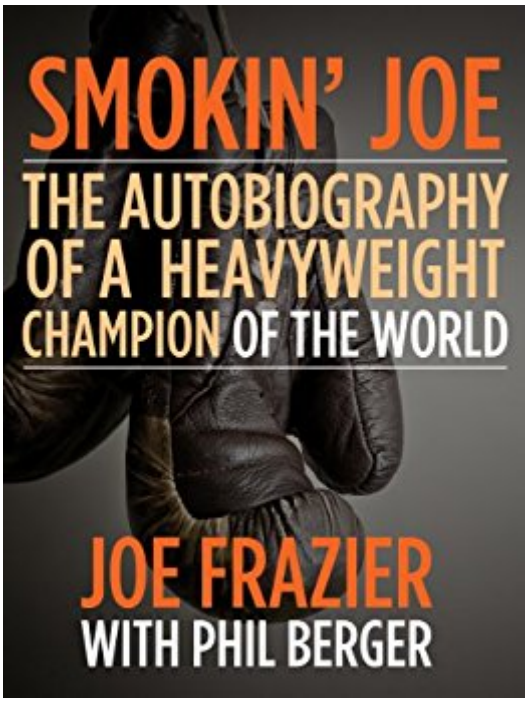
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SmokinÃ¢â‚¬â„¢ Joe: The Autobiography Of A Heavyweight Champion Of The World, SmokinÃ¢â‚¬â„¢ Joe Frazier



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Synopsis

When boxing was bold, bright, and glamorous and the fights were the hottest sporting events of the year, Joe Frazier was king as the Heavyweight Champion of the World. From 1970 to 1973 he reigned. With a career record of 32-4-1 with twenty-seven knockouts and an Olympic gold medal, Frazier leaves little question that he was one of the greatest fighters of all time. Well-known, loved, and revered as a gentleman and a fierce competitor in the ring, Joe Frazier speaks his mind in SmokinÃ¢â ¬â„¢ JoeÃ¢â ¬â •about growing up poor and fighting in the first $2.5 million bout; about the early days of his friendship with Muhammad Ali and how their relationship changed; and about the often corrupt world of boxing and what really went on inside and outside the ring.Ã Â Personable, good-natured, and funny, FrazierÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story is a real delight.

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Customer Reviews

Outstanding read from the champion’s perspective. With so much undeserved fawning over Ali it is refreshing to read an honest account of the huge heated battles between these two.

This book has been great just about a champion that if he was not in boxing ,a person like Muhammad never credited as they are in century ..i cried at most of the chapter when he was

hurting from pulverizing by Clay.About what kind of daddy he was and how he stands it all..i suggest to all to read this book to those readers think boxers are ruthless and never get touched .I love that

Outstanding book, particularly with the 45th anniversary of the first Frazier vs Ali fight on March 8, 1971 just yesterday. A great book to read for the boxing enthusiast and those who care to learn about the men themselves and the bitter rivalry and history these gladiators shared. You won't be disappointed!

Great read. Informative and interesting. Well worth the time.

Was always a great fan of the man, now I know why. This was the man who they should have called the greatest. He earned it . From an era when men were men.

Smokin' Joe was a great champion in the 1970s. Not as loud or flamboyant as some of his peers but a great champion and this book takes you into his world and see all those momentous events through his eyes.

First things first: I am a huge Muhammad Ali fan; and, I am a huge Joe Frazier fan. On top of that, I am fascinated by the lives of boxers. It seems that to become a great boxer, one must go through a bitter struggle to get to the top of that profession.Like other great boxers, "Smokin'" Joe Frazier had a hard life, and one at which one wrong turn at the crossroads could have derailed his life.Written in 1996, when "Smokin' Joe" was 52 and still bitter at Muhammad Ali's name tauntings of him when they were professional heavyweight fighters in the 1970s, this book revealed a lot about Joe's life.Most of you who will read this review must be, to some extent, familiar with the boxing history between Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali. In this book, Frazier goes into astonishing details about his recollections which made me feel as if he were here next to me talking to me himself.The book also connects Joe's past to his present and gives you clarity on how he developed as a man. He is very inspirational in how he explains how he rose to the top from his poor upbringing, though poor only in terms of money, not pride, committment to his family, or belief in himself: areas about himself that were a wealth of possibilities as long as someone believed in him.The book begins with his childhood in South Carolina and he gives you a feel about what he was like and how close he was to his father and the relationship he had with women, his friends, and experiences he had while living in a racially segregated South.Piece by piece, step by step, "like a train", Joe literally takes us

