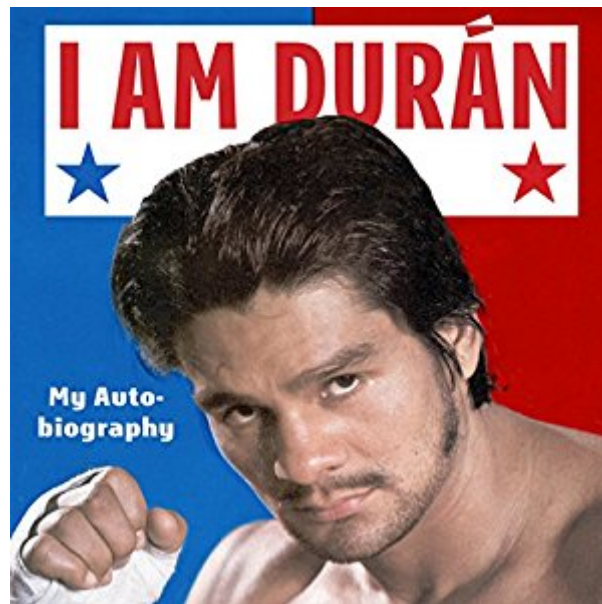


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I Am Durán: My Autobiography



Synopsis

They called him Manos de Piedra - Hands of Stone - and he was one of the greatest boxers of all time. Now Roberto Durán tells his unbelievable story, from the streets of Panama to being crowned one of the Four Kings, along with Hearns, Leonard, and Hagler, as he blazed a trail through the golden age of boxing. Born into abject poverty, barely able to read or write, Durán quickly realized that his fists could both protect him on the streets and put food on the table. His reputation was established on the day when, for a bet, he knocked down a horse with a single punch. At the age of 21, he claimed his first world title, against Ken Buchanan at Madison Square Garden. The legend of Manos de Piedra was born, but his most glorious moment was yet to come. In 1980 Durán delivered one of the greatest upsets in boxing history by defeating the previously unbeatable Sugar Ray Leonard. But greater fame brought greater distractions, and Durán's endless partying took its toll before the two superstars faced each other again. Here, for the first time ever, Durán confronts the debacle of the rematch that entered sporting folklore and the truth behind the moment he was heard to utter the infamous words "no más" - no more. Durán's explosive performances in the ring were matched only by the volatility of his life outside it. He lurched from living like royalty to bankruptcy and, after being written off as a boxing also-ran, made a bloody, legendary comeback that gave his career the ultimate ending and finally brought redemption. He came from nothing and changed the world. I Am Durán is the autobiography of one of boxing's most iconic legends.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the autobiography of the infamous *Manos de Piedra* multi-world-boxing-champion Roberto Duran. And as Duran likes to say *Manos* not *Mano* both hands. This book fortunately just like the man himself in the ring is unabashedly direct with no defense provided or intended. Unfortunately one or two times a little bit of civility would have been better for all. I pride myself on being a type of street-fighter in life having come from meager circumstances but absolutely nothing like Roberto who came straight straight straight from the harshest impoverished streets of Panama. I warn any potential readers that the writing is just like he talks. In addition to my early background I am also an Honorably Discharged Viet Nam Era Veteran and as such I unabashedly admit that an extremely high percentage of my language in the right circumstances includes many four letter words. So when the book starts out Duran (through the writing) talked to me like I™m used to talking and being talked to. But I always try my best to be a perfect gentleman in front of women and others deserving of such courtesies. So it was very disappointing and offsetting the way Duran would talk to people like Sugar Ray Leonard™s wife and others. As I™ve tried to attest to in the opening of my review I™m not from a lot of culture and don™t drink with my pinkie in the air but Duran™s language was totally out of place in the proximity of some. Putting that aside if you™re a big fan of boxing and the time of Duran™s heyday was a golden age of boxing, you can either relive your experience or expand your historical perspective of the fight game. The championships he won have truly earned him not only enshrinement in multiple boxing Halls of Fame but rightful inclusion on many top ranking lists of all-time. It is almost poetic when I tell you that this book is written exactly I mean exactly like Duran fought. When the bell rings and the book is opened there is no dancing around! *Manos de Piedra* comes right at you he cuts off the ring and starts battering you inside and it doesn™t stop till the end of the book. In addition to the gamesmanship and psychological manipulation that went into every big fight you™ll also get a grueling immersion into the pounds YES LITERALLY POUNDS of sweat like blood dripping in a barrel that was each and every training camp. I always knew about his enormous non-stop partying and that quite frankly was one of the things I loved about him along with him going inside and challenging the manhood of ever guy he fought. But until this book I

never truly knew | I don't know of any | non-insider | who really knew | that at times he'd have to lose 60-70 pounds in a month! (Yes | a month!!). How could you possibly have any strength to go toe to toe with another boxer for the world title in that weakened state. Additionally | his womanizing as a married man | a married man to a woman he says he's always loved and cherished | is almost hard to fully comprehend | it was as unstoppable as his drinking and spending. There are numerous children out of wedlock | and the most amazing aspect of this book | at least to me | who has been a big boxing fan my whole life | and have gone to some of his fights | in addition to the astronomical amount of weight he would gain between fights | is how he threw millions and millions of dollars around | as if each dollar was radioactive | and would immediately kill him and his whole family. (I'm not sure he cared if it infected the sluts he constantly cheated on his wife with.) Duran was bankrupt more than once | and his love-hate relationship with his native Panama | is the kind of thing

books-are-written-about! From a penniless street urchin | to a World Boxing Champion that returns to Panama | and has more people greet his return (300,000 | 400,000) than turned out six weeks later for the Pope! Then after losses he felt Panama deserted him | and then after regaining a championship once again | the love chimes are playing loud and clear. This book | like the great fighter | pulls no freakin punches. At times some of his bombast seems like it couldn't quite be really true | but please read my footnote below: Note: coincidentally | after I finished this book last night | I saw a new hour long interview of Sugar Ray Leonard | unfortunately | the interviewer was one of my most despised announcers of all time (I would like to use a four-letter-word here myself) | Joe Buck. And as Sugar Ray told his life story | everything Leonard said about Duran and their three fights for the ages | matched exactly what Duran said in this book. INCLUDING | he never heard Duran say | "No mas!"

Full of bragadoccia but, as a long-time fan of his, I was kind of expecting it. Never hearing him actually speak English, it was as if he was talking to me for the first time. I always knew he had a tendency to live the good life in-between fights, never knew it was quite that extreme. He comes clean about all his imperfections and indiscretions, makes no apologies. I always wondered why he kept fighting long after he was a shell of himself and he does his best to explain it here, whether it be his penchant for generosity with his paydays leading to money problems, or still feeling as though he can beat the youngsters even after multiple losses. Bottom line, I didn't find a single page

boring.

I doubt Duran will ever be forgotten; He was the best of the best and made a place for himself that will be everlasting in the boxing record books... He was a Great Fighter

Finally, Duran in his own words. Imperfect human being like we all are, but overcame great personal odds and poverty to become one of the greatest boxers of all time.

I like boxing. Duran is by far the best lightweight champion of all times. 71-1, 56 KO before the first fight with Leonard
From a poor boy having to earn his food on the streets to becomes a great champion.

Great book. Roberto's story is just awesome. Told matter of factly and from the heart. I really enjoyed every chapter. Highest recommendation

Really good read changed my opinion of the man

Excellent & quick read of one of the greatest boxers ever. Straight up, honest, & insightful about a life in & out of the ring.

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