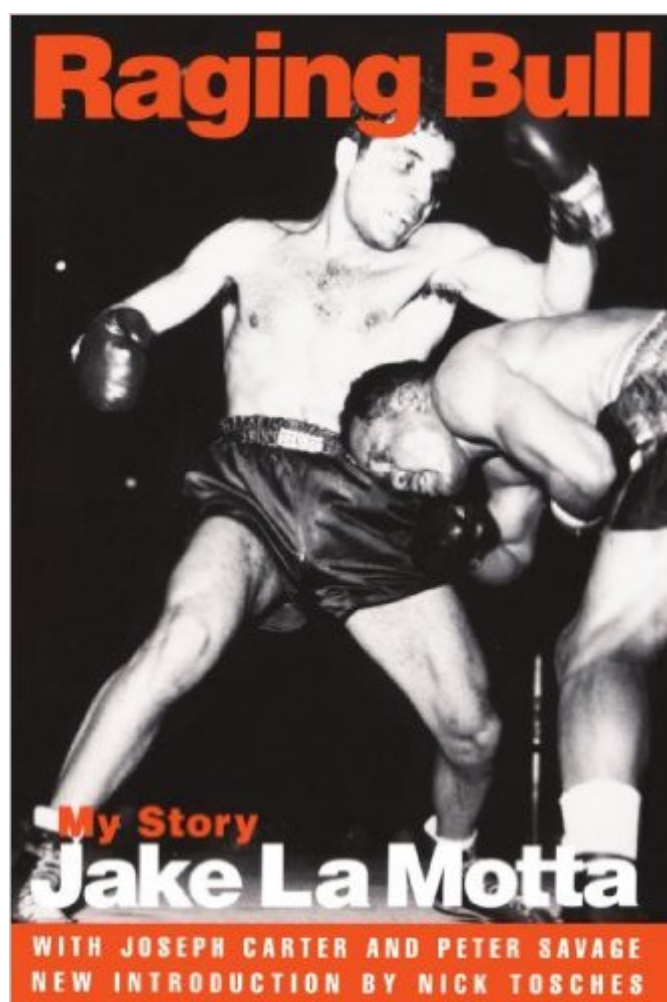


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# Raging Bull: My Story



## Synopsis

Meet Jake La Motta: thief, rapist, killer. Raised in the Bronx slums, he fought on the streets, got sent to reform school, and served time in prison. Trusting no one, slugging everyone, he beat his wife, his best friends, even the mobsters who kept the title just out of reach. But the same forces that made him a criminal—fear, rage, jealousy, self-hate, guilt—combined with his drive and intelligence to make him a winner in the ring. At age twenty-seven, after eight years of fighting, he became Middleweight Champion of the World, a hero to thousands. Then, at the peak of success, he fell apart and began a swift, harrowing descent into nightmare. *Raging Bull*, the Bronx Bull's brutally candid memoir, tells it all—fights, jails, sex, money—surpassing, in hard-hitting prose, even the movie that immortalized it.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (35 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

There is what seems to be a running joke in *Raging Bull II*, the sequel to this book, where whenever Jake wants to hit on a woman he gives her a copy of "Raging Bull". In typical "Hit 'em first, hit 'em hard" Jake LaMotta style, he usually inscribes it with something like, "To Beautiful, Gorgeous, Sexy Sally, Good Luck, The Champ." Later on, when Jake asks the woman what she thought of the book, the woman invariably replies, "I didn't believe a word of it." I knew a man from New York boxing circles, who knew Jake and worked with him back in the late 50's and early 60's. He used to say that "Raging Bull" was the "Sound of Music" version of Jake's life. Vikki LaMotta complained that the book "Raging Bull" was so highly embellished that she met "Pete," who in the book is portrayed as

Jake's best friend and constant companion, only once during her entire 11-year marriage to Jake. So what are we supposed to believe about "Raging Bull?" Honestly, I don't know. But I can tell you, having read my share, that this book and its sequel are two of the best written and most entertaining boxing memoirs ever written. A few observations: 1. The character in them called "Jake," an ex-hoodlum, tough guy middleweight champ, is one of the most realistic and believable characters in the whole noir genre, more realistic and believable than the characters played by James Cagney or Humphrey Bogart or anything in a James M. Cain or Raymond Chandler novel. 2. As pure storytelling, I'd say it's first rate. I really do admire the way the authors made sure that this was the case, truth or no truth. In literature as in boxing, you've got to entertain.

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