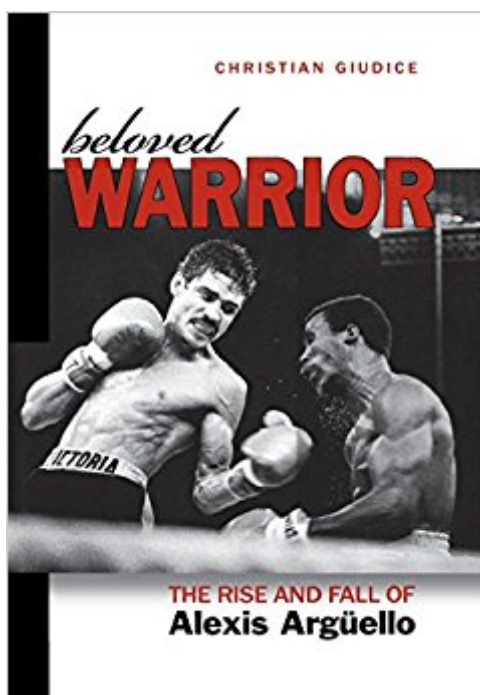


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Beloved Warrior: The Rise And Fall Of Alexis Argüello



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

"I will forever be appreciative of being so closely associated with such a gentleman and champion. I always say that when you look up the word 'champion' in the dictionary and read of its qualities—class, grace, and humility—you will see a picture of Alexis Argüello." From the foreword by Ray Mancini, former World Boxing Association lightweight champion (Ray Mancini) "Just as he did in his first book about Roberto Duran, Christian Giudice offers a balanced and critical look at a great boxer's life, in the appropriately named *Beloved Warrior*. His reporting discusses, at length, the contradiction between Alexis Argüello's triumphs in the ring and the emotional, psychological, and political turbulence beyond the ropes that eventually claimed his life. Those who revere the fighter and person that Argüello was will finish *Beloved Warrior* thoroughly entertained, as well as better informed. For my money, one can't ask more from a book than that." Lee Groves, boxing historian, columnist for *The Ring* and *RingTV.com*, and writer/researcher/punch counter for *CompuBox, Inc.* (Lee Groves)

Christian Giudice currently teaches English in Charlotte, North Carolina, and writes for the boxing site *Juicesport.com*. He has been published in South Jersey sports magazines and international boxing digests. The author of *Hands of Stone: The Life and Legend of Roberto Duran* (2009), Giudice is from Haddonfield, New Jersey.

It was not very well written. The prose did not flow smoothly. He had a tendency to be repetitive as far as phrases he used. He uses a lot of quotes from contemporaries, which is good, but many of these quotes lack clarity. Whether it is the direct quote of a non-native English speaker or his translations from Spanish to English lacking, I am not sure. While you do get a pretty clear picture of Alexis as a boxer and a man central to a political firestorm, you really don't get the rest of Alexis. There was mention of his infidelities, but I don't really have any idea of the private Alexis. The Alexis you see in this book is mostly the Alexis you already knew. Nice guy with weaknesses. There is very little input from his children, ex-wives and family. Very shallow analysis from his oldest friends. It was hard to get through, but I did want to know about his last days. I guess I could have just skipped to the end, but I'm sure I'm. It the only person who feels he must finish a book once he's started.

Interesting read, and I got to read most of it in Nicaragua. Gives a good picture of Arguello the Fighter and Arguello the man. While I like boxing (and Arguello has always been my favourite fighter), I was more interested in reading about his life and politics. Giudice's book probably has

more about this than any other source, but I would have liked a little more. Would have liked more about Nicaragua and Arguellos time fighting there too. Also, more pictures wouldn't hurt! On the whole it is a fairly balanced biography, and avoids straying into hagiographic territory as so many sports biographies tend to do. Given how many fights Arguello had, it would be difficult to describe them all and make them all interesting, but Giudice does a good job (especially for someone with only a moderate interest in boxing like me.) Though if I hear the phrase "flash right hand" or "vaunted left hook" again soon I'll blow my nut. But that's a trope of boxing journalism in general! Well written interesting book about an interesting man.

Mr. Giudice comes up just short of reproducing the greatness of his first book "Hands of Stone" a well done Duran biography. As much as I enjoyed his first book this one lacked the feel and style of his previous effort. At the end of the book is Arguello's record, but it is incomplete. The biggest hole in the book is that he does not interview Aaron Pryor for this book. Mr. Giudice does interview many people including former opponents so why not Pryor? I could not decide between 3 or 4 stars for it is a good book about an under appreciated champ so let's just go with 3 and a half.

Professional boxers are exploited from everyone and with the limited education they have gained through life, everybody earned from them, politicians, boxing promoters, fight managers, and hanger-ons'. The public will never know the cause of Alexis Arguello death and that is sad for his family. Today, its a forgotten issue. But what a Boxer!!

A well written intelligent look into the life of a great fighter.

Great book.

Very good read so far. The people who knew alexis from his past are very informing of his younger years in a big family who did not always have everything.

Enjoyed the story and discovering what happened to one of my boxing idols. He was a gentleman in and out of the ring. Still not convinced he committed suicide.

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