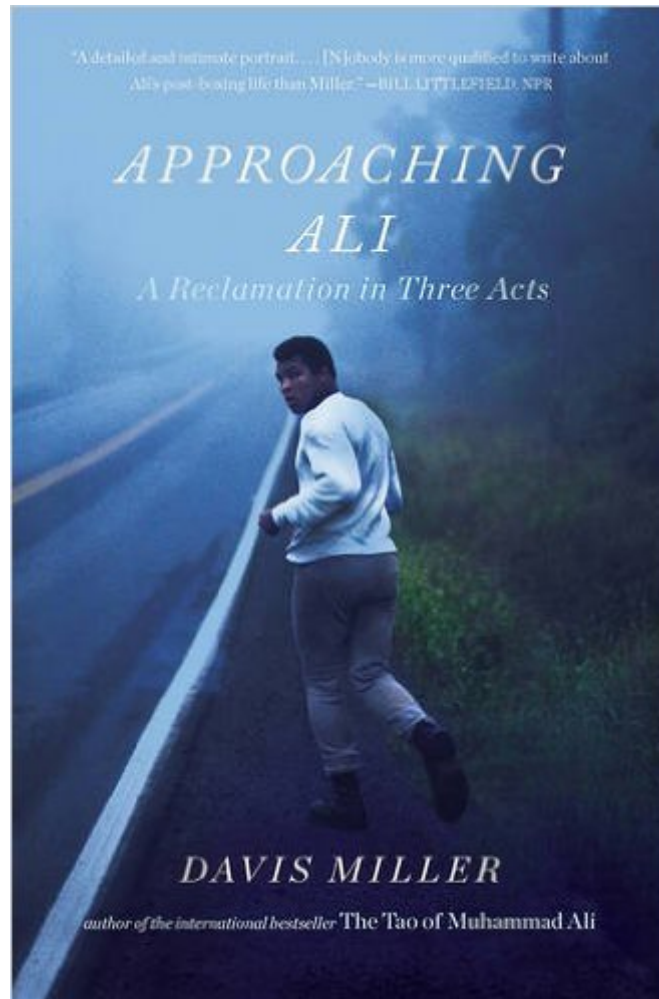


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# Approaching Ali: A Reclamation In Three Acts



## Synopsis

The single most intimate look at Muhammad Ali's retirement, told through the story of an unexpected, powerful and life-changing friendship. In 1988, then struggling writer and video store worker Davis Miller drove to Muhammad Ali's mother's modest Louisville house, knocked on the door, and introduced himself to his childhood idol. Now, all these years later, the two friends have an uncommon bond, the sort that can be fashioned only in serendipitous ways and fortified through shared experiences. Miller draws from his remarkable moments with The Champ to give us a beautifully written portrait of a great man physically devastated but spiritually young—playing mischievous tricks on unsuspecting guests, performing sleight of hand for any willing audience, and walking ten miles each way to grab an ice cream sundae. Informed by great literary journalists such as Joan Didion, Tom Wolfe, and Gay Talese, but in a timeless style that is distinctly his own, Miller gives us a series of extraordinary stories that coalesce into an unprecedentedly humanizing, intimate, and tenderly observed portrait of one of the world's most loved men. 25 photographs

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It would be impossible to tally the number of words that have been written about Muhammad Ali over the past six decades. Many have come from the minds of the finest in the literary world and others have been penned by sportswriters and even professional intimates. What most of them have in common though is that they were either authored or based in the era when Ali was fighting. His ascension to the title, his decision not to lead other young men into the armed forces as

the nation struggled against itself and Washington waged an unjust war, his loss to Joe Frazier and his title-winning effort over the powerful, unbeatable George Foreman. This has all been covered in abundance. Norman Mailer, David Remnick, Dr. Ferdie Pacheco and too many more to list. But what happened to Muhammad Ali after the lights dimmed, the crowds dwindled and the world moved on? What Davis Miller has given us in his book *Approaching Ali A Reclamation In Three Acts*, is an up-close and intimate look at Ali in his post ring years and it becomes strikingly evident that Ali was no less interesting after he heard the final bell. Miller's relationship with Ali's friends, family and his embrace of and enduring friendship with a talented sportswriter who just happens to be one of the biggest fans of "The Greatest of All Times." His intimacy with the three-time former heavyweight champion gives the rest of us an opportunity to experience Ali's interactions with his children, wife Lonnie and Brother Rahman. Miller spent time with Muhammad's parents, Odessa and Cassius Clay, Sr., painting, short clear portraits of both. Ali is nothing if not an unconscious melding of his mother's sweetness and the volatility of an African-American man denied his due as a fine artist in the Louisville, Ky.

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