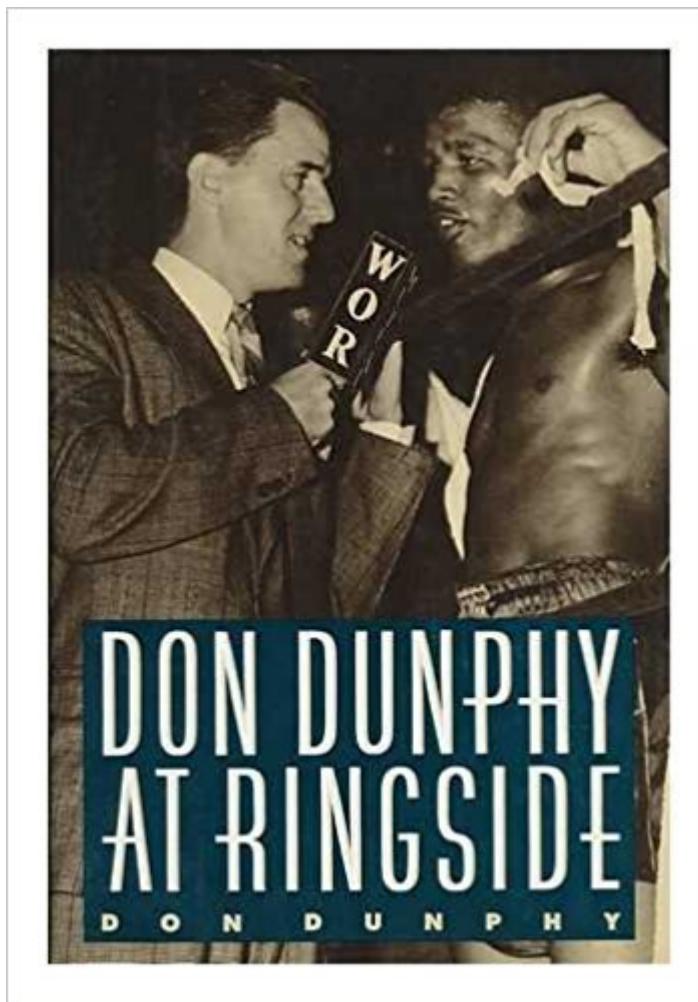


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Don Dunphy At Ringside



Synopsis

Book by Dunphy, Don

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A formless meander through the world of boxing from the 1940s to the '80s, this autobiography tells of Dunphy's rise to prominence as a sports announcer specializing in the "sweet science" and then gives candid views on the fighters and fights he has seen. Most interesting are his lists of the 10 greatest contests he has observed (three of them involved Muhammad Ali), the seven greatest rounds ever fought (he picks the first round of the Dempsey-Firpo donnybrook as the best) and the top fighter (after narrowing the field to Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Ali and Sugar Ray Robinson, he settles on Sugar Ray). Dunphy covers terrible fights as well, including the return bouts between Louis and Billy Conn and between Marciano and Jersey Joe Walcott. There are also chapters on unusual battles, prominent sportscasters and his own family. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Dunphy, the voice of The Gillette Fights and announcer of over 2000 bouts, blends his own story with reminiscences of memorable fights and appraisals of boxers and fellow announcers. Unlike Jeffrey Sammons in Beyond the Ring (LJ 2/15/88), he ignores the seamy side of pro boxing. However, fans who remember "The Golden Age of Boxing" and the Depression will savor his account of his early struggle to find a reporting or announcing job and will enjoy reliving exciting fights with him. A strong contender for sports collections. Morey Berger, Monmouth Cty. Lib.,

Baseball is not a game. Way more than that--it is a tether that anchors me to my Dad and him to his Dad. Crossing the generations like an Indy race car, it gives us common ground and makes us pals....if only for nine innings. In my childhood, there were two wonderful tethers. Besides The Grand Old Game, we had boxing. Dad and I could rattle on for hours -skipping through the decades chatting about Braddock or John L. Sullivan or the Brockton Blockbuster, Mr. Rocco Marciano-----the real life Rocky. Sadly, it's gone today. When I mention a boxer to my adult children, they tell me that they like Pit Bulls better! 'Don Dunphy at Ringside' takes the reader back to those days when everyone knew the Heavyweight Champ of the world...and the fans knew that brutal battlers like Sugar Ray Robinson (pictured on the cover of the book with Dunphy) were quiet, humble gentlemen outside of the ring. Dunphy takes you back in time. Back to the Polo Grounds in the 1920's when the Mighty New York Giants battled the Powerhouse New York Yankees for THREE STRAIGHT SEASONS in the Subway (world) Series. Yes the fabled Brooklyn Dodgers and the hard-luck Red Sox are also in the mix. Don Dunphy was lucky enough to have been born during the pregnancy and birth of broadcast sports...radio and Dunphy were cutting their teeth on those 1920 world series games. Dunphy and others were inventing the art of broadcasting "blow by blow" descriptions of the chess matches that were being waged inside the square rings of Madison Square garden in New York and Boston Garden and other great early fight venues. This is a romping read about a quaint era of people who were bigger than life. Actually, people were much smaller back in the 1900's. Rocky Marciano, the great undefeated heavyweight champ, was about 184 pounds during his fighting days. Compare that to today's 250 pounders: and yet--it seems to me that the fighters of those days and the broadcasters too---were actually giants. Dunphy's book is a king-sized read.

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