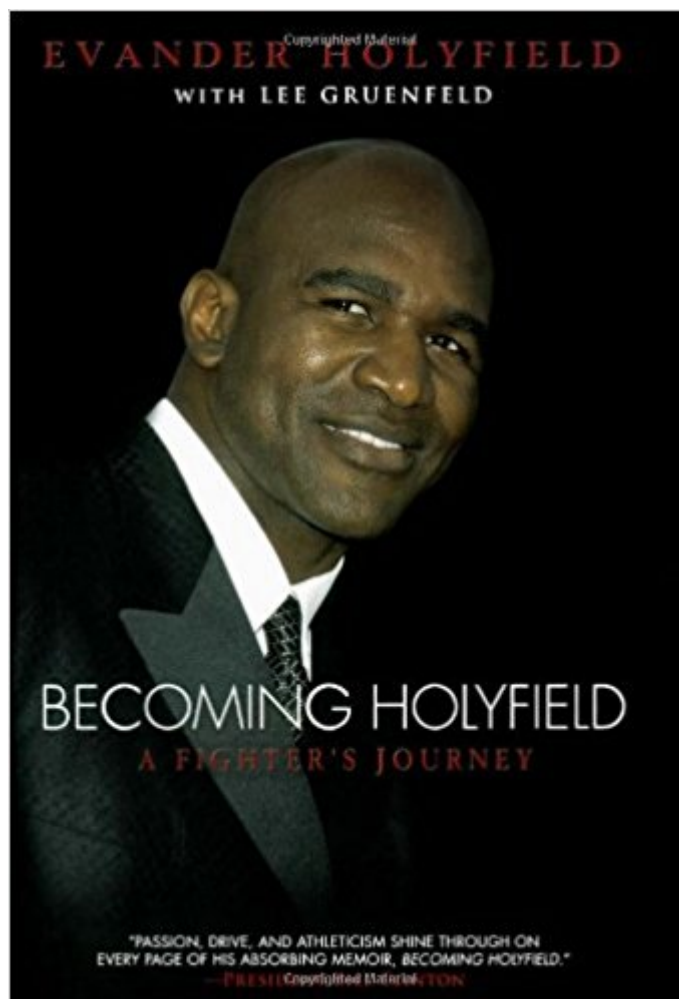




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# Becoming Holyfield: A Fighter's Journey



## Synopsis

History's only four-time world heavyweight boxing champion and one of America's most admired and beloved athletes reveals the dramatic story of his rise from poverty to the very pinnacle of the toughest sport on earth. Barely able to make it into the heavyweight division and almost always the smaller fighter in the ring, Holyfield spent his professional career proving the naysayers wrong. Along the way he provided some of the twentieth century's most thrilling sports moments, not all of them on purpose. In *Becoming Holyfield*, he gives us the exciting inside story of defeating Mike Tyson, the self-proclaimed "Baddest Man on Earth," and then getting a piece of his ear bitten off in the rematch. We learn how it felt to become the undisputed champion of the world by knocking out the man who knocked out Tyson, and we find out what it was really like to be in the middle of a title fight and see a motorized parachute fly right into the ring. There is heartbreak to go along with triumph, beginning with Holyfield's loss of an Olympic gold medal because of a highly controversial disqualification and continuing through his short-lived retirement following a misdiagnosed heart condition. Along the way we're treated to glimpses of such colorful figures as Don King and Howard Cosell and we come to understand the extra-ordinary power of love in shaping a young boy's life, and the love he tried to return. Holyfield made more money in the ring than any other fighter in history, and gave away millions to support the dreams of underprivileged kids looking for the same kinds of breaks that allowed him to become a champion. Holyfield's immense popularity cannot be overstated, and it cuts across all ethnicities and socioeconomic classes. The top three highest-grossing sporting events in Las Vegas history were all Holyfield fights, and his highly rated appearances on *Dancing with the Stars* helped to ensure that show's success. Other fighters may have been bigger, stronger, or more flamboyant, but few could match Evander Holyfield's poise, grace under pressure, or commitment to serve as an inspiration to others.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With the help of Gruenfeld (*The Street*), Holyfield recounts the story of his career with remarkable honesty and surprising wisdom. Despite becoming the heavyweight champion of the world four times, Holyfield has had a lot of bad luck, from the questionable Olympic disqualification to suffering a heart attack in the ring. He's also candid about his struggles with relationships and monogamy, having sired almost a dozen children with nearly as many women. While he could have expounded further upon certain oddities-Rapper MC Hammer's brief stint as his manager, his daughter's decision to change her name and, of course, his role on television's *Dancing with the Stars*-what we get is a portrait of a true champion. In an age of whiny, arrogant athletes, Holyfield is a remarkably good sport, allowing his work to speak for itself, reserving judgment and forgiving every person who has wronged him-including Mike Tyson. The only thing he gets defensive about is retirement: he's adamant that his goal is to reclaim the heavyweight title, despite the potential health risks. This memoir is a testament to the strength of his desire and the purity of his drive. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Evander Holyfield is an Olympic medalist and history's only four-time world heavyweight champion. He is the founder of the Holyfield Foundation, an organization serving underprivileged children. He lives in Georgia. Lee Gruenfeld is the bestselling author of novels such as *The Halls of Justice* and *All Fall Down* as well as the nonfiction *Confessions of a Master Jewel Thief*. He lives in Southern California.

I've read many boxing biographies, and this is the worst by far. There are many reasons why, but primarily, Holyfield lacks details and insights. Evander Holyfield was a great champion who fought great fighters. Yet, there are scant details at all about the great fights he had with Lewis, Bowe, Tyson, et al. I bought the book to learn the details about these fights and sadly, there is perhaps a sentence or two and that's it. What was it like to face Tyson? Was he the least bit nervous? How about facing Bowe three times? This is covered on one page - all three bouts! In contrast, when Holyfield decides to make yet another comeback late in his career, he goes into great detail about

his fight with Jeremy Bates! Frankly, I could care less about Jeremy Bates. Tell me about Lewis, Tyson, and Bowe, What was it like to face Larry Holmes's jab? What kind of power did George Foreman have? This book was written with the focus on Holyfield justifying himself as a heavyweight. This theme runs through the entire book. Yes, I know that Holyfield was a cruiserweight champion, but that makes it even more interesting to hear how he faced the bigger guys and how he planned his tactics against these true heavyweights. But again, there are no insights in this avenue. Holyfield writes a bit on his many children and wives, yet, we never get to see how the wives viewed him, or how his children viewed him. It is more about how he courted his various wives, and how he had several children out of wedlock all the while trying to be a Christian example. The contradictions in this subject are too many to mention. I admire Evander Holyfield. I think he was an exciting and great champion, however, this book does his inspiring story a disservice. The book lacks drama and excitement. It never draws you in because Holyfield never reveals anything of significance about himself. My advice is to walk away from this book. I hope an unauthorized biography comes out about the era in which Holyfield fought all these great fighters, and then perhaps we will learn something about the great Evander Holyfield. This book is not it!

Great

I found this book to be very motivational. It's a very interesting read and gives you a look at the thought processes of a champion.

A man with inner beauty and integrity He is a thru champion in my eyes, a good man

This book belongs in your library Evander is a class-act, a true champion and the epitome of a Christian warrior Just read it.. Best regards and God bless Skillet

Well written. Perfectly paced. Great book. Great story

CAN'T BEAT HOLYFIELD - ONE OF BOXING'S BEST!!!!!!!

I really enjoyed this book and also the message Holyfield wants to send.

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