on the train ride of his life clearly explaining many fascinating details about his early fights. What impressed me was his attention to detail about his opponents. I had no idea that Oscar Bonavena was shot to death in Reno because of his affair with a woman who's husband owned a brothel in Reno. I never noticed the connection about how trainers would also fight trainers through their boxers and how fights of one set of boxers the 60s would directly connect fights of another set of boxers in the 90s.There's a lot of that in this book.Then of course, there is the relationship between Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali. They always had an amazing chemistry between each other. The perfect complimentaries in all aspects of life. Having Read Ali's Autobiography and Smokin' Joe's Autobiography, they both present themselves the same way they presented themselves in the ring. Joe was step by step in your face while Ali was multidirectional in his autobiography.In this 200 page book, at least 50 pages and two complete chapters are dedicated in detail about the relationship between him and Ali. If you read it, it sounds as if Joe was still angry at Ali while he wrote this. But I learned in this book that Joe Frazier is a deeper person than most give him credit for. I really didn't read anger in his words of contempt towards Ali; rather a "hard-love" and maybe even some hurt and justifiable hurt of the personal bashing Ali directed at him.The book goes into amazing details some of the verbal exchanges they shared even while in the ring, nights prior to fights or other personal confrontations they had over the years.A lot of it is even humorous despite being serious. There's a great passage about Joe Frazier's taunting Ali in private about his pseudo-wife at the time Veronica Porsche when they fought "The Thrilla in Manila."If you've seen Joe Frazier fight, the book reads with the same intensity of his boxing style: penetrating and persistant.You can't help but admire this man for his ethic and philosophy on life.For those of you who think Frazier has "deep psychological hatreds towards Ali," that's a bunch of, as Frazier would put it, "scamboogah talk."As recently as June 9, 2001: Joe was quoted as saying after his daughter lost a woman's boxing match against Ali's youngest daughter: "-``It's over. I just don't want no more problems...If I see him tomorrow, I'll say, 'Hey man, let's get along. Forgive me and I'll forgive you.' I'm tired of the harsh, dirty words. I don't want to go back to that no more.''This is a must read if you love boxing, especially the historically most important years of boxing: The 1970s,when Ali and Frazier were two of the 3 (Foreman too) top masters of this Sport.

Smokin' Joe The Man & The Legend4.5 StarsI always thought of Joe Frazier as a machine. Put him in the ring and he's a tank with one purpose. That left hook. That left hook. That left hook.I have mixed feelings about this book.It's the autobiography of Joe Frazier - from his childhood to present day. The history of The Left Hook I found most interesting - it's not a chapter - it's information

peppered throughout the book. That left hook!I loved the details given about his fights. How he felt before and during the fights and what was going on in his life before, during and after these fights.Joe had a really interesting and amazing career - Olympics, amateur and professional. He is an amazing competitor and athlete.Here is what I had problems with - Ali - his treatment of Muhammad Ali -I'm a HUGE Ali fan so take this with a grain of salt -Joe is incredibly bitter and angry with Ali - rightly so too, but it taints the book and gives it a bitter mood. He flat out refuses to call Ali - Ali - and only refers to him as Clay or the Butterfly - or anything else but Muhammad Ali - it's completely understandable and makes sense. Ali really layed into him and was flat out cruel at times - but it distracts and takes away from the book. It takes away from a feeling of good sportsmanship. I would go back and forth with losing respect for Joe, but in the same breath I understand why he feels this way - but again this takes away from his story.Ali / Frazier is forever intertwined with boxing history and boxing lore and it seems Joe resents Ali too much and that also takes away from certain aspects of the legacy and legend - but does add to other parts of it.Compare and contrast how he speaks of George Foreman - there's a lot of respect, admiration and good feelings towards the big man.I recommend this book to anyone interested in Joe Frazier and anyone interested in a legend of the ring, in one of the greatest fighters ever to lace `em up.

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