



Undisputed Truth: My Autobiography

Mike Tyson, Larry Sloman

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A bare-knuckled, tell-all memoir from Mike Tyson, the onetime heavyweight champion of the world—and a legend both in and out of the ring.

Philosopher, Broadway headliner, fighter, felon—Mike Tyson has defied stereotypes, expectations, and a lot of conventional wisdom during his three decades in the public eye. Bullied as a boy in the toughest, poorest neighborhood in Brooklyn, Tyson grew up to become one of the most thrilling and ferocious boxers of all time—and the youngest heavyweight champion ever. But his brilliance in the ring was often compromised by reckless behavior. Years of hard partying, violent fights, and criminal proceedings took their toll: by 2003, Tyson had hit rock bottom, a convicted felon, completely broke, the punch line to a thousand bad late-night jokes. Yet he fought his way back; the man who once admitted being addicted “to everything” regained his success, his dignity, and the love of his family. With a triumphant one-man stage show, his unforgettable performances in the *Hangover* films, and his newfound happiness and stability as a father and husband, Tyson’s story is an inspiring American original.

Brutally honest, raw, and often hilarious, Tyson chronicles his tumultuous highs and lows in the same sincere, straightforward manner we have come to expect from this legendary athlete. A singular journey from Brooklyn’s ghettos to worldwide fame to notoriety, and, finally, to a tranquil wisdom, *Undisputed Truth* is not only a great sports memoir but an autobiography for the ages.

Undisputed Truth: My Autobiography Details

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From Reader Review Undisputed Truth: My Autobiography for online ebook

Ruel says

4.5 stars.

Last week I found myself staring face-to-face with Mike Tyson: the cover of his memoir Undisputed Truth was on the New Arrivals shelf at my local library. He looked older than I remembered and the scars on his face told the story of his lifetime of fighting in and out of the ring. I picked up his book (written with Larry Sloman, who also did Howard Stern's Private Parts) and couldn't put it down. I'm a lifelong boxing fan and I love a good biography/autobiography, so this was the best of both worlds.

Undisputed Truth was excellent, but it's not for everybody. The amount of F bombs, MF bombs, and N bombs is staggering. Sloman has done a phenomenal job of capturing Tyson's voice and relating all of the anecdotes and inner thoughts of this complicated and troubled man.

This memoir won't change your opinion about Tyson the former world champion, convicted rapist, and struggling addict. But it will give you an honest and unflinching glimpse at what goes on in the mind of a world-class athlete and one of the most polarizing figures of our time.

Bach Tran Quang says

Nhà nói ?n quy?n anh, trong ?u tôi ch? có duy nh?t m?t cái tên: Mike Tyson.

Có th? là do nh?ng n?m 90 v?n nh? ?n c?nh ng?i cùng b? và bác ru?t xem m?y tr?n ??m, và cái tên Tyson ?ã len l?i vào ?u nh? th?.

M?t cu?n sách ng?n ng?n tình d?c, b?o l?c, ma túy. Nh?ng ??ng sau nó là c? m?t s? th?ng tr?m c?a ??i ng??i. T? kh? rách, ??n trên ??nh th? gi?i, r?i phá s?n, làm l?i.

Th? gi?i hào nhoáng ?y ?ã ???c mô t? l?i m?t cách tr?n tr?i, làm ng??i ta s?c v? s? ??i b?i và xa hoa c?a nó, nh?ng c?ng làm ng??i ta suy ngh? b?i nh?ng th? v?t ch?t phù phi?m cu?i cùng, có nhi?u ??n ?âu ?i ch?ng n?a s? tan bi?n sau m?t c?n sóng d?.

?ó là Mike Tyson mà tôi bi?t, là gã trai "m?i" v?i cú ??m kinh h?n và nh?ng tr?n ??u chóng vánh ??n ph?t chán.

?ó c?ng là Mike mà tôi không bi?t, ??c nhi?u, tr?m c?m, nghi?n sex, ch?i ma túy b?ng ?ng hút, rách nát, s?ng nh? ông hoàng và r?i l?i ?i ki?m t?ng ??ng nh?.

NH?ng s? v? ??i trong quy?n anh c?a Tyson thì là th?t. Và nó s? luôn ? ?ó trong ngôi ??n c?ng nh?ng võ s? l?ng danh nh?t mà Trái ??t này t?ng bi?t ??n.

