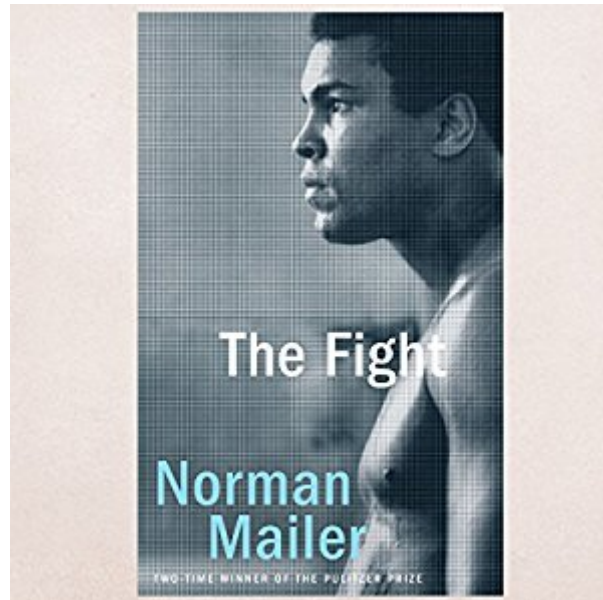


The book was found

The Fight



Synopsis

In 1974 in Kinshasa, Zaïre, two African American boxers were paid five million dollars apiece to fight each other. One was Muhammad Ali, the aging but irrepressible "professor of boxing." The other was George Foreman, who was as taciturn as Ali was voluble. Observing them was Norman Mailer, a commentator of unparalleled energy, acumen, and audacity. Whether he is analyzing the fighters' moves, interpreting their characters, or weighing their competing claims on the African and American souls, Mailer's grasp of the titanic battle's feints and stratagems - and his sensitivity to their deeper symbolism - makes this book a masterpiece of the literature of sport.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The Fight" is not just a week-long journey into the events, places, and people surrounding "The Rumble in the Jungle," the classic championship bout between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman that will be forever remembered as one of the greatest displays of athletic prowess. It's also a free-ranging tour of a mind into a genius wordsmith; yes, there's the obnoxious narcissism of a man at the height of his literary powers and at the apex of his celebrity profiling a man about to reach the peak of his athletic glory and at the cusp of his stardom. But there's also the endless and compelling curiosity of Norman Mailer, as he zooms in and out of people's minds as fast as he zooms in and around Zaire. Above all, there are all these psychologist insights into the athletic genius of Muhammad Ali that only a literary genius like Norman Mailer can appreciate. The actual fight itself will go down as the most fluidly and accurately description of a championship fight in

literary history, and could be compared to the final battle scene in *The Aeneid*. From Mailer's description, we can see that the epic battle between Foreman and Ali was violent and brutal, but ultimately who wins fights is not whoever is strongest and fittest but who is braver, smarter, and more determined. Boxing then is psychological warfare at its rawest and at its most subtle, and in the fight it becomes painfully and exhilarating clear to the audience that midway into the fight both men are on the brink of death, that their bodies and their minds have taken punishment and torture that would have killed any other human being, and that if they were to take a shot in the wrong place at the wrong time then they will come crashing down to their death.

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