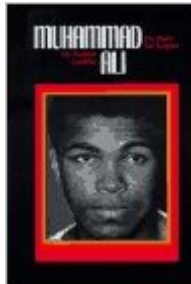




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Muhammed Ali: The Fight For Respect (New Directions)



Synopsis

Part of a series designed to examine important social trends of the twentieth century through the life stories of important figures shows how Muhammad Ali had to battle racism both in and out of the ring.

Book Information

Series: New Directions

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Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8-- A well-researched account of a worldwide celebrity whose fame transcends the boxing arena. Conklin uses quotes and observations from Ali and his acquaintances, as well as information garnered from books and newspapers, all fully documented in over 100 end notes. He takes an in-depth look at Ali's conversion to the Black Muslim faith and his refusal to be inducted into the armed forces because of his religious beliefs. Conklin does a nice job of describing the mood of the country in the mid-1960s, allowing readers to understand the courage and consequences implicit in Ali's actions. Some blow-by-blow fight action is included, but it plays a secondary role to the subject's social and political impact. There is no substantial look at Ali's life after his boxing career and his continuing battle with Parkinson's Syndrome, but this is still the highest quality work available for this age group. Unlike many athletes whose flame is flickering, often meaning a short shelf life for their biographies, Ali will be forever woven into the fabric of his sport and this nation's past. Good-quality, black-and-white photographs appear throughout. --Tom S. Hurlburt, La Crosse Public Library, WI
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A new biography of the foremost boxer of our time emphasizes Ali's stubborn unwillingness to fit the low-profile "Credit to His Race" mold of his predecessors: his loud (and eminently quotable) self-promotion; his conversion to the Nation of Islam; and, especially, his refusal to be drafted, which cost him years of court battles, much of his career, and (temporarily) his title and boxing credentials. The author focuses on Ali's public career and major bouts rather than on his private life; except for Ali's 1990 appeal to Iraq to free hostages, he closes with his retirement in the early 80's. Several pages of notes; chronology; brief, well-chosen booklist; index. B&w photos not seen. (Biography. 11-14) -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

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