M?t cu?n sách h?i ký th? thao xu?t s?c nh?t t?ng ???c ??c

Jimmy Williams says

I have read many books this year. In fact this is the 37th book I have read. I know people who have read more but most people I know haven't read nearly as many and yes I'm bragging because I take pride in my reading because Jadakiss was right about you Libyans. At any rate I bring up the fact that I have read so many books just to say this was the most entertaining book I have read this year BAR NONE.

I could not stop reading once I started. This book was depressing, inspirational, hilarious, insightful, and tragic. I have read many biographies and none have been this honest and transparent. The stories of his upbringing and his relationship with his mother were hard to read, but also makes his journey more understandable.

My friends and I grew up during the "Tyson Era" and he was damn near a super hero to us whose story had a tragic ending until recently. One of the reasons we love YouTube so much was because it was a place where we could watch and relive the old Tyson interviews and press conferences and damn near die from laughter when he seemed out of his mind and would say the most random things. Now I have more insight into why he said some of the things he did (even though there is no excuse for some of the craziness he spoke). His knowledge on the history of boxing is impressive and his ability to be completely out of control but also be self-aware is very interesting as well. Even the epilogue was entertaining although it read like the ramblings of a bi-polar man having an episode of hypomania.

I could go on and on about specific stories from the book but I don't want to give anything away. Just know that regardless of your opinion about Mike Tyson you will find this story entertaining.

Shakeia says

I assumed Mike Tyson was an interesting person, and this book confirmed it. The book is in his "voice" and I appreciated it. It's by no means a perfect book, but it was a highly entertaining and enjoyable read. Reading it was like listening to him tell you stories of his life. He experienced a lot and had moments where he seems like he is/was an extremely tormented individual. There's violence, sex, drugs, arrests, and betrayal -- this memoir is almost like a confessional of all the things Iron Mike did and experienced; it took a man many loathed and made him human.

Kimberly Hicks says

Words! No one knows the importance of their impact more than a baby born on June 30, 1966 in Brooklyn, New York. From the moment he set foot in the world, the stars had aligned differently. To be told "you ain't shit!" or "you're worthless" and "you're so dumb and stupid like me." Is there any wonder the trials and tribulations the ex-undisputed heavyweight champion of the world, Michael Gerard Tyson, better known as Mike Tyson, had a rather chaotic life he's led?

Mike's mother certainly didn't deserve the "Mother-of-the-Year Award," but she gave Mike some very valuable lessons by ensuring her son would learn how to be a classic fuck up as he went through life. Oh

yeah, this is what every mother should want for her very own son! Ummph, I'm surprised Mike has made it in life this far. His beginnings were absolutely horrendous. Having your mother beat on you for reasons only known to her; to having different men sleeping in their apartment with your young impressionable child watching. He was cussed out on a daily and berated with unkind words and called every name but the name she gave him, and this made more than an impact on Mike Tyson. He became the words his mother used to describe him. Hell, why not go out and rob your neighbors, right? Where's the love?

That's a good question, as Mike tries to find the answers searching through his tumultuous life as to why he is the way he is?! What is he? Many said he was an animal, and given the fact that he was known for taking a bite out of ears and an occasion thigh when the need arose, he was happy to have that bad boy persona. Only problem with that was, he wasn't truly happy with himself at all. He had no self-worth, thanks to mommie dearest! I like to give parents the benefit of the doubt because after all, they are human and of course they make mistakes, so I'm willing to turn a blind eye on some parenting, however, having said that, I cannot give Mike's mom a pass. What that woman did to her son was downright pure evil. He still, to this day, struggles with his past deep-rooted pains all at the hands of his mother. She never loved her son, at least that's the perception I got from reading his life story. And I'm positive Mike would agree with me. She's the reason for almost all of his problems.

Mike certainly cannot blame his mother for every mistake he's made in life, and he'd probably be the first to admit that. He's made some very bad choices in life. Going to jail at a young age was probably the best gift he could have been given. For had he not gone, he would have never met his angels. Cus D'Amato, his Italian adoptive father, life coach and trainer and Camille, his adoptive mother. Thanks to his explosive anger, one of the probation officers took notice and told Mike he should channel that anger into the ring. Who could believe that when Mike was a little boy, he was bullied and beat up on—"Iron" Mike Tyson bullied? Say what? Yeah, isn't that amazing? He didn't start out as "Iron" Mike. Not only was he bullied, but he didn't exhibit the best hygiene and the kids literally ripped him a new one for not having the latest clothes and fads. Never mind he was poor, kids can be brutal, and Mike certainly was the brunt of many of their jokes. This turned him onto his criminal activity. There's always a devil lurking ready to give you your life's lessons at a price. Luckily, the cost was Cus and Camille.

