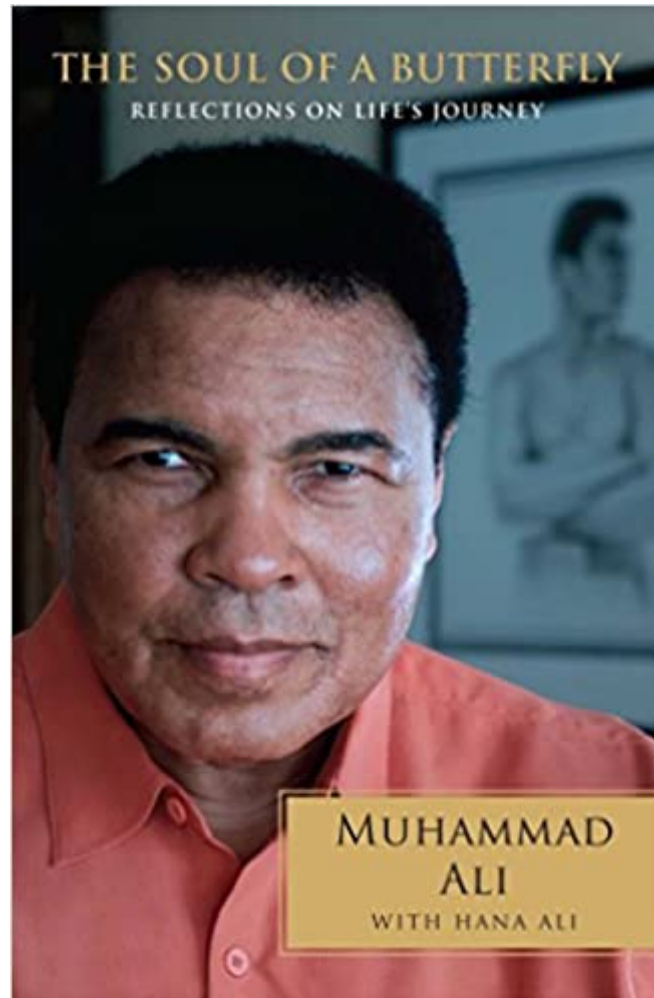




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The Soul Of A Butterfly: Reflections On Life's Journey



Synopsis

Former boxing legend Muhammad Ali, one of the best-known and best-loved celebrities and an international good-will ambassador, offers inspiration and hope as he describes the spiritual philosophy that sustains him. "During my boxing career, you did not see the real Muhammad Ali. You just saw a little boxing. You saw only a part of me. After I retired from boxing my true work began. I have embarked on a journey of love." So Muhammad Ali begins this spiritual memoir, his description of the values that have shaped and sustained him and that continue to guide his life. In *The Soul of a Butterfly* the great champion takes readers on a spiritual journey through the seasons of life, from childhood to the present, and shares the beliefs that have served him well. After fighting some of the fiercest bouts in boxing history against Joe Frazier and George Foreman, today Muhammad Ali faces his most powerful foe—outside the boxing ring. Like many people, he battles an illness that limits his physical abilities, but as he says, "I have gained more than I have lost....I have never had a more powerful voice than I have now." Ali reflects on his faith in God and the strength it gave him during his greatest challenge, when he lost the prime years of his boxing career because he would not compromise his beliefs. He describes how his study of true Islam has helped him accept the changes in his life and has brought him to a greater awareness of life's true purpose. As a United Nations "Messenger of Peace," he has traveled widely, and he describes his 2002 mission to Afghanistan to heighten public awareness of that country's desperate situation, as well as his more recent meeting with the Dalai Lama. Ali's reflections on topics ranging from moral courage to belief in God to respect for those who differ from us will inspire and enlighten all who read them. Written with the assistance of his daughter Hana, *The Soul of a Butterfly* is a compassionate and heartfelt book that will provide comfort for our troubled times.

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Customer Reviews

Few lives have been more zealously recorded in movies, photography and literature than Ali's. So it's fortunate that this book is not so much a memoir as a collection of the supreme athlete's spiritual contemplations. Structured as a series of minichapters on abstract virtues—love, friendship, peace, wisdom, understanding, respect, etc.—it consists of Ali's religious reflections, buttressed by personal anecdotes, Sufi parables, aphorisms, personal letters and poetry. What might be seen as mawkish or cloying from someone less universally beloved has real poignancy coming from boxing's brashest champion ("The Mouth" was one of his many nicknames), who is slowly being driven behind a wall of silence by Parkinson's. The book has the intensity of a deathbed confessional. Ali is settling his accounts, apologizing to Joe Frazier and Malcolm X for hurting them. But primarily he is giving advice to his many children, for whom he obviously feels an overwhelming love. (His daughter Hana addresses her love for her father directly in the book.) Besides Ali's love, readers will be struck by his remarkable faith. With the Black Muslims, he found not only an expression of his own pride in being black but also a personal relationship with Allah, which served as the wellspring for the remarkable courage he displayed both inside ("The Rumble in the Jungle") and outside (refusing the Vietnam draft) the ring. It's hard not to be moved by Ali's spirit. Photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Who could have imagined the Muhammad Ali who first shook up the world writing a "Recipe for a Good Life" that includes "one teaspoon of patience" and "one dash of humility"? No tablespoons of trash talk or fiery rhetoric here--this disorganized pastiche of poems, meditations, Sufi stories, recollections, and advice is thoroughly softhearted, sometimes cloyingly so. There's not much in the way of boxing--when Ali writes of the run-up to his Olympic gold medal in Rome, for instance, it's only to reveal his fear of flying and to impress upon readers the importance of conquering one's fears. And the writing is, well, . . . not good ("Everything that God created was put here for a purpose. The sun has a purpose. The clouds have a purpose. Rain has a purpose." And on the list goes). But still, Ali's fans will learn a lot about the kinder, gentler man he has become. He even apologizes, in a moving poem, for taunting and ridiculing Joe Frazier. In the book's best poetic

