



Sound and Fury: Two Powerful Lives, One Fateful Friendship

By Dave Kindred

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Muhammad Ali and Howard Cosell were must-see TV long before that phrase became ubiquitous. Individually interesting, together they were mesmerizing. They were profoundly different -- young and old, black and white, a Muslim and a Jew, Ali barely literate and Cosell an editor of his university's law review. Yet they had in common forces that made them unforgettable: Both were, above all, performers who covered up their deep personal insecurities by demanding -- loudly and often -- public acclaim. Theirs was an extraordinary alliance that produced drama, comedy, controversy, and a mutual respect that helped shape both men's lives.

Dave Kindred -- uniquely equipped to tell the Ali-Cosell story after a decades-long intimate working relationship with both men -- re-creates their unlikely connection in ways never before attempted. From their first meeting in 1962 through Ali's controversial conversion to Islam and refusal to be inducted into the U.S. Army (the right for him to do both was publicly defended by Cosell), Kindred explores both the heroics that created the men's upward trajectories and the demons that brought them to sadness in their later lives. Kindred draws on his experiences with Ali and Cosell, fresh reporting, and interviews with scores of key personalities -- including the families of both. In the process, Kindred breaks new ground in our understanding of these two unique men. The book presents Ali not as a mythological character but as a man in whole, and it shows Cosell not in caricature but in faithful scale. With vivid scenes, poignant dialogue, and new interpretations of historical events, this is a biography that is novelistically engrossing -- a richly evocative portrait of the friendship that shaped two giants and changed sports and television forever.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Veteran sportswriter Kindred seeks to "recover Muhammad Ali from mythology and Howard Cosell from caricature" with interlocking portraits that trace the rising careers of the boxer and the sportscaster to their first meeting in the early 1960s and then through the creation of one of television's most popular bantering couples. Their on-air playfulness didn't necessarily translate into full friendship. Kindred carefully notes that while Cosell supported the heavyweight champion's right to refuse induction into the army during Vietnam, he never expressed support for Ali's actual position. Likewise, Ali knew exactly how the relationship benefited them, once telling Cosell, "You know you need me more than I need you." Kindred's close relationships with both men inform the story without overwhelming it, and he depicts the moments at which he was not present—Cosell's early battles with anti-Semitism in the broadcast industry, Ali's fear that the Nation of Islam would kill him the way they did Malcolm X—with the same immediacy he brings to his eyewitness perspective. There are already many books on Ali, but few independent considerations of Cosell, and none that show so effectively how each man helped create the legend surrounding the other. (Mar.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Their differences are glaring: Muslim and Jew, black and white, pretty and ugly. But look deeper, and their odd friendship makes sense: Howard Cosell and Muhammad Ali shared loud mouths, humble beginnings, relentless ambition, and healthy egos. Although Ali's life has been biographed to death, his relationship with Cosell has never received its due until now. Kindred, who knew both Ali and Cosell well, has written a book that is at once well researched, pleasantly anecdotal, and remarkably insightful. For example, rarely before has Ali's struggle over whether to serve in the army been portrayed so well. And Cosell's life story is absolutely gripping, particularly his remarkable midlife career move from lawyer to broadcaster. But the best thing about the book is the friendship itself. Cosell, who knew nothing about boxing until he was nearly 40, quickly recognized Ali's brilliance inside and outside of the ring. And Ali teased Cosell but respected him in a way that most of Cosell's ridiculers didn't. Even if the shelves are sagging with books about Ali, room should be made for this approachable, touching, and altogether fascinating buddy comedy. *John Green*

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Review

"This book has it all: a great idea, the perfect writer, and two extraordinary characters--Ali and Cosell--whose interconnected lives changed the way we think about sports and society." -- David Maraniss, author of *When Pride Still Mattered*

"The best books combine a compelling story, superb reporting, and wonderful writing. In *Sound and Fury*, Dave Kindred has produced all three elements. This is a book that needs to be read and reread to appreciate just how good it is." -- John Feinstein, author of *Caddy for Life* and *Last Dance*

"Cosell and Ali: it's impossible to think of one without the other. This dynamic look at two outsized personalities is as unique as was their relationship. Ali and Cosell created a form of synergy that transformed the world they dominated. But the triumph here is Kindred's. His prose floats like a butterfly. His reporting, telling it like it is, stings like a bee. Kindred by a knockout." -- Jane Leavy, author of *Sandy Koufax: A Lefty's Legacy* and *Squeeze Play*

"In this terrific book, Dave Kindred has not only invented a new form, he has set the platinum standard. Even things I thought I knew about Cosell and Ali are richer here. *Sound and Fury* is a shrewd, hilarious, and eventually heartbreaking journey into the nooks and crannies of their lives, surprising even for me, and I was there." -- Robert Lipsyte, author of *The Contender* and *The Brave*

"I love Muhammad Ali, and I absolutely love this book. It portrays Ali at his most glorious, most flawed, and most heroic. Dave Kindred's *Sound and Fury* will be the classic Ali biography for generations to come. Plus, there's Howard Cosell agitatin'. What could be more fun?" -- Michael Wilbon, cohost of ESPN's *Pardon the Interruption*

"Two great American lives demand a great American storyteller. Dave Kindred tells the entwined sagas of Ali and Cosell with depth, feeling, and an indomitable humanity." -- Charles P. Pierce, author of *Hard to Forget: An Alzheimer's Story* and *Sports Guy*

"A fine book, honest and carefully reported." -- Jimmy Breslin

"As much a social history of our times as it is a biography of two of our most formidable cultural giants, *Sound and Fury* emerges clearly as a read quite as important as it is poignant and riveting." -- Bill Nack, author of *My Turf: Horses, Boxers, Blood Money, and the Sporting Life* and longtime contributor to *Sports Illustrated*

"We thought we knew everything there was to know about Muhammad Ali, but Kindred tells us more. We knew next to nothing about the man behind the facade that was Howard Cosell, and Kindred tells us everything." -- Thomas Hauser, author of *Muhammad Ali: His Life and Times*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rodney Bryant:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each e-book has different aim or goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They can be reading whatever they have because their hobby is usually reading a book. Think about the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will require this *Sound and Fury: Two Powerful Lives, One Fateful Friendship*.

Jean Hogue:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a publication your ability to survive improve then having chance to stand than other is high. For you who want to start reading a new book, we give you this *Sound and Fury: Two Powerful Lives, One Fateful Friendship* book as nice and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Patricia Howland:

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Randolph Urban:

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