Once he was taken under their wings, he began to do well and stay out of trouble, but one thing I noticed throughout the entire memoir, the "T" doesn't just stand for Tyson, but more so "Trouble!" It always finds him. From his two failed marriages, to all the money he lost due to allowing others to handle his affairs. No matter how much he tried to get out from under, trouble had a way of finding and engulfing his existence to the point he became a drug addict. What better way to dull the pain of your horrible being than with drugs. His drug of choice was Cocaine. And Lord knows I don't know why any woman in her right mind would sleep with him. This man not only is a recovering drug addict, but he's a sex addict as well. He felt privileged because he was the Champ, had more than enough wealth and women were a part of that equation.

Mike went into great lengths describing all the women he slept with. He told things that I felt was waaaaay too much information, but I guess he wanted to keep it very real with his fans and to set the record straight. While I'm talking about one of my favorite fighters of all-time, I am going to say this here and now as I did back in the day. I never believed, nor will I ever believe, that Mike Tyson raped Desiree Washington. I defended him then and I'm still defending his honor. I think its deplorable that this man has to register in every state he visits that he's a sex offender because if he doesn't, he can go to jail—all thanks to Desiree being upset that he dissed her! He laid out the whole scenario and I believe every word he said. I believed him then, so nothing has changed in my mind. What I'd like to know is what happened to Miss Thang now? She's got to live with the lies she's told. This man has probably slept with more women than Wilt Chamberlain, and I'm not exaggerating. He had no reason to rape any woman. Now, could he be rude and

downright nasty and impolite, oh yeah, you betcha, but rape—HELL NO! I've never believed that and I never, ever will. The only way I'd be a believer is if I saw it happen with my own eyes. And I don't think that's ever going to happen, unless someone had video, which there isn't any.

Money makes people do strange things, and the more money you make, the more people act a damn fool, and with Mike, that was all too familiar. Everyone wanted a piece of Iron Mike Tyson's money—damn the man, just fork over the money! Unfortunately, having all those millions and probably close to billions, he's not that wealthy anymore. In fact, he's broke compared to what he was then. Had he made smarter decisions and better staff working for him, instead of the entourage he sometimes hung around, he'd be living on easy street now.

I did enjoy watching his one-man show *The Undisputed Truth* which Spike Lee directed. It was outstanding! I thought Mike did a great job, but unfortunately, I wish his memoir would have been edited down like his one-man show. OMG, this book was waaaaaaay too long!! I don't feel his editor did a great job toning down all the extra stuff Mike was saying. I appreciate that he was keeping it one hundred—I so get that, but there comes a time when you have to edit yourself. The man talked about the same stuff over, and over and over again and it liked to drove me insane. Wooo talk about #teamtoomuch! Oh yeah, way overboard! This book could have been about three to four hundred pages instead of over six hundred. Those extra pages were all the interviews Mike did, literally and several chapters of him getting high. He snorted so much coke, I caught a contact from reading it. Jesus, too, too much! All the women he slept with, too, too much! From going to the bathroom and the whole nine, Mike, listen baby, too, too much! Toooooooo much!

But that's not to say I didn't enjoy the book. I absolutely did, but I must admit I skipped a few chapters near the end because it just got to be so redundant and there wasn't any point. I learned a great deal about Iron Mike and I have to say, I'm glad to see he's trying to get his life on point and stay clean. I know it's never easy, but you do what you have to do. This was a pretty decent read.

David says

Couldn't put it down. I actually wouldn't have picked this up if it weren't for a friend's recommendation. Tyson's era was before I paid much attention to boxing. But man, this book is chock full of very important life lessons that any person can learn a lot from.

Another bright guy who happens to have a speech impediment (like Stallone) so people think he's retarded, but he's actually quite intelligent.

The first part is a standard top athlete's autobio, except that Tyson became champ at the tender age of 20 and was already training insanely before he hit 14. Very inspiring.

One of the most enlightening sections was his account of his marriage with the psychopath Robin Givens and her crazy mother. Read it. Psychopaths like this are everywhere and often parasites on successful people. Very instructive to see what he had to go through.

There are some hard-hitting truth sections describing life in the US inner city ghettos, where a lot of males get killed before even turning 16. After living in Singapore, a man can easily lose touch with that kind of reality and become soft. This was a nice wake up call.

Also excellent were the parts where he explained life behind bars and what he did to negotiate success there.

The descriptions of entire seasons spent cruising around on big yachts with legit self-created billionaires and the accounts of life in Moscow...well, eye-opening to say the least.

