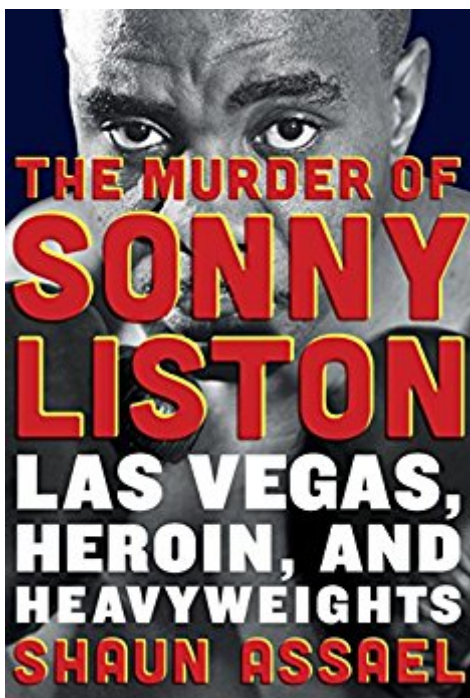


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# The Murder Of Sonny Liston: Las Vegas, Heroin, And Heavyweights



## Synopsis

A daring investigation into the mysterious death of Heavyweight Champion Sonny Liston, set against the dawn of the 1970s, when the mob was fighting to keep control of the Las Vegas Strip, Richard Nixon was launching America's first war on heroin, and boxing was in its glory days. On January 5, 1971, Sonny Liston was found dead in his home of an apparent heroin overdose. But no one close to Liston believed that his death was accidental. Digging deep into a life that Liston tried hard to hide, investigative journalist Shaun Assael treats the boxer's death as a cold case. The result is a page-turning whodunit that evokes a glorious and grimy era of Las Vegas. Elvis Presley was playing two shows a night at the International. Howard Hughes was running his empire from the penthouse suite of the Desert Inn. And middle America was flocking to the Strip, transforming it from an exclusive playground for the mob to a mecca for corporate dollars. But the city was also rotting from within. Heroin was pouring over the border from Mexico, and the segregated Westside was on the cusp of a race war. The cops, brutally violent, were barely holding it together. Driving through town with the top of his pink Cadillac down, Sonny Liston was the one celebrity who was unafraid to bridge the two sides of Las Vegas. Cashing in on his fading notoriety in the casinos, he was dealing drugs, working for a crime syndicate, and trying to break into Hollywood—all with a boxer's faith that he could duck any threat, slip any punch. Heroin addiction was the only knockout blow he didn't see coming. The Murder of Sonny Liston takes a fresh look at the legendary boxer, the town he called home, and one of America's most enduring mysteries.

## Book Information

File Size: 3946 KB

Print Length: 316 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 039916975X

Publisher: Blue Rider Press (October 18, 2016)

Publication Date: October 18, 2016

Sold by: Penguin Group (USA) LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B010N18JX0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #198,467 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #14

inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoor > Boxing #27

inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Individual Sports > Boxing #32

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## Customer Reviews

It is a very interesting saga. I was not aware of much of it. I felt the writing was somewhat disjointed and not always easy to follow. Mostly speculation with little hard evidence. Seems more gossip than history. The Las Vegas neighborhood stuff was good.

Could have been a magazine article.

I enjoyed the book. There were a lot of facts that I was unaware of. Problem is that I'm no closer to figuring out what really happened than I was going in.

I loved this book! Shaun Assael did an amazing job, writing, reporting and documenting the last years of Sonny Listons life as well as describing Las Vegas in the late 1960's.

GOOD BOOK.

I didn't know much about Sonny Liston and this was an interesting view of boxing and Vegas and the mob in the heyday of sin city.

Easy quick read. Nice reading about a subject that you know most of the characters

Interesting reading. Lots of things covered that I never expected

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