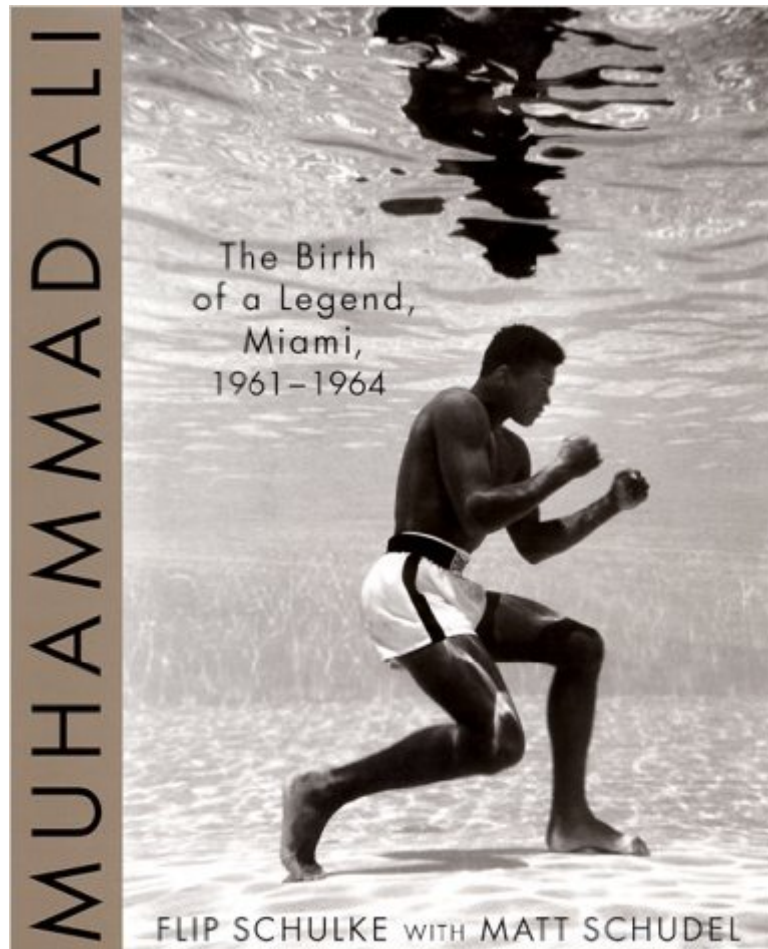


The book was found

# Muhammad Ali: The Birth Of A Legend, Miami, 1961-1964



## Synopsis

In September 1960, Cassius Clay, a young boxer from Louisville, Kentucky, won a gold medal at the Olympic Games in Rome. Barely three months out of high school, Clay had embarked on a career that would lead him to the pinnacle of athletics as a boxer and a social icon. Within four years he would defeat Sonny Liston and thus become the world heavyweight champion, at which point he converted to Islam and took the name Muhammad Ali. By this time, he was already a legend, with a reputation for a strong sense of humor and a penchant for outlandish acts of self-promotion, which earned him the enmity of a few, but the love of most of the world. Although Ali was certainly famous by the time of his bout with Liston, and his legend grew even more afterward, not much is known about his early years. After the Olympics, Ali moved to Miami in December 1960 to train with the celebrated Angelo Dundee. It was there that he honed his boxing as well as his self-promotional skills and grew into the boxer who would be able to take down the feared Liston. In three extended sessions in the early 1960s, before he became known to the world as Muhammad Ali, the young Cassius Clay was captured by the cameras of Flip Schulke, himself a young man trying to make his name in the world. Photographing for Life and Sports Illustrated magazines, Schulke presented the young Clay in tender, almost intimate settings that would never be duplicated once the spotlights focused on the young boxer. It was a perfect match of camera and subject; Clay's warm, boyish exuberance beams directly through the lens to reveal a personality of extraordinary confidence and charisma. He would become one of the most widely photographed personages in the world, and these remarkable photographs show him at the very beginning of his journey. Since that time, Ali's fame has only grown, to the point where he is generally considered the greatest athlete of the century, as well as a role model for young and old fans alike. These remarkable photographs show him at the beginning of his journey. *Muhammad Ali: the Birth of a Legend, Miami, 1961-1964* will be a necessary book for anyone interested in Ali's legend.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is worth the price for the pictures of 19 year old Ali alone. I have been an Ali fan since I was 12, and I have never seen these pictures before! Ali was 19, and made up a story about how he worked out in a swimming pool, so that the photographer would take underwater photos. They are incredible. So is the fact that, even though he had already won a gold medal, he wasn't allowed to try on clothes in a Miami department store because he was black. There are pictures of him running 5 miles to the gym in his dress pants and work boots, because he didn't have gym clothes! I can't stop looking at these pictures, and I can't believe how brave he was and how hard he had to work.

This is an amazing photography book by the renowned civil-rights photographer, Flip Schulke. It is a must-have for any fan of boxing and/or especially Muhammad Ali. As the text states, only five of the 85 photos included here have ever been seen before! I am a huge Ali fan and I have never seen pictures of him when he was so young and in such intimate, ordinary settings. Half of the pictures were taken the year after he won the 1960 gold medal and had begun to train with Angelo Dundee. He was just 19 years old! The other half were taken 4 years later before, during, and after he won his first heavyweight title fight against Sonny Liston. The book is gorgeously designed, and the text is fascinating--especially the informal narrative text sections that are the actual words and thoughts of Mr. Schulke during the time he was taking these pictures and getting to know this not-yet-world-famous fighter. I love this book and plan to give copies to several of my friends for Christmas.

I received this book as a gift and I find myself going back to it over and over. Like going back to a museum time and again to look at a favorite work of art. The photographs of Clay/Ali are so personal and so beautiful. Odd as it sounds, I feel grateful that Mr. Schulke has shared these photographs with me, with everyone lucky enough to discover them. I came to just now to order this book for a friend and found myself moved to write these few words. There's something about the

book and about the story of Clay/Ali that wants to be shared.

This is a book that's hard to put down. Just when you've thought you had read all you can read about Ali, a book like this comes along. The pictures make you feel as if as though you were there yourself. This was one of the best gifts I've ever received. I plan to pass this treasure on to many for Christmas.

This is one of the best books of photography I've ever had the pleasure--and luck--to pore through. Before, I only admired Ali from a distance; now I feel like I can respect him up close. These photos give you such a wonderful image of his self-respect, which is incredibly sexy and just plain cool. Such self-confidence shines through beautifully in the photos, especially the underwater ones (the accompanying stories are enlightening as well). He makes you want to take up boxing (which I plan to!) and redirect your whole attitude: We're all winners! I'm getting this for my little brother--and keeping my own copy! Happy reading...

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