

CONTENTS

Introduction: Tales of the Wonderboy by Gerald Early vii

THE 1960S

A. J. Liebling	Poet and Pedagogue	3
Tom Wolfe	The Marvelous Mouth	15
George Plimpton	Miami Notebook: Cassius Clay and Malcolm X	27
George S. Schuyler	Views and Reviews	41
Jackie Robinson	Clay Explodes Liston Myth	43
Murray Kempton	The Champ and the Chump	45
LeRoi Jones	In the Ring (2)	48
Gordon Parks	The Redemption of the Champion	52
Floyd Patterson with Gay Talese	In Defense of Cassius Clay	64
Jackie Robinson	In Defense of Cassius Clay	72
Irwin Shaw	Muhammad Ali and the Little People	73

THE 1970S

Jimmy Cannon	Cassius Clay is the Sixties	81
Muhammad Ali	<i>The Black Scholar</i> Interviews Muhammad Ali	83
Robert Lipsyte	"I Don't Have to Be What You Want Me to Be," Says Muhammad Ali	90
Norman Mailer	Ego	101
Pete Hamill	The Disintegration of a Folk Hero	123
Ira Berkow	Muhammad Ali and the Fly	126
Roger Kahn	Muhammad Ali, May His Tribe Increase	129
Muhammad Ali	<i>Playboy</i> Interview: Muhammad Ali	135
Garry Wills	Muhammad Ali	163
A. B. Giamatti	Hyperbole's Child	168
Jose Torres	Ex-Fighter's Notes on the Champion	175
Hunter S. Thompson	Last Tango in Vegas	183
Ishmael Reed	The Fourth Ali	199

THE 1980S

Jose Torres with
Muhammad Ali
Bob Greene

Sport Interview: Muhammad Ali 209
*Muhammad Ali is the Most Famous Man
in the World* 217

Muhammad Ali at the Ringside, 1985 229
My Dinner With Ali 232
Great Men Die Twice 246

Wole Soyinka
Davis Miller
Mark Kram

THE 1990S

Joyce Carol Oates
Gay Talese
David Maraniss

The Cruellest Sport 261
Boxing Fidel 266
Ali's Amazing Grace 287

Copyright Acknowledgments 298