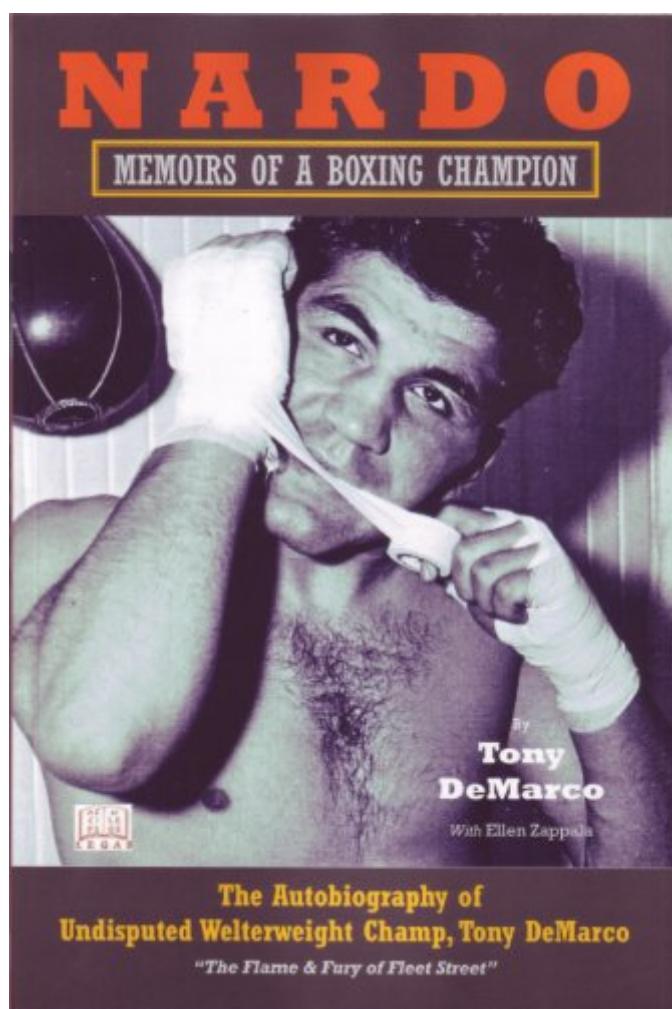


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# Nardo: Memoirs Of A Boxing Champion



## **Synopsis**

Nardo is the story of an Italian kid from Boston's North End, and his rise through the boxing ranks to eventually become World Champ during the Golden Era of boxing. Written in his own words, Tony DeMarco shares his life story with honesty and humor. He touches upon the triumphs and tragedies that shaped him as an individual, giving you a glimpse into the life of one of Boston's most beloved sports figures. From his humble beginning in the streets of the famous North End, to his amateur days and professional career as a world class boxer, to his days as a nightclub owner in Arizona and finally through some personal family issues, Tony's life took a series of twists and turns. Ultimately he won the battles and, to this day, is an icon in not only Boston, but in the boxing world. Along with his life story, Tony has chosen to share many photos from his personal archive, giving you a true snapshot into the life and times of Tony DeMarco, Welterweight Champion of the World.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 14620 KB

Publication Date: May 4, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00CNTZHUY

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #515,778 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #55 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoor > Boxing #143 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Boxing, Wrestling & MMA > Boxing #143 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Individual Sports > Boxing

## **Customer Reviews**

It was a gift for my brother. He sat down and started reading it right after he opened it.

I enjoyed this book because I grew up with the fighter. There were so many things that were so

familiar. It was interesting to read about many people I knew from the old neighborhood. I would recommend this book to know what hardships he went through to get to the top.

This is a well written book featuring an old time fighter, Tony DeMarco, former world champ. It's interesting to read how many bouts fighters in earlier day had and for the relatively small amount of money before big-time tv shows. A great piece of boxing history!

