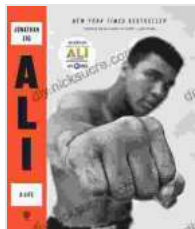


# Ali: Life and Legacy of the Heavyweight Champion



## Ali: A Life by Jonathan Eig

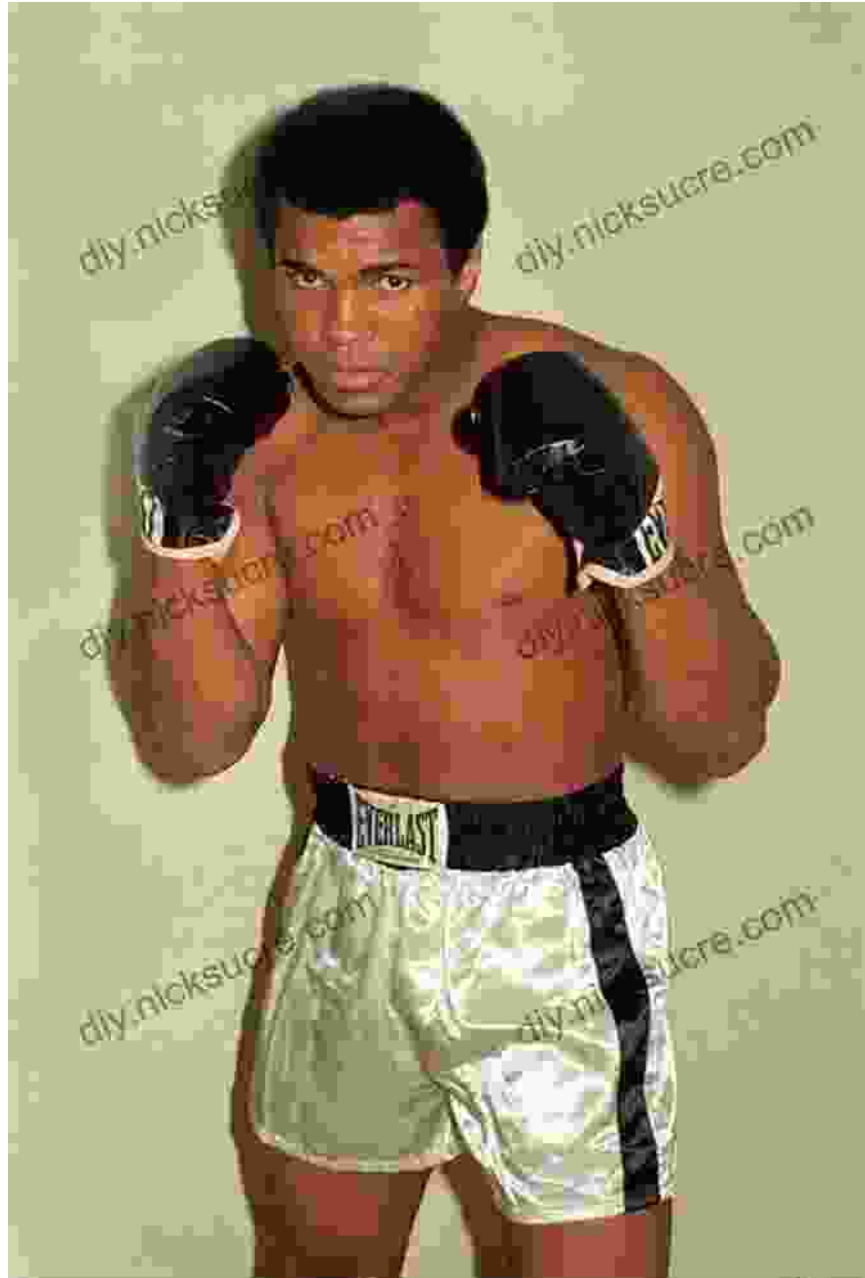
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Muhammad Ali, born Cassius Clay Jr., was an American professional boxer, activist, poet, and philanthropist. Nicknamed "The Greatest", he is widely considered to be one of the most significant and celebrated sports figures of the 20th century.

Ali began fighting at an early age and won an Olympic gold medal in 1960. He turned professional in 1964 and quickly rose through the ranks,

becoming the world heavyweight champion in 1964 after defeating Sonny Liston.

## **A Remarkable Boxing Career**

- **Won 56 of his 61 professional fights**, including 37 knockouts.
- **Defeated some of the greatest boxers in history**, including Sonny Liston, Joe Frazier, and George Foreman.
- **Was a three-time world heavyweight champion**, winning the title in 1964, 1974, and 1978.
- **Became known for his innovative fighting style**, which included lightning-fast footwork and powerful punches.

Ali's boxing career was marked by both triumph and controversy. He was stripped of his titles in 1967 for refusing to be drafted into the Vietnam War, and he was banned from boxing for three years.

Despite these setbacks, Ali returned to the ring in 1970 and regained the world heavyweight title in 1974. He continued to fight until 1981, when he retired with a record of 56-5.

## **A Fearless Activist**

Ali was not only a great boxer, but he was also a fearless activist who spoke out against racial injustice and poverty.

- **Joined the Nation of Islam** in 1964 and changed his name to Muhammad Ali.
- **Refused to be drafted into the Vietnam War** on the grounds of religious and conscientious objection.

- **Spoke out against racial discrimination** and supported the civil rights movement.
- **Was a vocal critic of the Vietnam War** and the United States government.

Ali's activism made him a controversial figure, but he never wavered in his beliefs. He used his platform as a world-famous athlete to speak out against injustice and to inspire others to fight for their rights.

### **An Enduring Legacy**

Muhammad Ali died in 2016 at the age of 74. He left behind a legacy of athletic excellence, social activism, and humanitarianism.

- **Is considered one of the greatest boxers of all time**, if not the greatest.
- **Was a pioneer for social justice** and an inspiration to people around the world.
- **Was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom** in 2005.
- **Continued to fight for Parkinson's disease awareness** and research until his death.

Muhammad Ali's life and legacy is a testament to the power of one person to make a difference in the world. He was a true champion in and out of the ring, and his spirit continues to inspire people to this day.

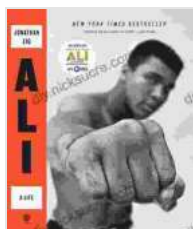
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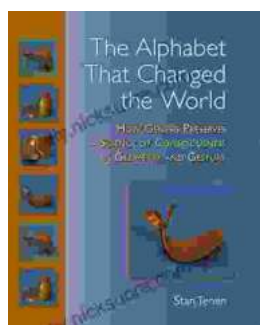
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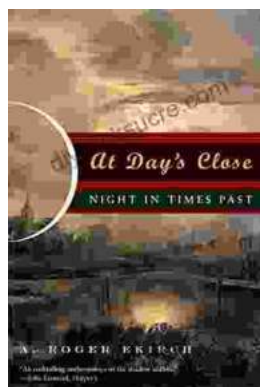


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