The best part actually came at the end when he hits rock bottom and actually starts to clean up his act with the help of this amazing therapist Marilyn, who introduced him to the pivotal concept of "baseline normal," as well as finally understanding his deep neediness.

The best book I've read all year and maybe all of last year too.

Debbie Rebell Moss says

This was a really interesting book. It got a little redundant with the same stuff over and over drugs and sex, but it brought to light how that was a big part of his life for so many years. He is an interesting character.

Sojourner says

In the beginning, he had grown up in abject poverty in Brownsville. He was raised as a gang member - walking through the streets holding guns, and once running through a crowded park which "opened up like Moses parting the Red Sea." He was a fat kid who dropped out of school but eventually became a phenomenon. By the age of 23 he was hailed as possibly the greatest fighter to ever live, married to a movie star, earns millions of dollars, and by 24 he was broke, in jail and a worldwide disgrace. During the peak of his career he could afford to splurge himself with clothes worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. He could even buy an entire stock of Rolls Royce from a dealer. He never knew his father, but fathered eight children. Though his mother died when he was 16, running a brothel out of their apartment, he lived in a mansion and accumulated 62 cars which he was forced to sell when bankruptcy became inevitable. He spent numerous stints in rehab, and during one of those cried like a child watching the French movie "La Vie en Rose." During the shoot of "The Hangover," he was either on a hangover or drunk.

Undisputed Truth by Mike Tyson is a hefty autobiography that might be the most soul baring book of its genre ever written. It is a brutally honest and a revealing memoir which chronicles his life's hits and misses, so painful at times but with a dose of humor thrown in here and there – like the case of Brad Pitt. "This book is dedicated to all the outcasts – everyone who has ever been mesmerized, marginalized, tranquilized, beaten down, and falsely accused, and incapable of receiving love," which he writes in the dedication page sets the tone for the much-awaited tell-all.

Tyson has some harsh words for the infamous promoter Don King who he called "a slimy reptilian motherfucker." King allegedly stole upwards of \$50 million from the naïve young fighter. Tyson claims that King mixed his food with Thorazine to sedate him. Tyson claims that King was using him as a personal bank account. King paid his wife hundreds of thousands of dollars to be Tyson's consultant; King's daughter pulled \$52,000 a year as the head of the Mike Tyson fan club. "When I think about all the horrific things that Don has done to me over the years I still feel like killing him," Tyson writes.

The harshest words were reserved for his ex-wife and his ex-mother-in-law. Tyson accuses ex-wife Robin

Givens, who he calls, “a manipulative shrew who could bring me to my knees” of trying to bring him to financial ruin along with her mother, Ruth Roper Givens, virtually calling them gold diggers. Tyson met Givens at the height of his boxing career in 1987. Tyson alleged Givens faked a pregnancy so that she could receive millions. He says that both mother and daughter were “on the prowl for a big Black celebrity for Robin since she graduated college.” When they tied the knot, Givens and Roper went shopping for a \$5 million mansion in an exclusive New Jersey suburb while he was attending a close friend’s funeral in LA. Tyson not only gave the \$5 million for the home but another \$10 million that went into a separate account. Tyson writes, “She was supposedly three months pregnant when we got married. Now it was June, and she hadn’t gained a pound, so the next thing I knew she was in bed and claimed she had miscarried our baby.” A few months later the marriage collapsed. And later, Givens was crowned as the “most hated woman in America.” Writing about the mother-daughter duo, Tyson describes them as “...they were two broke charlatans..., con artists, borderline prostitutes.”

Tyson is equally brutal on himself throughout the book, despairing of his lack of self-control and feelings of inadequacy. He is so broke he will never be able to pay off his IRS debts. “It sounds trite,” he writes, “but I was probably looking for someone to mother me. My whole life I was looking for love from my mother. My mother never gave love to a man. She gave them headaches, she scalded them, she stabbed them.”

The book also throws light on his rape conviction. In 1991, Desiree Washington, a Miss Black America contestant, accused Tyson of raping her in an Indianapolis hotel room. On February 10, 1992, he was convicted of rape and served three of his six years sentence in prison. Tyson continues to profess his innocence. “I did not rape Desiree Washington,” Tyson writes in the book. He asks, “How do you rape someone when they come to your hotel room at two in the morning?”

