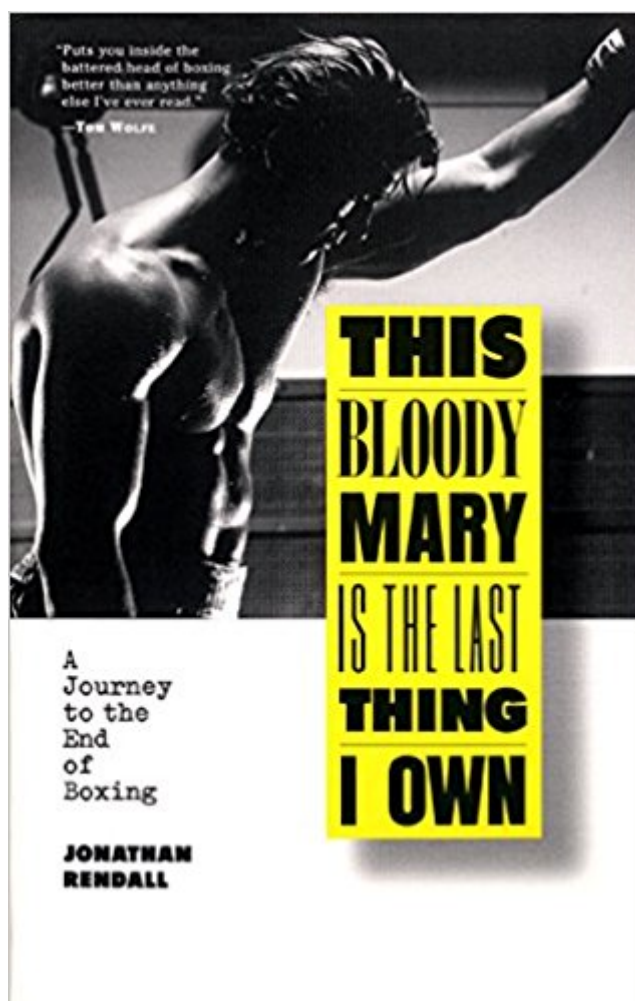


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# This Bloody Mary Is The Last Thing I Own: A Journey To The End Of Boxing



## Synopsis

Fittingly, it is in Las Vegas, boxing's capital, that author Jonathan Rendall, a young British boxing enthusiast, reflects on his own exit from the boxing scene. What unfolds is the true story of his boyhood romance with the sport, his canny coming-of-age as a boxing writer, and his risky bid to bring the unknown Colin "Sweet C" McMillan to the World Featherweight Championship. Written with the detachment of a seasoned journalist, Jonathan Rendall has produced an uncommon sports memoir about having the faith and losing the faith. Intelligent and funny, *This Bloody Mary Is the Last Thing I Own* is a boxing book with appeal that extends well beyond the ring.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jonathan Rendall was born in 1964. He studied at Oxford, where he represented the university, unsuccessfully, at boxing. He has written for *Ring* and *Esquire* and won the prestigious Somerset Maugham Award for *This Bloody Mary*. Jonathan Rendall is now out of boxing and lives and writes in Suffolk, England.

Fantastic book, especially if you love boxing but never looked into the intricacies of promoting, managing, and making it up the proverbial ranks. Heartbreaking, waxes poetic occasionally, well written, charming, and fun.

The author is a diamond in the rough, should have a lot more readers, since I read this I've bought a few of his books and they are all very good, if not, great.

This was a strange book as the first half of it was excellent and the author spun some interesting tales about a pair of old-time boxers and the rise of his own boxer. Then at about the half-way mark, the lustre of the book seems to fade and it becomes fairly mundane. It is almost as if the author lost the energy to write as well as he had for the second half as he did for the first half. Disappointing.

Boxing was, until its long fade began, the best professional sport to write about. Unlike the behemoth NFL corporation, rather bland baseball and super star oriented basketball boxing brought characters, crime and interesting, though often sad, mad and bad, tales. Rendall dives into this bleak scene with a Hunter Thompsonish desperation. But it is British style gonzo one unique to the late Rendall. It makes mad reading and, on occasion, rambling reading. But it is always interesting. The tale always, perhaps like the author, seems to linger on the brink of destruction. The book also hints at why boxing began its long, slow, fade from popularity. I especially enjoyed the first half of the book and the author's visit to Cuba and talks with boxers from its "Golden Era." I wish he had written more books.

This is a non-fiction book about the fight game by a guy who goes from easily beaten young college fighter to professional sportswriter to manager of a world champion, and the people he meets and things he sees along the way. There are many heart-wrenching sequences set in and out of the ring, some great fear, great exhilaration, and great sadness. This guy's powers of observation and description powers are phenomenal. This one really hit me hard. This guy has a gift for the scary. His search for old-time legend Kid Chocolate in Cuba is lively and colorful and time and again unsettling and nerve-wracking. His getting helplessly caught up in the wrong party with the wrong, and very unsavory, people, while safety helplessly and unstopably drifts away as if in slow motion, makes for a vivid, torturous waking nightmare. But he's also funny. His description of the dressing down of a prime Sonny Liston by the a tiny tough as nails ex-pro and streetfighter provides an absolutely hilarious come-uppance of the legendary thug by someone who wouldn't put up with a bit of it no matter how small he was nor how big and sure of himself was the heavyweight champion of the world. Rendall manages to capture the terrible liveliness of the world of boxing in writing whose keen observation and honesty lays both himself and his subject almost uncomfortably bare. Here is a man who has truly felt what he has written about, and takes us to places we can't help but be fascinated by but are grateful to encounter only on a well-written page.

You can't go wrong with Vegas, boxing, and Somerset Maugham Award-winning British journalist. Rendall's writing is an insightful, honest chronicle of a sport he clearly hasn't fallen out of love with. It's a delicious surprise to find so much boxing history casually woven into his journey. If you are a boxing head or a more sophisticated "aficionado", take the time to give this one a read.

this book was wonderful i read it when i was suppose to be watching some of the instrument in the theater

Funny book, great perspective on boxing, I just wish he'd put a bit more about some of the incidents he witnessed and people he met. The talk about the trip to Cuba was pretty saddening. Quite different from standard boxing books, but very enjoyable!

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