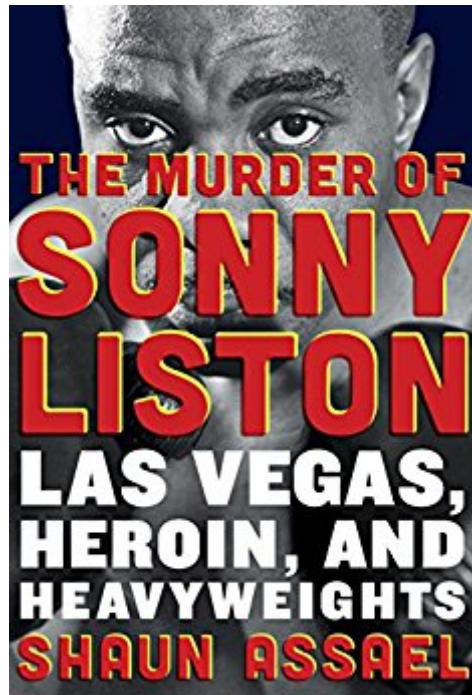


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The Murder Of Sonny Liston: Las Vegas, Heroin, And Heavyweights



Synopsis

On January 5, 1971, Sonny Liston was found dead in his home of an apparent heroin overdose. But no one close to Liston believed that his death was accidental. Digging deep into a life that Liston tried hard to hide, investigative journalist Shaun Assael treats the boxer's death as a cold case. The result is a page-turning whodunit that evokes a glorious and grimy era of Las Vegas. Elvis Presley was playing two shows a night at the International. Howard Hughes was running his empire from the penthouse suite of the Desert Inn. And middle America was flocking to the Strip, transforming it from an exclusive playground for the mob to a mecca for corporate dollars. But the city was also rotting from within. Heroin was pouring over the border from Mexico, and the segregated Westside was on the cusp of a race war. The cops, brutally violent, were barely holding it together. Driving through town with the top of his pink Cadillac down, Sonny Liston was the one celebrity who was unafraid to bridge the two sides of Las Vegas. Cashing in on his fading notoriety in the casinos, he was dealing drugs, working for a crime syndicate, and trying to break into Hollywood all with a boxer's faith that he could duck any threat, slip any punch. Heroin addiction was the only knockout blow he didn't see coming. The Murder of Sonny Liston takes a fresh look at the legendary boxer, the town he called home, and one of America's most enduring mysteries. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Print Length: 320 pages

Publisher: Blue Rider Press (October 18, 2016)

Publication Date: October 18, 2016

Sold by: Penguin Group (USA) LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B010N18JX0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #362,058 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #35

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoor > Boxing #66

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