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Sting like a bee: The Muhammad Ali story

By Jose Torres



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For four decades Muhammad Ali's enduring story has gripped the American public, his profile extending far beyond the boxing community. This account of his life is written by a professional boxing champion, who offers an authentic view of Ali and the world of prizefighting, told by a true insider. Just three years earlier than Ali, Torres himself was the light-heavyweight champion of the world. Torres, who had first met Ali in their Olympic days, delivers explicit accounts of Ali's major fights with the verisimilitude of one who's lived it. Also included are little known anecdotes and facts about Ali's background. With an introduction by Norman Mailer and an epilogue by Budd Schuller.



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Sting like a bee: The Muhammad Ali story By Jose Torres Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"Acrid, penetrating, a book fuming with the ammonia of the prize ring and the psychic steam of champions."—*Publishers Weekly*
(*Publishers Weekly*)

"Marvelous. . . . It is a study of the psychic contest that in boxing is the hidden part of the iceberg."—*New York Times*
(*New York Times*)

"With his keen, analytical eye, [José Torres] takes us inside the gym, inside the locker room, and even inside the psyche of the boxer in the ring. He explains the feelings, including fear and exhaustion, that all boxers, even Ali, experience prior to, during and after a fight. This makes *Sting Like a Bee* more than a valuable insight into a significant period in the career of a boxing legend. It is also a benchmark against which to measure other boxing books, if not sports literature in general."—Tim Gebhart, *Blogcritics.org*
(Tim Gebhart *Blogcritics.org* 2009-03-01)

From the Back Cover

Climb inside the ring with a world-champion boxer for a behind-the-scenes look at Muhammad Ali

Writers have long been attracted to boxing. Hemingway, Mailer, Algren, Plimpton, Oates, and many others have stepped into the ring—at least in spirit—to give voice to an otherwise wordless sport, to celebrate that "sweet science," and to bear witness to its romance and tragedy. In this acclaimed book, hailed by Norman Mailer as an "impressive event," we are brought for the first time into the ring for a close-up look at the "manly art" through the eyes of José Torres, a man who was a great boxer himself. When former light-heavyweight world champion José Torres traded in his gloves for a typewriter, boxing finally found its eyewitness.

In the classic *Sting Like a Bee*, Torres turns his well-trained eye on one of the most celebrated and controversial athletes of all time: Muhammad Ali. In this penetrating view of Ali and the world of prizefighting, told by a true insider and "boxing's Renaissance man," Torres delivers exciting and explicit accounts of all of Ali's major fights with the cool authenticity of one who has lived it.

". . . Acrid, penetrating, a book fuming with the ammonia of the prize ring and the psychic steam of champions."
--*Publishers Weekly*

"Marvelous . . . it is a study of the psychic contest that in boxing is the hidden part of the iceberg."
--*The New York Times*

About the Author

José Torres is a former boxer who won a silver medal in the 1956 Olympic Games and the 1958 New York Golden Gloves Open Championship. He is the author of *Fire and Fear: The Inside Story of Mike Tyson* and a regular contributor to the Spanish-language New York newspaper *El Diario La Prensa*.

Bert Randolph Sugar is a historian, boxing writer, Boxing Hall of Famer, and the former editor of *Boxing Illustrated* and *The Ring*. He is the author of several boxing books, including *My View from the Corner* and *Boxing's Greatest Fighters*.

Users Review

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