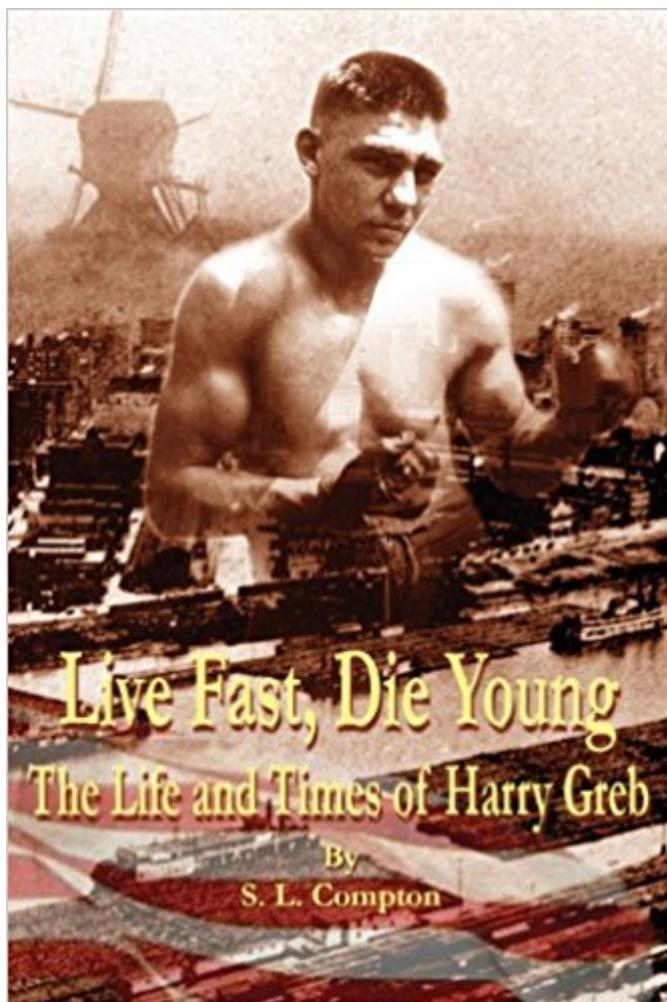


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Live Fast, Die Young The Life And Times Of Harry Greb



Synopsis

Live Fast, Die Young tells the story of Harry Greb, the Pittsburgh Windmill, one of the most feared boxers in history. Greb terrified champions and contenders across three weight divisions for nearly a decade. Greb would become famous for fighting anyone regardless of size or race. Prior to his untimely death he harbored a long standing ambition to challenge for legendary heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey's title despite rarely weighing over 165 pounds. Along the way he won the world middleweight championship, American light heavyweight championship, and became the only man to defeat Dempsey's eventual conqueror Gene Tunney. Greb would become one of those outrageous characters that made the Roaring Twenties roar. It is a story that could only be found in the history pages of early 20th century America. He was born the son of an immigrant father who fled Germany one step ahead of the law and a first generation mother in Pittsburgh at a time when the city was helping to usher in the Second Industrial Revolution. The rugged, hard-working men who surrounded Greb during his formative years influenced a toughness and work ethic that carried him to the highest levels of one of the most unforgiving sports. As Harry gained fame and fortune he witnessed the world devolve into chaos as World War I broke out, the passing of Prohibition, the birth of the Jazz Age, and the Golden Age of Sports. Throughout these historic events Harry often found himself right in the middle of things and happy to be there. The author tells the story of one of the most colorful periods in history and one that period's most colorful and unforgettable characters in Live Fast, Die Young: The Life and Times of Harry Greb.

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Customer Reviews

Stephen Compton has done a service for boxing that must not be overlooked. This book is a must-have for every boxing fan's library; it's big and very detailed, but the reader will find it a surprisingly fast read because Greb is escorted out of the fog of the distant past and given his due. He's worth getting to know. Any boxing fan who buys and reads this book and who has ever thought about who the greatest fighter who ever lived is needs to sit alone in the dark and think about that question again. It's Greb. It's not Robinson, not Ali, not Armstrong, and sure as hell not Mayweather. Mayweather boasted of being 45-0 until my ears bled; Somewhere out there, Greb laughed. Greb went 45-0 in ONE YEAR --and he wasn't cherry-picking! Compton, more than any other boxing historian, has proven that Greb is and must be the greatest fighter of the last 90 years.

The author gives great coverage of Harry's fights and doesn't embellish them. It's hard to believe how unbelievably tough he was and wouldn't let blindness deter him. He just changed his fighting style to accommodate it.

A very interesting read.

Harry Greb was the greatest fighter pound for pound ever and this book tells his complete life story in detail.

Harry Greb is a name unfamiliar to many. But he was one of the greatest boxers of all time, defeating an array of legendary fighters from four different weight classes, among them Gene Tunney, Mickey Walker, Mike Gibbons, Tommy Gibbons, Tiger Flowers, Tommy Loughran and Maxie Rosenbloom, all Hall of Famers. He campaigned hard for a shot at heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey and beat four men who challenged Dempsey for the title, but could never entice the champion into a bout. Tragically, no footage of any of Greb's fights is known to have survived. Furthermore, after his premature death several former opponents and unscrupulous journalists took the opportunity to rewrite aspects of his life and career unchallenged. Over the years, the legend of Greb as a hard-drinking, hard-partying, womanising hellraiser became fact, as did the accepted narrative of some of his fights, in particular his five bouts with Tunney. Compton has carried out an astonishing amount of research, tracking down hundreds of newspaper reports, letters, contemporary interviews, scores of photographs, and melded them into an exhaustive account of Greb's career. He brings to life this hitherto semi-mythical figure, recounts his fighting career in

detail through those who watched him in the flesh and debunks many of the myths and legends that surround the man. Happily, he does so without descending into the hagiography which plagues many books of this sort. The definitive biography of a forgotten great and essential reading for those with an interest in boxing history.

I've been in and around the fight game for nearly fifty years. My dad, born in 1888, was a huge boxing fan. His favorite boxer was Greb. He saw Greb fight three times, told me all about him since I was a wee lad. But there wasn't much around telling of Harry Greb. Especially before the internet age. I'm also an avid reader. I've read a book or two a week since before high school. It's just what I like to do. I don't know how Compton wrote this book. I picture him falling asleep at a table covered with photos, texts, books and what-have-you, night after night. It must have taken him forever to do all this research, it must have been one hell of a task. I'm SO glad he did. My hat is off to you, sir. Outstanding book. Period.

Great book!!

I have a collection of nearly 100 boxing books and I would rate this book at the very top of the list. I thought I knew a lot about Greb but this book taught me a great deal about Greb, that era of boxing, and many of Greb's opponents. You could spend several hours just leafing through the book and reading all the picture captions. Reading the book from cover to cover could get you through a long winter. I was blown away when I learned within a minute of opening the book for the first time that Greb fought at a theatre in my city of work that I walk past 3 times a week. An amazing book.

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