There are countless sports figures who have written, or co-written, autobiographies. Hundreds are about boxers. Few if any are as poignant and powerful as this story about the life of one of Boston's most successful boxers, Tony DeMarco. I picked up a copy of this book yesterday, when Tony and his longstanding companion Dottie were greeting passersby in Boston's North End, the Italian section where Tony and Dottie live (and where he started out). I immediately recognized this celebrity and eagerly bought a copy of his book. After exchanging five or so minutes of pleasantries with this gregarious and interesting guy, I immediately sat down in a nearby espresso bar to read the book. I finished it in a few hours. It blew me away. The ups and downs of the boxing game were expected and partially known -- though still fascinating. They follow what has become a standard trajectory -- hard work, early success, quick decline, treachery, overcoming obstacles, rising again, success, life lessons -- you know the drill. But what makes this story special, perhaps even unique, is the richness along the way -- the observant and good-memoried eye that can recreate so much of the 70+ year journey in an engaging and contemporary way. DeMarco recreates the Boston of the 1940s, 50s and 60s, the LA and LV of the 60s, the Phoenix of the 70s and 80s with such masterful storytelling that I was captivated. I felt like an eyewitness to the journey he travelled. And what a fascinating journey it was -- complete with stars like Sammy Davis Jr., Wayne Newton, and Sonny King, other professional fighters like Lou Thesz, Carmine Basillio, and Rocky Marciano, and many Boston politicians, like mayors John Collins and Tommy Menino. Sadly, Tony's life is also filled with personal tragedy that he reveals with great sensitivity and tenderness. In short, I loved this book and became immensely fond of this great fighter -- and human being.

I have just finished reading a wonderful book, *Nardo: Memoirs of a Boxing Champion* (Legas Publishing, 2011, ISBN 978-1881901-81-5, [...]) which is written by former world Welterweight Champion Tony DeMarco. This book is an open view into Leonardo Liotta's life. Liotta is Tony DeMarco. Just like Willie Pep, Lou Ambers, Juan Meza, Kid Gavilan and so many others were born-in the old boxing tradition-with different names, so was DeMarco. However, reading Nardo, you

get to learn who Liotta and DeMarco are. It is a straight from the heart delivery from the man who lost two children and still fights on. DeMarco cuts no corners in his biography, even talking about his relationships with Ralph Patriarca and with Phil Buccola. Everything in his life is in this book. I certainly did not know, until the book became published at least, that he and I once lived fairly close! (I wished I had known, I would have loved to meet him in person!) and that he shares (somewhat anyways) the interest of aviation with yours truly. He also shares other details, such as the tragic death of his brother and his relationship with his sisters is talked about in detail. Also adding much interest to the biographic tome are his fights, explained in detail. When we learn that DeMarco is proud of his performances against Carmen Basilio despite losing both times to him, we come to realize this is a book that sports coaches and trainers would do good in picking up for themselves as well; many of them can surely learn a thing or two from this gentleman! I like autobiographies in which the person seems to be telling you him or herself as you read it. In this one, I could definitely hear Mr. DeMarco's voice as I sat on my couch, the table outside my house or even at the basketball court and read it. What can I say but to tell you that this book is a honest, gutsy and passionate work by a man who was always honest, gutsy and passionate in his boxing career? It is true when I say that, because that is what this book is. The book is soft-covered and compact. Despite it's size, it contains all that bundle of information on the career of a man who, upon reading it, I am convinced belongs in the International Boxing Hall of Fame. For if not for another thing I discovered reading the book, I think that DeMarco would have lasted much more as a world Welterweight Champion than his losing-the-title-on-his-first-defense would tell you. At \$20.00, "Nardo, Memoirs of a Boxing Champion", is a book worth picking up for people like me, who wanted to but never got to experience the pinnacle of being a champion boxer ourselves, as well as for everyone else who wants a clean, crisp biography to read. To me, Nardo definitely scores a knockout!

I could not put this book down, I could relate to the story on so many levels. All the obstacles in Tony's way to the welterweight title make for a great read. He tells stories from the golden era of boxing that captivated me.

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