

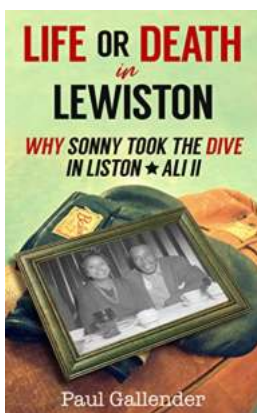
Why Sonny Took The Dive In Listonali II

On an eventful evening in Listonali II, the world witnessed one of the most controversial moments in boxing history. Sonny, a well-respected and skilled fighter, shocked the entire crowd by unexpectedly taking a dive during his match against Listonali. The incident left everyone questioning the true motives behind Sonny's decision. In this article, we will explore the intriguing circumstances leading up to the dive and analyze the possible reasons behind this unexpected turn of events.

The Background Story

Listonali II, dubbed as the "Fight of the Century," was anticipated to be a clash of titans. Both Sonny and Listonali were undefeated, held multiple championship titles, and were known for their exceptional boxing skills. Excitement was in the air, and fans from all over the world eagerly gathered to witness the much-anticipated showdown.

Sonny, a powerhouse in the ring, known for his relentless power punches and incredible endurance, was the clear favorite among many experts. On the other hand, Listonali, a skilled counterpuncher with exceptional footwork, was ready to prove his worth and claim the ultimate victory.



Life or Death in Lewiston: Why Sonny Took the Dive in Liston/Ali II by Robyn Schneider (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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File size : 12478 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
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A Shocking Turn of Events

The fight started with both fighters displaying their impressive skills. The first few rounds showcased an intense exchange of punches, with neither fighter gaining a significant advantage. The tension in the arena was palpable.

However, as the fight progressed, something seemed off about Sonny's performance. His punches lacked the usual power and precision, and his movements appeared sluggish. Observers speculated that Sonny might be injured or struggling with health issues leading up to the fight.

It wasn't until the seventh round that the unthinkable occurred. In a sudden and unexpected move, Sonny deliberately took a dive, falling to the canvas without any clear reason. The crowd erupted in disbelief, witnessing one of the most astonishing moments in boxing history.

Possible Motives

The stunning nature of Sonny's dive raised numerous questions, leaving fans, experts, and even his own team bewildered. Several theories emerged, attempting to explain the reasoning behind this peculiar act. Let's explore some of the most prominent speculations:

1. Financial Gain:

One prevalent theory suggests that Sonny had been offered a substantial sum of money to intentionally lose the fight. Financial gains can be a considerable

motivation for certain boxers, especially when facing high-stakes matches. By taking a dive, Sonny could have potentially secured a hefty payday, benefiting from a considerable payout.

2. Preservation of Reputation:

Another theory proposes that Sonny was concerned about his diminishing reputation. With his previous fights lacking the same dominance he once possessed, Sonny may have taken the dive to avoid a potentially damaging loss. By feigning defeat, he could preserve the perception of being a formidable opponent and maintain his stature in the competitive boxing world.

3. Coercion or Threats:

Conspiracy theorists suggest that Sonny may have been subjected to coercion or threats from powerful individuals or organizations. This theory implies that Sonny's dive was a result of fear for his safety or the safety of his loved ones. Such tactics are not uncommon in the dark underbelly of professional sports.

4. Strategic Move:

Lastly, some experts propose that Sonny's dive was an elaborate strategic move. By deliberately losing the fight, Sonny may have aimed to lure Listonali into a false sense of superiority. This would allow for a potential rematch or a lucrative future opportunity where Sonny could reclaim his dominance in a grand fashion.

The Aftermath and Controversy

Regardless of the motive behind Sonny's dive, the incident sparked intense controversy within the boxing community and beyond. The fallout from the fight was far-reaching, with fans demanding answers, and several investigations being initiated to uncover the truth.

While the official investigation did not conclusively determine the exact reason for Sonny's dive, it did shed light on the possibility of external influences on the outcome of the bout. As a result, stricter regulations were implemented in subsequent boxing matches to prevent any potential foul play or coercion in the sport.

The Legacy of Listonali II

Listonali II will forever be etched in the annals of boxing history. The match, although ending unexpectedly, showcased the unpredictable nature of the sport and the lengths to which fighters may go to secure their future. Sonny's dive served as a reminder that even the most respected individuals can succumb to external pressures or personal motives.

As fans continue to debate the true reasons behind Sonny's dive, Listonali II stands as a testament to the enduring intrigue and spectacle of the world of boxing. The incident serves as a constant reminder that in the realm of sporting competitions, nothing is ever certain, and any outcome can surprise even the most ardent supporters.

In , the dive taken by Sonny in Listonali II remains a captivating enigma in boxing history. The motives behind this unexpected move are still subject to speculation and intrigue. Only time will tell if the truth behind Sonny's dive will ever be brought to light, further adding to the mystique surrounding this unforgettable event.

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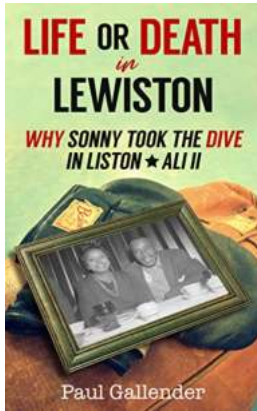
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The Phantom Punch mystery has been solved.

