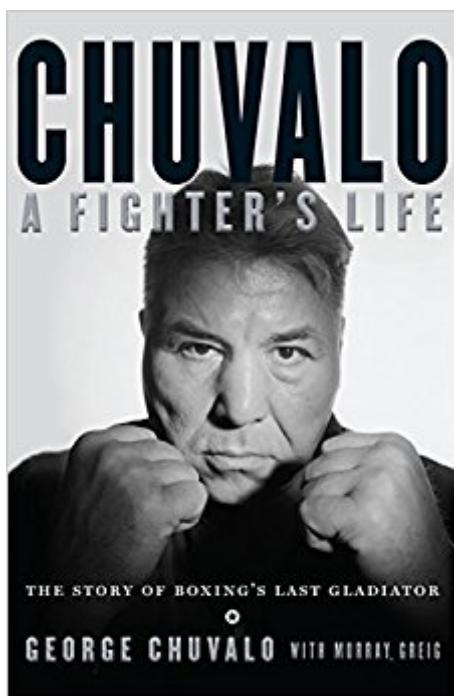


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Chuvalo: A Fighter's Life - The Story Of Boxing's Last Gladiator



Synopsis

The inspirational true story of a man who fought some of the finest boxers of all time, including Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, but lost so much outside of the ring. From his tough childhood as the only son of immigrant parents in Toronto, through the 23-year career that earned him induction into the World Boxing Hall of Fame and the public tragedies that decimated his family long after the cheering stopped, this is George Chuvalo's own story, told as only he can tell it. Chuvalo fought several of the top boxers of the twentieth-century: Joe Frazier, George Foreman, and most famously, Muhammad Ali. Despite fighting nearly one hundred times as a professional, Chuvalo was never knocked down—not until his family was devastated by drugs and suicide was the big man sent reeling. Chuvalo is a top-flight boxing memoir but also a poignant and hard-hitting story of a man's family life nearly destroyed.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

GEORGE CHUVALO was the reigning Canadian heavyweight boxing champion for twenty-one years, from 1958 until 1979. Ranked among the world's top 10 boxers for much of his career, Chuvalo faced many of the best fighters of the last century: Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, Floyd Patterson, Ernie Terrell, Joe Frazier, Jerry Quarry and many others. He is a member of Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, and in 1997 he was inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame in Los Angeles. Today, Chuvalo speaks to students, parents and other groups about how drugs devastated his family. He lives north of Toronto with his wife, Joanne.

I had been awaiting this book for some time, since George Chuvalo was one of my favorite fighters in the 60's and 70's. I saw many of his fights in TV, and I have gotten to know him casually through my annual attendance at the International Boxing Hall of Fame Induction Weekend. This is the greatest autobiography of an athlete that I have ever read. George brings to life his boxing career, almost making the reader feel as if he were there, and he tells the story in a straightforward manner, without the self-aggrandizement so common in autobiographies. Then, later in the book, George tells frankly about the tragedies which have plagued his life. He endured almost unimaginable pain and sorrow in losing three sons and his wife to drugs and/or suicide, but he came through with the same courage he showed in his ring battles. He is an inspiration to all.

Very interesting self-examination and introspection of a fighter who never went down in the ring. However, his family life outside the ring delivered several knockouts--a son and his first wife committing suicide, two others dying of heroin overdoses, a daughter dying of liver cancer. How Chuvalo manages to pull through all this is probably his greatest victory but these incidents are all his worst defeats. Being away most of his married life with training, boxing and partying probably contributed to a less than ideal family life. But that fills only the last quarter of the book. Most of the book follows his boxing career with his remembrances of the bouts--including several of the losses he believes he should have won. The writing flows and makes for a good read if you can get past the errors like Joey Giardello becoming champion in 1951. That didn't happen until 1963. And Marc Gastineau playing football for the New York Giant. He was part of the New York Jets' Sack Exchange. Worth a read and a buy for the boxing buff.

Great account of the golden age in the heavyweight division. While reading the book I went to YouTube quite often to look at his fights with Ali, Frazier, Foreman and others. I remember him from when I was a kid, but I could only listen to his fights on radio and it always seemed like he was getting killed. But when I read his book and saw film of his fights I now have a deep respect for his skill and his unshakeable will and desire. He is truly a great athlete and Canada's greatest boxer.

Felt like Mr. Chuvalo was speaking from the page, ghostwriter aside. If you have a kid who is curious or experimenting with drugs, as I do, they NEED to read Part Four of this book, if nothing else.

Chuvalo's story and attitude to life can only command respect. He is a fighter in the purest of sense

that never accepts defeat regardless of the odds. It seems blows in and out the ring that would of crushed mere mortals only made him stronger. The only thing matching his iron chin seems his unrelenting will to keep pushing forward.... What ever his fight whether against boxing legends like Ali or drugs that wiped out most of his Kin, the champions desire to win is never dimmed. A jolly good read!

Great book from begging to the end

A well written account of a boxer who lived in one of the most competitive heavyweight eras of all time and fought all of the best. I've always been a fan of the guy who fought over 100 times, fought against all of the greats and never once was off his feet. Georges voice comes through in this book, its clear that it wasn't "ghost written" despite the co-writing credit.

George Chuvalo opens up about his LIFE....Boxing & Everything else....He covers the Boxing career with insights to his Wins & Lost's...George was not a good guy at times but He maintained a level of performance that kept him near the top of Heavyweight Boxing for years.....He tells the after career story also.....it's a wonder he's still here I don't think many of us would have made it through the things that he faced....

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