Though Tyson is known to have been a womanizer, his candid admission of it is a bit of a surprise. The many women in Tyson’s life flow in and out of the pages like they did in his life. Even inside prison Tyson smuggled women into the facility and even had a months-long affair with his prison drug counselor who suddenly became available after Tyson had \$10,000 sent to her home to fix her roof. “I was having so much sex that I was too tired to even go to the gym and work out,” he writes. “I’d just stay in my cell all day.” During his incarceration he read voraciously: Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Shakespeare and others. He converted to Islam and did a jailhouse interview with Larry King. John F. Kennedy Jr. also flew in for a visit.

Then there is the incident involving Brad Pitt caught with the heavyweight’s ex-wife. That day he was in LA and was stunned to see her pull up with a blond man in the passenger seat. It was Brad Pitt. “You had to see the look on his face,” Tyson writes. “He looked like he was ready to receive his last rites. He also looked stoned out of his gourd.” Pitt begged Tyson, “Dude, don’t strike me, don’t strike me.”

The most surprising aspect of the book is the introspection and self-awareness demonstrated by this self-confessed “trailer park nigga”: All enjoyment is not a good enjoyment, he writes. In another, he was so profoundly philosophical, “You could be in hell and happy there. Some people thrive in misery. You take away their misery and bring them into the light and they die emotionally and spiritually because pain and suffering has been their only comfort. The thought of someone loving them and helping them without wanting anything in return could never enter their minds.”

What I find really fascinating about the memoir is the one admission made in the epilogue. He writes, “I have a favorite book that I try to read every day. It’s called *The World’s Greatest Letters: From Ancient Greece to The Twentieth Century*. I love connecting to the past this way. You learn so much about these people by reading these letters.”

And then he went on to write: "I read these letters and I cry. You think about Napoleon, this great world leader, and you read a letter where he's begging to his love Josephine to come to him and she does not." He went on to reproduce the full text of the letter dated 4th April 1796. And then adds, "I love this guy's stuff! Napoleon is a nut. He's turned out! Josephine didn't care a damn about Napoleon. That was a Robin Givens deal right there."

Now 47 years old, he still hopes for a happy ending, but he knows it is going to be a difficult one. He ends, "I can't help anyone if I'm not well myself, and I desperately want to get well. I have a lot of pain and I just want to heal. And I'm going to do my best to do just that. One day at a time."

Undisputed Truth isn't so much about Tyson, the boxer or the famous as it is about Mike, the person inside. Its honesty and rawness is unparalleled for an autobiography. His brutality on people he measured dishonest with him is blunt as much as he is on himself. During his boxing days I was never an admirer, yet through this revealing memoir I'm beginning to understand him, and I think I'm beginning to admire the person that wants to be.

A memoir like this doesn't come around very often. Much of what we often see does not peel off the layers. Undisputed Truth is inside-out. Don't miss it!

PS: I wish I could make it shorter but there's so much to write. It has turned out to be the longest review that I have ever written. Grateful to the publisher for providing an ARC of the book.

Artiom Karsiuks says

I've just read an April 4th, 1796 love letter of Napoléon Bonaparte to Joséphine de Beauharnais. You'd say "*Oh, Artiom, you are such a handsome scholar: I am in no shock that you are reading XVIII-XIX century literature*" to which I would eloquently reply "*Your observation of my handsome features is spot-on, but I actually read this fine letter in a little book written by one Michael Gerard Tyson, BIA-TCH!*"

There is no doubt that Mike is a basket-case. A loony-toon. An all-around madman. BUT a high functioning one, mind you. Before reading this book, I had a general idea of how complicated he is, but going through these pages was like sorting through Pandora's box: mommy issues, daddy issues, poverty, crime, drug abuse, violence, not to mention a constant battle between his ego and low self-esteem. Yet, that shitstorm of problems and personal demons on one side of the scale is countered by quite a list of positive skills and characteristics. Over the years the man probably put away more books than opponents, has excellent public speaking skills complimented by a nice sense of humor and is... intelligent. Did he handle his finances with due diligence? No. Was he a positive role-model for kids? Not so much. Was he a gentleman to all women? Hell to the no. But those are what they call "mistakes" and you'd expect him to have quite a few of those if you'd think of the position a 20-year old Mike found himself in.

Now, I am no rocket scientist, but if \$150M could spoil a sweet little feminine Canadian pop singer who's name may or may not rhyme with Bustin Jieber, I would expect things to go just a tad bit crazy if you give \$300M to a hormone-raging street thug from Brooklyn. He should not be alive today, let alone sober with a family and an ongoing successful career in entertainment. That's what they call "getting your shit together" with a gold star.

