



Thinkin Big: The Story of James Quick Tillis, the Fightin' Cowboy

By James Tillis, Quick Tillis, James Quick Tillis

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“They need to think big like I did. If they can see it in their head, they can get there.” Thinkin Big is the story of a kid whose dream was never supposed to come true: the story of a man who won hearts with his gentleness, but whose fearlessness was legendary. It is the biography of a champion once broken by boxing. As he watched Cassius Clay destroy Sonny Liston on February 25, 1964, James Tillis was told by God he would be a professional fighter. Thirty-three years later, James “Quick” Tillis, dubbed the Fightin Cowboy by Muhammad Ali, would record his story in a dimly lit jail cell. He was a young black athlete who’d clung to his alcoholic father and his religious mother, rising to battle seven heavyweight champions. But this naive heavyweight would be sacrificed by the sport he loved; it would rob him of the women he loved, his dignity, his fortune, and his title. He crawled into the ring 64 times to prove that he could win, but one dirty agent was determined to bleed him dry. Now he tells a story like no fighter before. It’s raw, yet full of humour, told from a legend’s perspective.

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Editorial Review

From the Publisher

"They need to think big like I did. If they can see it in their head, they can get there." *Thinkin Big* is the story of a kid whose dream was never supposed to come true: the story of a man who won hearts with his gentleness, but whose fearlessness was legendary. It is the biography of a champion once broken by boxing. As he watched Cassius Clay destroy Sonny Liston on February 25, 1964, James Tillis was told by God he would be a professional fighter. Thirty-three years later, James "Quick" Tillis, dubbed the Fightin Cowboy by Muhammad Ali, would record his story in a dimly lit jail cell. He was a young black athlete who'd clung to his alcoholic father and his religious mother, rising to battle seven heavyweight champions. But this naive heavyweight would be sacrificed by the sport he loved; it would rob him of the women he loved, his dignity, his fortune, and his title. He crawled into the ring 64 times to prove that he could win, but one dirty agent was determined to bleed him dry. Now he tells a story like no fighter before. It's raw, yet full of humour, told from a legend's perspective.

From the Author

A native Tulsan and born fighter, JAMES "QUICK" TILLIS is a rare boxer who fought both the old legends and the new. Angelo Dundee once said he was "the most implausible story in boxing . . . a small time boxer [who became] a potential champion and multi-million dollar bonanza." A native Oklahoman, J. ENGLEMAN PRICE is an author of human interest stories in local, national, and international publications.

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