come from a poor black neighborhood and grew up with few advantages in life...what I'd wanted was the details of his boxing career and the things that influenced this period in his life. However, as I got deeper into his story, I began to realize that these childhood anecdotes did in fact have a major influence in his boxing development and then later on when things began to drift out of control. Also, the revelations in this book made me realize just how naive a person (me) can be about a perceived hero...Sugar Ray Leonard. During his boxing and commentary career he was one of the few sports figures that I always truly admired...he was, as he says in his own words personable and charismatic and this was how I thought of him, until I read this book. To witness your hero display and succumb to the human frailties that were exposed in this book...his unabashed philandering, the alcohol abuse and cocaine addiction, was to say the least, eye opening and disturbing. Leonard, to his credit, seemed to mature in his post boxing years, admitting to his many mistakes and appearing truly remorseful for those he hurt the most, his family. That being said it was still thrilling to read his accounts of the classic battles with Roberto Duran, Tommy Hearns, and Marvin Hagler. So much going on in his mind as well as the ring. You could almost feel the tension that must have prevailed on those special nights. I realized that this book was partially ghost written, (it would have to have been), but yet it came across as just that...ghost written. I had the image of Leonard verbalizing the ideas and someone else converting them into readable syntax. Really, I expected this...just taken aback by

how obvious it was. Really a small complaint in an otherwise intriguing account of one man's life. Conclusion: An interesting book detailing the life and career of one of boxing's greatest figures. 4 1/2 to 5 Stars. Ray Nicholson

Sugar Ray Leonard, by far, outside of Ali, is one of the all-time greatest fighters to ever grace the boxing ring. And what I loved most about Ray's book is his complete honesty in telling his life story, which I could tell was very, very difficult for him to do. What's funny to me is that I just finished reading Todd Bridges' life story, and it was because of his interview with Oprah, that Ray decided to come clean with his past about drugs and alcohol. It was so great to relive the moments of his greatest fights ever-- Duran, Hearns and Hagler. I watched all three of them and it was wonderful to relive those moments. Sugar Ray was so light on his feet and quick, a real smooth go-getter and didn't take any stuff in the ring. When that bell rang, all that was on his mind was pulverizing his opponent, which he did so eloquently. I was shocked to learn how long he boxed because I must have stopped watching his fights after Hagler, and although he realized that his body had seen better days, he still holds the heart of a true fighter. He is and always will be "The Champ" in my book, and kudos to him for telling his story and freeing himself of the demons he had to live with. This is an outstanding read and will keep you engaged from the beginning to the end! I have even more respect for Sugar Ray, the fighter, and Ray Leonard, the man! SIDENOTE: My only problem with this Kindle version is that Sugar didn't put any pictures in the book. Perhaps in paper he did, but none appeared here. But that will not stop you from enjoying the book!

A very good book for fans of Sugar Ray. I quite enjoyed it! Here is a man proved to be clever in many ways, not just in boxing and in beating the very best boxers of his era (e.g. Benitez, Duran, Hearns, Hagler), but in many of his life's choices. Born dirt-poor in a violent ghetto, where everyone was either dying or getting drug-addicted, somehow he steered clear of trouble long enough to become the best that he could be in boxing. His entire family were alcoholics, heroin addicts, and lazy misfits. Somehow, Sugar Ray had the inner strength to break that chain and make something of himself. His best life-choice was in taking the advice of Muhammad Ali and not allowing himself to be owned by anyone. So, he sidestepped both Don King and Bob Arum and found his own manager in businessman Mike Trainer. He knew enough to know that Trainer was the only man he could ever truly trust. Now, how smart was that! If only Mike Tyson were so lucky. Reading through the pages, one does hear the same Sugar Ray voice we've heard during his interviews. Thus, it is like a confessional interview, opening up about his own alcoholism, drug abuse, infidelity, womanizing, and

his co-enabling the addictions of his friends and family. Meanwhile, we get a few snapshots on what his thinking, strategies, and concerns were with each of his major fights. This book is a priceless insight into a great boxing legend.

With the new Sugar Ray movie coming out I wanted to get his autobiography so I knew the story. The book is super easy to read and is written to keep things interesting. I'm learning a ton of details that were never reported before about SRL as he was always perfect. This book shows Sugar Ray's flaws and yes, he is human! Roberto Duran called no Mas in their second bout, the book highlights this chapter in SRL's life very well. You won't be disappointed with this read.

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