Sure, he will never again have nine figures of net worth to his name, but he has something far more important - an incredible life story and a name that will not soon be forgotten. I mean, there are 1,400+ billionaires in the world, but there is only one Iron Mike. He belongs to that rare breed of athlete who are capable of transcending their sport - there are many people who are not interested in racing, basketball,

soccer or boxing, but almost everyone knows Michael Schumacher, Michael Jordan, Pelé and Mike Tyson. In the grand scheme of things, I consider reaching that level of status a true Legacy, as opposed to a legacy of "who collected more Benjamins".

All in all, the book was fascinating - I've written a few reviews of biographies, but I believe this is actually the first time I used the word "fascinating". And no wonder - it's written by *The Baddest Man on the Planet*.

Andre says

Wow! What can I say about the Undisputed Truth? It was quite a journey, very interesting and seemingly very honest. Mike does a tremendous job of sharing his story and I think he gives us an intimate look into his life from the streets of Brownsville to the suites in Las Vegas and everything in between. Mike Tyson's whole world is on display here and despite the muscular tome it never feels protracted.

The book is written in such a way that you feel the authenticity of Mike's voice, even though he isn't the writer. It's his story, but the writer, Larry Sloman is excellent at his craft and allows us to experience this book as if Tyson is sitting with the reader and recounting his life and crazy times. If you followed Tyson's career, you undoubtedly remember some of the incidents spoken about and have probably seen some of the wild interviews that are finely detailed here.

One of the things I'm always leery about concerning biographies, is the tendency to embellish. There are some stories in here that are incongruent with certain details and don't align with other parts of Mike's story. For example, Mike talks about doing a lot of reading of effortful writers. "I read books by Oscar Wilde, Charles Darwin, Machiavelli, Tolstoy, Dumas and Adam Smith. I read a book about Alexander the Great. I loved history. By reading history I learned about human nature. I learned the hearts of men." Mind you, this is at the time he is living with Cus D'Amato, so he is about 15. Later on in the book, he mentions difficulty of writing his own name and signing contracts that he didn't so much as skim over. If you have read some challenging authors and learned "the hearts of men" wouldn't you have a little more interest in skimming contracts that are worth hundreds of millions? I would think that anyone reading those kind of works at an early age would at least take the time to browse a contract to save their self millions.

If profane language is bothersome to you, you may have a hard time getting through this book. There are a bunch of situations that are profanely detailed and sexual conquests are often crudely explained, so prudish readers be warned. The biography is pretty straightforward from early childhood right up to present day and a great deal of Mike's life exploits and important fights are often given gruesome detail. Altogether it's a superlative read and one of the best biographies I've read in quite some time. The conclusion is curious in that throughout the book Mike looks back at certain incidents and reacts to them in a way that he can't believe. He often comments on past events words and things with a certain disgust.

However, when you reach the end you conclude that mentally he's feeling the same way he felt when making those rude and over the top statements. So, you're left wondering about the growth mentally and psychologically, and what becomes clear is that the struggle for Mike is a daily one and it continues presently. Mike is a complex personality and I recommend this odyssey with Mr. Tyson.

Lisa *-* GiViNg It To YoU * LoCk StOcK & TwO SmOkiNg BaRrELs says

4.5 \$\$\$ Stars

Mike Tyson and my Brother-In-Law Nigel Benn "The Dark Destroyer"

Two of the most intimidating/ferocious boxers of all time in my humble opinion, but then again...I'm biased.

Fear is the greatest obstacle to learning. But fear is your best friend. Fear is like fire. If you learn to control it, you let it work for you. If you don't learn to control it, it'll destroy you and everything around it

Cus D'Amato

What ever you think of Mike Tyson, Undisputed Truth is one hell of a autobiography, it truly is entertaining.

It was fascinating, frank, crude, bitter-sweet, hilarious, inspiring, heartbreaking, candid, raw, account of his life.

Bullied as a boy in the toughest, poorest neighbourhood in Brooklyn, Tyson grew up to become one of the most thrilling and ferocious boxers of all time—and the youngest heavyweight champion ever.

I was fascinated with his relationship with Cus D'Amato his mentor and trainer, who inspired Mike...taking Mike in, giving him a place to call home.

He made Mike believe in himselfto be the best, he encouraged Mike to read great works by Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Shakespeare. Mike is a extremely well read man.

I couldn't believe some of the things I was reading....quite frankly... **UN-FUCK-IN-BELIEVE-ABLE.**

Mike even to this day is still fighting demons of his past...I pray he finds peace.... a saying I like...

*You gotta look for the good, in the bad
and your happy, in your sad
the gain in your pain
and what makes you grateful, not hateful*

Would I recommend this book.....hell yes!!

