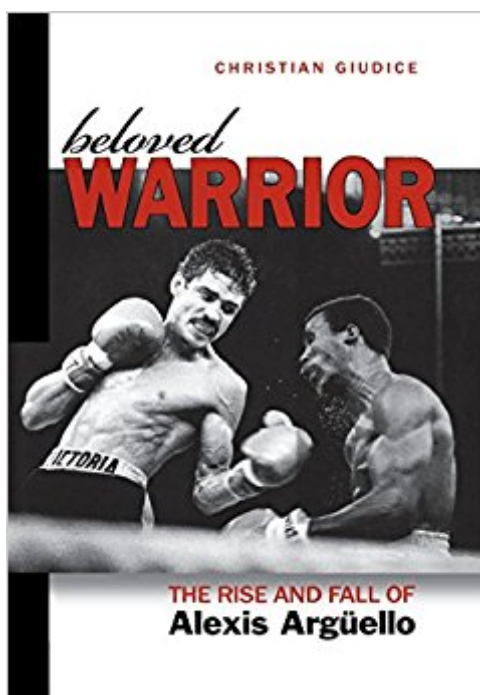


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Beloved Warrior: The Rise And Fall Of Alexis Argüello



Synopsis

Boxing lost a true warrior and gentleman of the ring when the mayor of Managua, Nicaragua, Alexis Argüello, died in 2009. To millions in Nicaragua and around the world, Argüello was an iconic figure, a willing role model, and a shining light in a nation that places its sports figures on pedestals. *Beloved Warrior* explores the extraordinary rise, fall, and rebirth of this great fighter. With a career that began in 1968 in Managua, Argüello overcame early losses, including a knockout in his debut. He went on to win three world titles, relinquishing them only by moving up in weight class. While boxing until 1995 and reaping luxury and fame, Argüello never forgot his people. Using his skills and power, "El Flaco Explosivo" (The Explosive Thin Man) earned his lofty status as one of the most celebrated Latin American boxers ever. While Argüello's devotion to the sport cannot be challenged, questions about the man still remain. How did he rise from the streets of Managua to become one of the greatest fighters in the world? What happened to him after he fought Aaron Pryor, whom many considered the greatest 140-pounder in history? How was he affected by his time spent fighting against the Sandinistas? And finally, what is the story behind his mysterious death less than eight months after he won Managua's mayoral election? Despite Argüello's notorious losses to Pryor, his remarkable career as an unforgettable fighter lives on in his fans' memories. As Christian Giudice illustrates, Argüello's status as a hero both in and out of the ring will forever remain intact.

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Customer Reviews

Christian Giudice has followed up his fine chronicle of Roberto Duran with another seminal biography of an iconic Latin American warrior. Alexis Arguello never scaled the public relations heights of Roberto Duran, or for that matter Sugar Ray Leonard, but he was a beloved figure who had crossover appeal both to Hispanics, the Central American market, and the traditional American fight fan. He first came to real National prominence when he won a thrilling back and forth battle with a surging Ray Mancini, who was being groomed as a network star. However, prior to this he had won bona fide titles in the 126 and 130 pound divisions. He became known as both a devastating puncher and a clinical technician in the ring. Outside of the ring, he was known as an urbane, intelligent, well-dressed and well spoken individual. A native Nicaraguan, he also was a sensitive soul. In a sport populated by barbarians, his class stood out and even his opponents came to not only respect him, but ultimately love him. However, Arguello's demons got in his way. His personal life began to fall apart with wife one, two and three going their separate ways. He was an easy mark for extra-marital affairs, and though his third wife genuinely cared for his welfare, she could not brave his errant ways. Late in his career, Arguello attempted to step up to 140 pounds to wrest the championship from Aaron Pryor. Pryor was a human dynamo, and a terror in the ring. In a classic two fight series, Arguello was stopped late in each fight. Neither fighter ever really was a factor in boxing after that. Arguello made a short comeback, which was aborted due to health concerns, and an ill-advised comeback at the age of 43.

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