moment, Ali wonders, "Who would win the Rumble between the / Butterfly and the bee?" The butterfly wins here by TKO (technical knockout). John GreenCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Beware of bad printing. Which is why I have 4 stars for the book, one star for the bad printing. My copy has light gray text though out the entire book with some text in solid black, at times with no reason the text is gray. Reading is very difficult. The back of the book is nothing like what is shown on the product page with only a small quote from Ali and the barcode which makes me think this is a bad illegal copy of the book and not printed by the publisher. The front looks like a bad scan from a previously printed copy. I suspect took the ebook and simply printed it out and bound the book. If the text in the ebook wasn't correct color that would explain the multiple places where the text is gray and not black.

Love the story told at his memorial by Rabbi Joe Rapport of Congregation Adath Israel Brith Sholom in Louisville gave a moving account of the boxing great's encounter with a Christian man who needed a ride. It's a story Hana [Ali] tells about her father towards the end of his book, "The Soul of a Butterfly". Hana is driving her father to a bookstore on one Sunday to pick up some Bibles and Qurans for a project that he's working on. They pass an elderly man standing by the road with a Bible in one hand and his thumb in the air with another. They offer him a ride. And he thanks them, saying that he's on his way home from church, he only needs to go a few miles down the street... Hana asked where he lives. He doesn't want to trouble them or go out of their way. He has no idea who is sitting in the front seat of this car. Until Muhammad Ali turns around and says, 'It's no trouble at all. We're just on our way to a bookstore to buy some Bibles and Qurans.' Once the man gets over meeting the greatest of all time, he insists that he has three Bibles in his house and he'd be pleased to give them to Ali in appreciation for the ride. Ali thanks him but says he wants to pay for the Bibles. The man says, no, the Bibles were meant as a gift. Ali asked him what he does for a living and it turns out that the man had a stroke and he's been forced into retirement. Ali then tries to hand him a big pile of money for the Bibles. But the man refuses and this is where things get interesting. Ali says, 'Take the money, man, I'm trying to get into heaven.' And the man replies, 'So am I.' Ali is not taking 'no' for an answer. He says, 'If you don't take the money, I might not get in.' And the man replies, 'If I do take your money, I might not get in.' They arrive at his home and the man invites him in to meet his wife of 30 years. He gives Ali the Bibles. Ali slips the money under a napkin on the kitchen table. They are about to leave and Hana gives the man her phone number and tells him to

call her if he ever needs a ride home from church again. Sitting in the car, Ali turns to his daughter and asks, 'Would you really go out of your way and pick him up, drive him all the way home?' And she says yes. And with tears in his eyes, he says, 'That's me in you.' He says, 'You're on the road to heaven.'"

I can't review the quality of the book itself, I couldn't read it. The quality of the printing is terrible. The cover image is slightly blurred and the printing in the interior is literally faded. It looks like it was printed with the last of an ink cartridge. Some of the printing is so light it's barely readable. The image shown here shows a page with not only faded printing, but the position is crooked. This was purchased as a gift for someone. I'm glad I didn't have it shipped directly.

Since Muhammad Ali was arguably the most famous American Muslim, I chose this book in hopes of a better understanding of Islam. In it, he details the highlights of his life and his spirituality in a series of very simple and sincere short stories. I think anyone who has admired him will only find their admiration multiplied many times by reading these "Reflections". While he makes it clear how and why Islam served him from the time of his conversion, he is also clear about respecting the equivalence and value of all religions. His roles as a boxer and an entertainer were just the beginning of his greatness. As an inspiration for a more peaceful and loving life, he is at least among The Very Greatest!

I bought this 1 day before the customer review talked about bad printing. This is really bad when half of text is so faint that you can't read the book. There was one additional comment about this as well. Does this mean that all others had good printing, who gave 5 stars. Like the review said it may be an e book printed. Really disappointing to have faint light text non readable throughout interspersed with dark printing. Wouldn't have purchased this particular printing if I had known this.

This audio book of Ali's 2008 book will probably be almost impossible to find now but if you can get it...GET IT! Ali up in his Age and Wisdom reflects on life, love and religion! I am so glad he wrote it. What a great legacy he left for the world, I hope the world will appreciate it!

My heartfelt thanks to Hana Yasmeen Ali and her father for this beautiful work of love and hope. While an high school student I became aware of "The Greatest" and fell in love with him. I was a student at a predominately white school run by the Christian Bros. Everyone seemed to hate Ali for

his brashness - not me. When I watched his fights I knew that I was witnessing an incredible man. I knew that I would not live to see anyone like him again. I won many lunches at school from fellow students who wanted to see him loose in the worst way possible. Evidently we were not experiencing the same fighter. Ali used to give the credit to God after winning or loosing. When Ali refused the government draft into the military on religious grounds I prayed for his safety. The courage he exhibited outside the ring surpassed any other effort. So many turned their backs to him it was a shame. There is a beautiful family picture included with this book. May I become the loving father to my children which Ali is to his.

This order arrived very quickly. Unfortunately, although the condition is listed as new, the book's print is defective. Most of the pages contain faded out print that you can barely see. It will be a strain to try to read this. I dont know if I want to exert the effort to return it. The little that was intelligible seemed very interesting. Oh well.

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