I would like to thank Netgalley and HarperCollins UK for ARC of this fascinating book.

James Morcan says

Brilliant autobiography. It's like Mike Tyson has done enough living for 100 lifetimes. Quite sad in places when you vicariously experience being the so-called "baddest man on the planet" and see things through his eyes. They are now developing a film adaptation which at this stage will be directed by Martin Scorsese and Jamie Foxx will play Tyson. That is one movie I'd pay to watch!

Jared McGuckin says

Love him or hate him, Mike Tyson is one interesting man, with one hell of a story to tell. I'm not even going to bury the led here, Undisputed Truth may just be the best autobiography I have ever read. It's truly a brutally honest look into the life and mind of a scared, troubled, and more often than not, frightening man. Every public incident is brought up here, the verbal abuse of reporters, the rape conviction (which Tyson proves, to me at least, to have been innocent), the prison time, the ear biting, the divorces, the face tattoo, and everything in between. If you're offended by language, you might want to avoid this one as Tyson drops F and N bombs like it's World War II. It's certainly not a reason to skip over this one, but will turn some people off.

The book is written in a conversational tone and never gets boring. There were moments when I really could not believe what I was reading. In the end, you'll get a better understanding of the man the media portrayed as a villain, both on and out of the ring. Misunderstood, or villain, savage animal or emotionally troubled, Mike Tyson lays all his cards out on the table and let's you decide.

Ka'leneReads says

Update: One of the saddest parts of life is escaping a awful life, yet it does not escape you.

I'm just about finished reading this read, I believe it to be honest, funny, and sad. I believe Tyson to be relatively raw when taking about portion of his life that I wasn't fully aware. Really good autobiography and I recommend, especially if you are a fan.

Michael says

Be forewarned...if you are offended by the "F" word, you may want to avoid this book. It is written in the language of the streets, with an MF here and an MF there and an MF everywhere. Many, without regard to pigmentation, are referred to as nigga.

Now all that aside, it was an honest, revealing look at a troubled man. The champ doesn't pull any punches. He admits to his early days of breaking into houses and other petty and serious crimes. He shares the pain of his upbringing and family life. We see the improvements in his life after the influence of his friend, father figure, and trainer Cus. We then see, after the death of Cus who was Mike's compass, his old demons and many 'friends' who pulled Mike back into his old confusion and pain.

Some may think Mike was only an ignorant thug who got rich because he could fight. We learn that Mike is more than that. He is also well read and articulate, thanks to Cus. He has a good nature too. It is my hope that Mike has learned how to deal with his pain and his addictions and has figured out how to avoid that that will pull him back. Mike no longer fights in the ring and I think he now knows that he must yet fight against those who seek to take advantage of him. I enjoyed the read....Michael

Rob Warner says

Whoa. Wow. The biggest personalities of my generation, the people who had the largest cultural impact, are arguably:

1. Michael Jordan
2. Michael Jackson
3. Mike Tyson
4. Princess Di

In that order. You may quibble with that list, but you'd have to admit that this list is at least defensible. Note, for example, the rise in popularity of the boy's name "Tyson" since 1990.

This book exposes the life of Tyson in all its depravity. As I read, I was reminded of the depressing lack of control of Jim Morrison's life in *No One Here Gets Out Alive* and the demotivating inevitability of *On the Beach*. Tyson was completely out of control and self-destructive. He generated and wasted fortunes, was taken advantage of, indulged all his tastes, and was utterly unprepared to live in a civilized society.

We all thought he was invincible until that Buster Douglas fight. This book gives insight into how he lost his edge, what fighting meant to him, and how the fight game spilled into his everyday life. It's interesting that we admonish our children not to fight, we deplore fighting in society at large, yet we shower boxers with fame, adulation, and money for beating hell out of each other. Tyson shows us the monsters we create.

Tyson is a scary dude. I finished this book yesterday. Last night, I had a nightmare that he was out my house, and I was doing everything I could to keep him pacified and not pound me with his jackhammer fists.

The book is crude and obscene throughout. Tyson doesn't sugarcoat things. He came, he says, from the sewers, and that in the sewers he belongs. If you're too delicate, you should avoid this. Otherwise, you should read every word and try to wrap your head around this conflicted man who dominated our attention in the 80s, 90s, and even now.

Reading in Black & White says

"The day that guy took my glasses and put them in that gas tank was the last day I went to school. That was the end of my formal education. I was seven years old and I just never went back to class."

