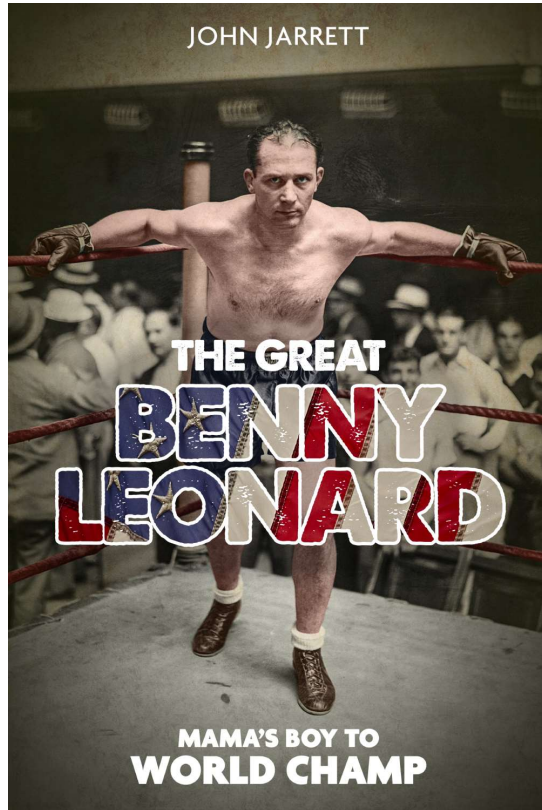




Title information



The Great Benny Leonard

Mama's Boy to World Champ

Key features

- Long overdue retelling of a remarkable story and a definitive account of the life and career of one of the greatest boxers
- A true legend – in a 20-year pro career Leonard amassed 212 contests and lost just five
- Practically every man he fought considered Benny the best opponent they had faced
- Looks at Leonard's early life in a crime-infested New York ghetto
- A self-confessed 'mama's boy', Leonard retired because of his mother's poor health, but was forced to make a comeback seven years later when he lost his fortune through the 1929 Wall Street Crash
- Leonard served in both World Wars and trained thousands of troops in boxing fitness
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

Description

Benny Leonard was arguably the greatest lightweight champion of all time. With superb boxing skills and potent punching power, he fought over 200 times and suffered just five defeats. He spent his boyhood in a crime-ridden ghetto in Manhattan's Lower East Side, and was the greatest of a long line of Jewish boxers to emerge from the slums. Leonard was still only 19 when he knocked out Freddie Welsh to become world lightweight king in 1917. He defended the title eight times and retired as undefeated champion in 1925, to please the only woman he loved, his mother. But the 1929 Wall Street Crash wiped out his fortune and he was forced to make a comeback at 35. Leonard fought the best of his era: Johnny Dundee, Johnny Kilbane, Rocky Kansas, Jack Britton, Ted Kid Lewis and Lew Tendler among them. Apart from being a sublime boxer, Benny was a first-class showman who helped to put boxing on a higher plane. He died as he lived – in the ring – while refereeing a fight at age 51. This is the definitive account of his remarkable life and career.

Details

Publication: 28 June 2021
Price: £19.99
ISBN 13: 9781785317866
Format: 240mm x 160mm
Binding: Hardback
Extent: 320 pages
Category: Biography, Boxing

Trade Orders to:

Macmillan Distribution (MDL),
Cromwell Place, International Business Park,
Lime Tree Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 8YJ

Telephone: 01256 302692
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