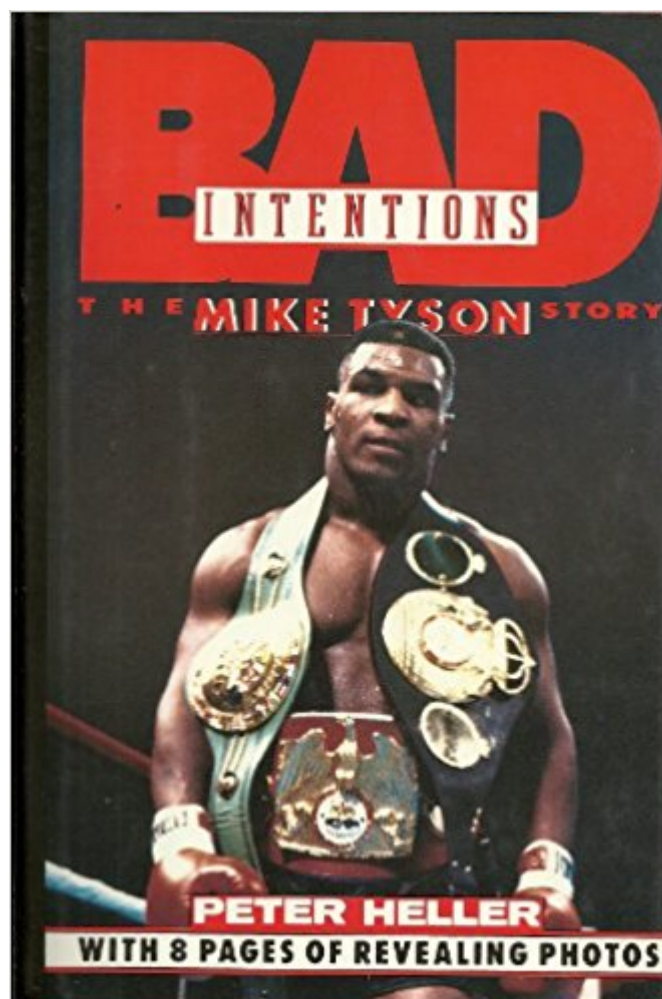


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Bad Intentions: The Mike Tyson Story



Synopsis

Mike Tyson is boxing's most beloved bad boy. With a history of street-gang violence, juvenile prison, sexual scandal, marital strife, courtroom battles, and imprisonment for rape, he has become one of the most publicized athletes in history. At age 23 he was already considered among the greatest prizefighters of all time, and, his career is far from over. Relying on in-depth research and interviews with those who have known Tyson at every stage of his life, *Bad Intentions* portrays the shy child who became a vicious street thug, discovered boxing in juvenile prison, and was brought to the attention of the legendary Cus D'Amato to be shaped to be one thing only—heavyweight champion of the world. Here is Tyson's fight-by-fight path to that goal, the millions of dollars made and fought over, the sex and violence of his personal life, and his eventual defeats both in the ring and in court. *Bad Intentions* is an essential read for all who would understand the ins and outs of the most controversial sport in America. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Hardcover: 378 pages

Publisher: Dutton Adult; Complete Numbers Starting with 1, 1st Ed edition (September 28, 1989)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0453006817

ISBN-13: 978-0453006811

Product Dimensions: 20 x 20 x 20 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviewsÂ (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,758,785 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #369 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Boxing, Wrestling & MMA > Boxing #66950 inÂ Books > Sports & Outdoors

Customer Reviews

This is an excellent book on Tyson's life and career, very well researched. The book was released in 1995 but it does not feel dated since Tyson's fight career was basically over after the Douglas fight. The only thing that really bothered me about Heller's treatment of the material was his not condemning Jacobs and Cayton. He gives them a free pass completely. He treats these guys like they were just good guys looking out for Mike's interests. That is not true. There is an old adage in business that Warren Buffet always points out: You can spend your whole life building and

maintaining your integrity/credibility and lose it in an instant...then once its gone you never get it back. This is what happened: In the early 80's Jacobs found out he had a serious form of leukemia which left patients 7 years to live on average. By late 1987 his illness was getting worse and he knew he would probably be dead in 6-12 months. He never told Tyson anything about his illness, absolutely nothing. Instead, he and Cayton decided to have Mike sign new contracts in Feb. 1988 that allowed their spouses, in the event of their deaths, to collect on anything Mike would make until 1992. Mike was very close to Jacobs and trusted him completely, he never considered having his own attorney or accountant look at the new contracts and advise him. He just signed them as Jacobs and Cayton asked. This was HIGHLY unethical behavior (probably fraudulent) on the part of Jacobs/Cayton. Considering Jacobs' friendship with Mike it was really disgusting. What the managers never counted on was an outside party who would take a look at Mike's business affairs. Well, enter Robin Givens and her mother. They were the ones who got Mike to hire his own attorney and accountants, and they discovered what was in the contracts.

Mike Tyson is so fundamentally interesting that any book about him that even states the facts is going to be fascinating. The book does a good job of describing the boxing scene at the time of and the complexity of the figures surrounding Tyson's early life. Tyson is a paradox. He was sensitive and loved his pigeons, bullied as a child for his lisp, but then grew to be a violent criminal by age 10. He is at times intelligent, articulate, victimized, but acts crazily, ruled by his emotions, and often doesn't hesitate to abuse others. D'Amato is both Tyson's rescuer and exploiter, a paradox of a person himself, both idealistic and seemingly selfless but also with tunnel vision in regard to his priorities. This book recounts what happens to a person who becomes totally unbalanced: #1 in the world at such a young age (few can understand what it's like to be #1 in the world at anything, not to mention such a public and violent sport as boxing) but immature and unstable in so many other aspects of his personality and ability. Tyson's mentors emphasized his strengths but his weaknesses were ignored so that they ultimately destroyed him. His relationships with women, especially his wife Givens, depicts a man who starved for love but who doesn't know how to show it or recognize it- he gives Givens everything and allows her to control his life and money but cannot stop cheating on her and can't see that she's using him. Maybe all his relationships had been exploitive for so long he viewed use as part of love. A few good people around him try to guide him but they can't rescue or control someone so imbalanced. The portrayals of the people surrounding Tyson are thorough and fascinating and I end up feeling sorry for everyone in this whole book.

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