I am always fascinated to read about other people's lives and hot d*mn Mike Tyson is truly a fascinating human being. To read in his own words what life was like growing up for him not only made me feel sorry for him but it helped me to understand why he chose a profession that is all about violence and being an alpha male. Tyson's life was truly headed for destruction until he met the legendary, Cus D'Amato.

"When you have cocaine, you could be in the Mojave Desert in the middle of the fucking night, snorting your blow, and out of nowhere a bitch pops up in a bathing suit. Coke radar."

The above passage is just one example of how hilarious Mike Tyson can be at times. Overall though, I believe his story reads as a tragedy. I say it is a tragedy because even though he will be known in the history books as one of the absolute greatest boxers to ever live, he is still to this day fighting demons of his past.

"Sometimes we like to conceive of lust as love because we think it feels so good it has to be love. Love is sacrifice, love is worth dying and killing for, history proves that. But, we must have some kind of moral compass in our journey through life. All enjoyment is not good enjoyment."

We are reminded that at the end of the day, no matter how high our social status is in this crazy world, love is what we all want. Whether it is to truly love another human, to have another human truly love us, or to simply love ourselves. Undisputed Truth was so much fun to read on so many various levels. Whether you love him or hate him, respect him or think he is a piece of trash, Mike Tyson is a polarizing figure and he has told his story which is one worth reading!!!!

James Hartley says

I got to a point where I used to not enjoy going to bed as I knew I was going to have to spend some time with this book. It's a brutal read, harrowing in places, thrilling in others. It seems to be Tyson's aim to make himself unlikeable: it certainly was when he was boxing; starting out at least. He wanted to be the anti-hero,

the guy everyone was afraid of. Black shorts. No washing for a few days to stink when he got in the ring. No music. Telling people he was going to kill them.

And it worked. There were constant no shows and when he was given a chance, Tyson cut through the competition, smashing seven shades of sugar out of anyone who was standing in his path. He became one of the most famous faces on the planet, mobbed, loved and feared. He was a true heavyweight champion. His fights were an event. And he could box. Despite the theatrics, he knew his trade. His fighting was fierce but controlled. Bludgeoning. Pretty much, for those first few years at least, unstoppable.

All this was impressive when you knew where he had come from. The first part of this book, of Mike's journey, is scarier than any horror story. It has to be read to be believed and Tyson spares nothing in the telling. It's an upbringing that was always going to have repercussions, did have repercussions and that Tyson can never escape. He is that poor boy.

The part I enjoyed most in the book, magical really, was the young Tyson - an angry, pathologically criminal and uncontrollable boy of thirteen - being taken in by an old white man, Cus D'Amato, and his wife, and brought up with them in a house in the country. Cus was interested in Tyson as a prospect. The first time he saw him he thought he could be a world champion - he'd already trained Floyd Patterson to the crown and couldn't believe his luck in being given another chance.

Together the man and boy worked towards a shared goal: to be the Heavyweight Champion of the world. Tyson watched tapes and shadow boxed and listened. Cus talked and pointed Tyson in the direction of writers and zen. Everything was directed at the belt.

Cus died. Tyson won.

The second half of the book is a long, weird spiral into over-indulgence. There are pet tigers and threesomes with Japanese room maids (before his defeat in Tokyo). There are women everywhere and drink and drugs. Tyson is on crack while he has a drip in his arm. He tattoos his face, attempts a comeback, loses a child. It's a brutal, visceral read and not much fun, in the end. But it is informative if relentlessly bleak and angry.

Andy Carrington says

Best autobiography I've read in ages.
Raw, honest and full of conflict.

Dj says

After finishing Tyson's autobiography, I have to admit...I wanted to give it a better score, but I just can't bring myself to do it. At the beginning of the book I was quite interested-Tyson was admitting faults and openly blaming himself for certain aspects of his life. Sadly, this self-introspection must have been brief, because after discussion of his adolescence in Brooklyn, the book devolved into a "I had a highly publicized event occur in my life, and this is why it is not my fault." Don't get me wrong-the book could be quite candid at times, but overall it seemed to be a study in self-pity.

As is no surprise, many of the portions of his life story were highly fascinating (let's face it-who wouldn't want to know the details of his life, both real and fabricated?); however, the editing of the book sort of took the steam out of the these sections. Why? They dragged on and on and on...well, you get the picture.

Overall, I think any fan of boxing (and of Tyson in particular) will enjoy the book, even if it does get a bit tedious at times. A forewarning-this book is EXTREMELY explicit, with gratuitous and profane language, as well as unedited sexual situations. If either of these bother you, don't read this book.
