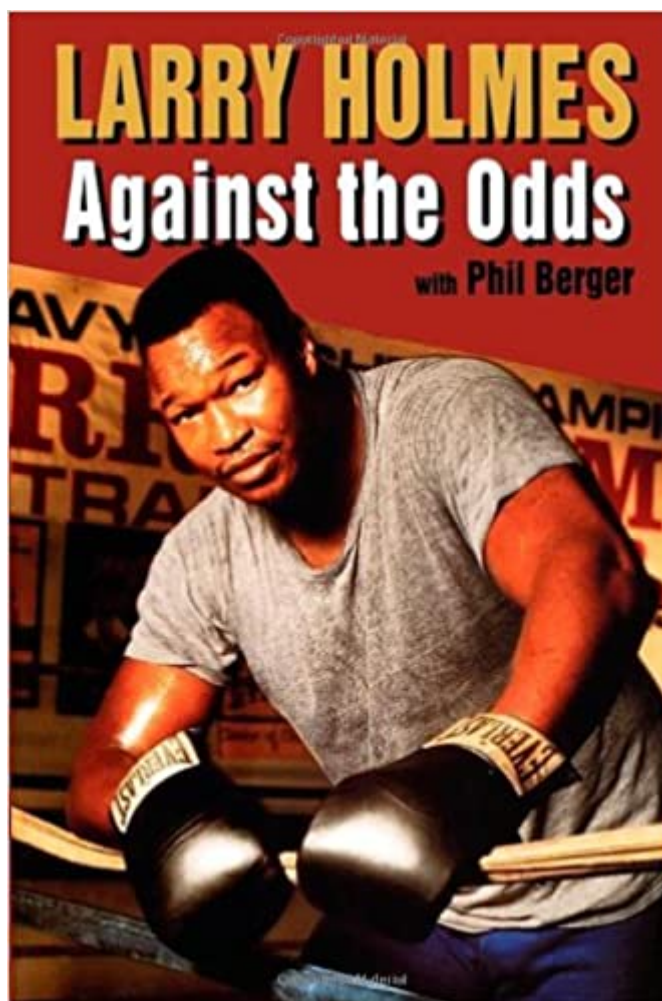


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# Larry Holmes: Against The Odds



## Synopsis

In Larry Holmes, the reader will experience the uplifting odyssey that took Larry Holmes from a boxing nobody to a world champion. Holmes is considered to be one of the greatest heavyweight champions of our time and held the title for more than seven years. But his rise to the top was hardly an easy one. He began his life as one of twelve children raised by a single mother in Cuthbert, Georgia, and had to struggle in poverty for the first sixteen years of his life. His road to champion -- from which he would net \$40 million -- was one requiring doggedness and extreme courage, qualities that led people to dub Holmes "The People's Champion". Also featured in the book is an insider's look at Holmes relationship with Muhammad Ali, his views on the state of boxing in the 1990s -- including the Mike Tyson situation, his fights with Don King, and his ratings of the top boxers today. Larry Holmes is a champion in every sense of the word. He has risen to every challenge he faced -- from poverty to ridicule to naysayers -- and his life story is both inspiring and moving.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An odd twist of publishing fate once again has former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes locked with and overshadowed by the presence of Muhammad Ali; David Remnick's superb biography of the Greatest, King of the World, was published at the same time. The image of his former sparring partner--the beloved, quick, and graceful Ali--haunted Holmes throughout his career, which is too bad, because Holmes was a terrifically skilled fighter who could both box and hit. Like so many

boxing stories, Holmes's begins on the wrong side of the tracks; he fights himself out and up from there. Straight-ahead, hard-working, cautious at times, and free of attending glitz, *Against All Odds* mirrors Holmes's style in the ring and out of it. Its strength is its candor. Holmes never could hide his emotions--or his petulance. His autobiography makes clear his respect for Ali, his hatred of Don King, and the angers that raged around his fight with Gerry Cooney. Indeed, rage is a character in itself. "It was the part of me that always scared me a little because I never completely accepted the fact that I had it in me," Holmes writes. Accept it or not, he rode it to the title, and, no small feat, held that title for seven years. --Jeff Silverman

There could not be a more appropriate subtitle for this autobiography chronicling the rise of the man who was the heavyweight champion from 1978 to 1985. One of 12 children, Holmes and his family were moved from rural Georgia to Easton, Pa., by a father who then abandoned them to the most abysmal poverty. Holmes didn't have a chance to finish grammar school?he began work at 13?but while there he was introduced to wrestling and boxing. In 1968, at the age of 19, Holmes began to train as a boxer with Ernie Butler. A couple of years later, he had the good fortune to work as one of Muhammad Ali's sparring partners and the good sense to learn from him. In 1973, however, he had the misfortune to tie himself to Don King; eventually he would have to battle his manager for even 50% of his winnings. Holmes's portrait of the promoter is so devastating that readers may come to dislike King as much as Holmes does. Equally depressing are his observations about many other figures in boxing and the racism that still governs the sport. Despite all this, Holmes managed to draw on the lessons of his impoverished childhood: he saved enough money to buy and develop land in Easton, allowing him to live as a wealthy man. Berger (Smoking Joe) is adept at explaining Holmes's unwillingness to live with injustice (he once turned down a \$30 million purse for boxing in South Africa) and his resolve to triumph over it. In a memoir that is by turns saddening and inspiring, Holmes comes across as a heroic American athlete. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I plowed through this book in 2 days. Very well written and informative. He takes the reader through his childhood and early years as a pro with an insiders view of the good and bad of his profession and many of the individuals. While I always found him to be a solid, skilled fighter and was a fan, his disparaging comments regarding Marciano following his first loss to Spinks tainted my opinion on him as a person. Reading his autobiography gave me a different look at the frustration he experienced throughout his career and what went on in his mind at the time. I also appreciated the

fact that he, himself, regretted those words. The inside perspective on Ali and his camp was also very interesting. I highly recommend this book for anyone who followed the sport in the 70s and 80s.

i haven't read it yet, but i always watched Larry Holmes fights and he had one of the best jabs in heavyweight history. I've always thought he hasn't gotten the accolades he deserved. I'm looking forward to reading this.

This book is definitely an entertaining and easy read. Holmes recounts his rise and reign as heavyweight champion of the world. He shares the brutal realities of professional boxing with great humor. The stories he tells about Don King's greed and audacity are hilarious and worth the price of the book alone. However, I question how honest Holmes is about himself. He portrays himself as a good, decent man in the rough and dishonest world of professional boxing. I think this is how Holmes wants to see himself. But some of his stories are clearly false. For instance, Holmes claims that Norton tried to intimidate him before the fight by staring him down. But in the tape of the fight, it is Holmes, not Norton, who is doing the staring down. I think the book reveals that Holmes didn't want to acknowledge his own anger. Instead, Holmes wants you to believe he is the constant victim.

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If you are a fan of boxing in the you have to respect what Larry Holmes did. I think Holmes was one of the greatest boxers of all time. He always worked hard and did not become a has been. Today he is a businessman . I respect Mr. Holmes.Enjoyed every minute.

Great book about his life. Doesnt come off as self serving as others. Except he thinks ghe was heavyweight champion after beating Norton. He didnt get recogniation until later. A great fighter.

Good history of a champ who never seemed to get the same accolades as Ali, Frazier, or Foreman. He did wind up very successful as a fighter and in life.

Mr. Holmes' story is compelling and at times disappointing. He truly never did get the just rewards in the boxing world. He did however find a reward out of the ring. Congratulations to him for coming out of those battles with minimal injury. Honest and straightforward reading. Great book!

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