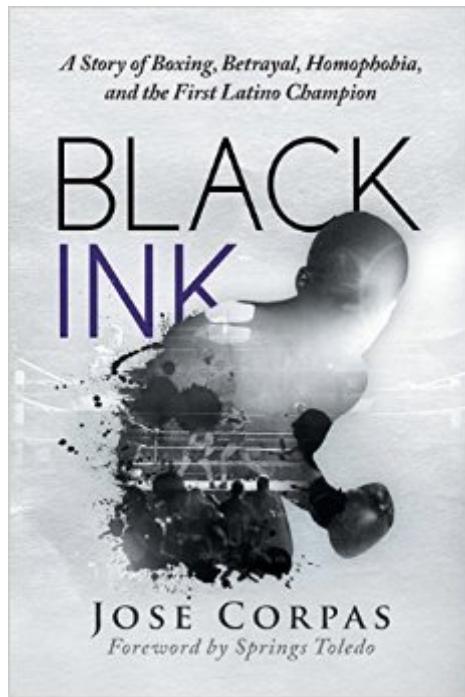


The book was found

Black Ink



Synopsis

Black Ink is the long overdue biography of Panama Al Brown, a boxer so unpopular, fans stormed the ring and nearly killed him in an attack that might be considered a hate crime today. Outside the ring, the leaders of the "Manly Art" were so determined not to have a gay boxing champion that they stripped him of his recognition, without an explanation. But Brown was too good, and eventually fought his way to become recognized as the first Latino world champion. In this riveting book, Jose Corpas makes sure Al Brown is never forgotten.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (6 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book as soon as it was available and have to say that it is a fantastic read and touching tribute to one of the greatest boxers of all time, at least at bantamweight. My grandfather, Dick Burke, fought him twice and while he was alive told me many stories of his fights with Al Brown, so I was keen to read more about the great man. I wasn't quite sure what to expect when I started to read it - maybe a straightforward, factual, chronological story of Al Brown's career and fights - but instead was fascinated to read a very well crafted and touching story about the personal and external battles he overcame during his career. This is all interwoven with historical, political and social backdrops which make this book more than a straightforward biography. A great read and a fitting tribute to such a tremendous World Champion and human being.

"When I met Al Brown, he was stalled in a paste of fatigue and disorder." So goes the impression of

writer Jean Cocteau at his introduction to boxing's first Latino world champion. By that time, Brown was already deteriorating, suffering from illness and repulsion with the sport that raised him up and cut him down in turns. His complicated journey is masterfully documented by author Jose Corpus. The account is a stand out because of the measured approach Corpus takes in relating Brown's story. He doesn't make sordid assumptions, or exploit rumors of Brown's private life to shock or satisfy a modern audience. Instead, he draws an engaging portrait of a man who embodies fascinating contradictions: an incredible gift for visceral aggression and an emotional yearning for a softer, gentler form of expression. Brown was not an easy idol and so the accolades he was deprived of were deemed justified in his day. But times do change, sensibilities evolve, and memories begin to reflect anew. What emerges from the stellar research here is the figure of a man of great accomplishment. Whether celebrated or denigrated, those gifts of Panama Al Brown cannot be erased from boxing history. Jose Corpus has made sure of this. He has offered in his effort a final stage for Brown's performance, greater than any New York canvas, grander than any Parisian dance hall.

Captivating and original. Not only am I transported back in time, experiencing his trials and triumphs but I am awed by the amount of historical boxing references and it's relevance to history at the time. This is excellent and I hope they make it into a movie. I'd love to compare the two. What a terrific read. The author did a great job bringing this fella back to life!

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