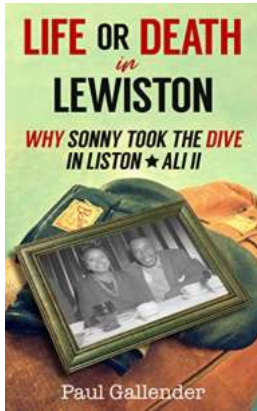
While training for his November 1964 rematch with Muhammad Ali a reporter asked Sonny Liston if he was bitter over losing his title. "When I catch him," replied the ex-champ, "you'll know I'm bitter." Unlike their first bout, Liston had trained diligently for a 15-round fight. His injured left shoulder had healed and his physical therapist compared his condition to a stick of dynamite that would be lit by the sound of the opening bell. Fortunately for Ali, he suffered a hernia three days before that fight, causing a six-month postponement.

Lost to history, or ignored by it, is the fact that Ali's hernia altered the course of both men's lives and careers in major ways. The world as we know it would be slightly different if that fight had taken place, even if Ali had won. Given Liston's physical and mental condition, the odds (11-9 for Liston) were that Ali's championship reign would be a brief one. Because of the depth of Sonny's bitterness over having lost his title, it might have ended very badly for the young man from Louisville. He was tough enough and young enough to absorb the kind of severe beating from which he may never have fully recovered. Liston would have hurt Ali at some point in that 15-round bout and that would have exposed

this remarkably talented 22-year-old heavyweight champion of the world to boxing's version of hell. The rematch was rescheduled for May 25, 1965.

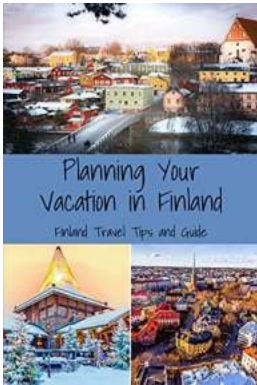
Fifty-five years ago almost no one in boxing seriously believed that a six-inch punch from Muhammad Ali had knocked down a pillar of strength like Sonny Liston. They knew Liston threw the fight but nobody has ever known why - until now. In his new ebook, *Life or Death in Lewiston - Why Sonny Took the Dive in Liston/Ali II*, Liston biographer, Paul Gallender, details what took place before, during, and after that bout which gave rise to the phrase, "The Phantom Punch." The author reveals that Nation of Islam members, without Ali's knowledge, kidnapped Liston's wife and child and threatened to kill them if Sonny didn't throw the fight. Faced with that threat, Sonny decided to make it the "worst looking dive" of all time.

The Ali rematch started the clock ticking on the final five-and-a-half years of Liston's life. Robbed of his career, his reputation, and his legacy, his humiliation has been immortalized in the most recognizable sports photo in the world. Today, the only image most people have seen of Liston is the one where he's on his back with an uncharacteristically angry Ali screaming at the forty-something ex-champ to get up. When the fight was stopped, Ali walked back to his corner and told his handlers, "He laid down."



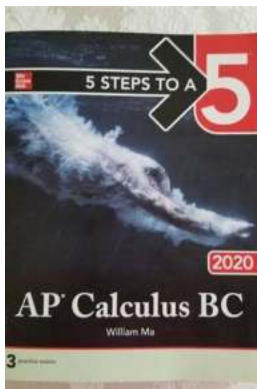
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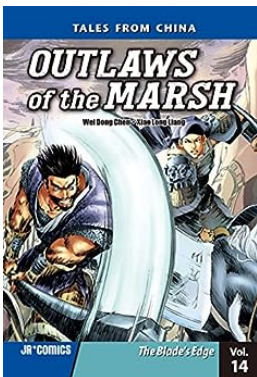
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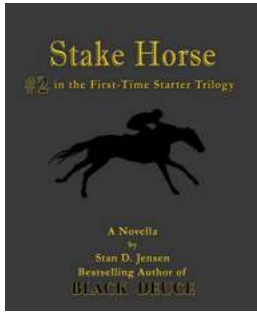
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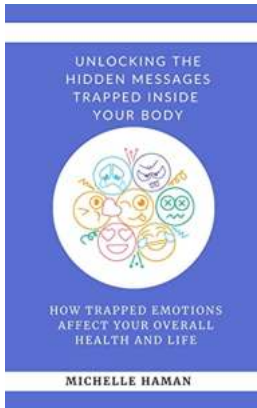
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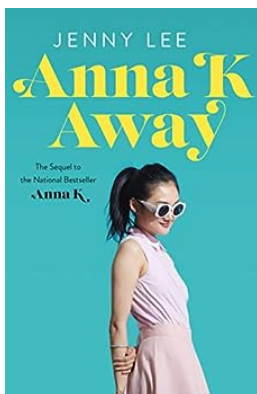
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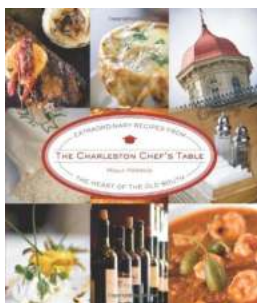
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