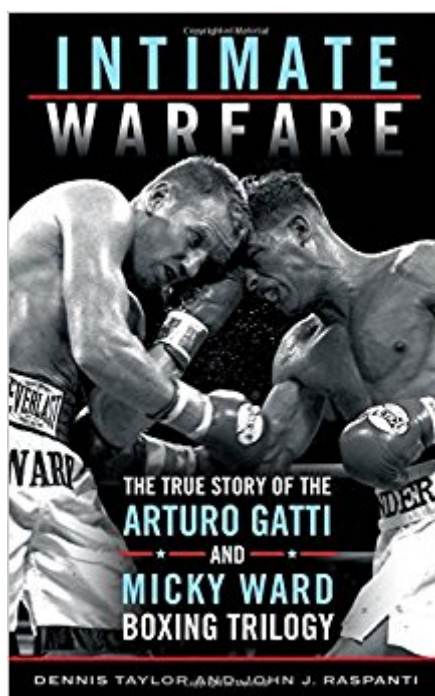


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# Intimate Warfare: The True Story Of The Arturo Gatti And Micky Ward Boxing Trilogy



## Synopsis

*Intimate Warfare: The True Story of the Arturo Gatti and Micky Ward Boxing Trilogy* traces the lives and careers of two legendary fighters—Micky Ward, a humble, hardscrabble, blue-collar Irishman from Lowell, Massachusetts, and Arturo Gatti, a handsome, flashy, charismatic Italian-born star who was raised in Montreal. Dennis Taylor and John J. Raspanti paint a vivid portrait of these two fighters who ushered each other into boxing lore and formed an unlikely friendship despite their brutal battles in the ring. Gatti's life would end tragically and mysteriously just a few years later, but his name and Ward's remain tied together in boxing history. In *Intimate Warfare*, each of the three spectacular fights between Gatti and Ward, two of which were named *The Ring* magazine's "Fight of the Year," are described in detail. Multiple photographs from the trilogy highlight the intensity and power of these epic collisions. With a foreword by former world champion and International Boxing Hall of Famer Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini, this book will be of interest to all fans of boxing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Boxing writers Taylor and Raspanti track the careers of Arturo "Thunder" Gatti and "Irish" Mickey Ward, whose three-fight saga brought them pugilistic glory and million-dollar paydays at terrible physical and psychic cost. Gatti's natural ability and movie-star good looks earned him titles that his recklessness, in and out of the ring, quickly overshadowed. Ward, less talented, won acclaim for a relentless attacking style that made him a

crowd favorite. Both men's careers were in decline when their first encounter riveted the fight world. Only six years after their final battle, Gatti was found dead in a Brazilian motel room, apparently a suicide. Ward, on the other hand, became a national celebrity with the film *The Fighter*, which was based on his tumultuous life in hardscrabble Lowell, Mass., and received seven Oscar nominations. However, no amount of financial compensation could make up for his shattered hand, blurred vision, and damaged brain. The book covers familiar terrain, and the authors eagerly embrace venerable sports clichés of manly fortitude and undaunted heroism. Despite these shortcomings, their diligent research and insider feel for the sport result in an engaging overview of two very different paths toward three of boxing's best-known fights. Raspanti and Taylor's most impressive accomplishment is to humanize the shirtless icons of pay-per-view, making the bloody drama of the ring even more difficult to watch and the fighters even more admirable. (Publishers Weekly)

*Intimate Warfare* by Dennis Taylor and John J. Raspanti chronicles one of boxing's historic trilogies, the three-fight drama that starred Arturo Gatti and Micky Ward. In a short thirteen-month period, between May 2002 and June 2003, two professional fighters displayed everything that's brutal and beautiful about boxing, the core of a sport that's more than sport. The book's title not only frames the narrative but provides its thematic foundation: *Intimate* because after thirty rounds Arturo Gatti and Micky Ward knew each other so well they could identify each other's breath and sweat and spit; *Warfare* because after three violent acts Ward and Gatti could recognize each other's brave hearts. Writers Taylor and Raspanti tell the true story of the Gatti/Ward trilogy with the insight of witnesses who know boxing.... Taylor and Raspanti's collaboration seems seamless because the voice of this book, itself intimate, is unified and entertaining and honest. While the two writers detail the most glorious moments in each fighter's career, Taylor and Raspanti are at their best when riffing on boxing's harder truths.... If, by some sleight of time, I'd been able to read *Intimate Warfare* before I saw my own personal trilogy of Gatti fights, my appreciation of a rising Gatti, and of the epic third installment of the Gatti/Ward war, would have been more layered, more complete, and so more fulfilling. That marks *Intimate Warfare* as the real deal. (Boxing.com)

*Intimate Warfare: The True Story of the Arturo Gatti and Micky Ward Boxing Trilogy* by Dennis Taylor and John Raspanti is a cracking good read and brought back some great memories of watching these epic bouts with my father. Boxing just doesn't get any better in terms of courage, heart and non-stop action than the three epic contests between these two great warriors and the authors provide the backdrop and details in a manner that makes this book hard to put down.... Taylor and Raspanti provide a look into the makeup of two men who were ultimate

warriors, fighters who were willing to ignore the risk, pain, and suffering and gave absolutely everything they had when they faced one another in one of boxing's greatest trilogies of all time. I thoroughly enjoyed their story and highly recommend it. (International Boxing Research Organization) Intimate Warfare consists of alternating chapters on Gatti and Ward until they meet in the ring and their lives are joined. Like its subjects, the book is a solid workmanlike effort. (The Sweet Science) For those of you who ... somehow missed it in 2016 when it was released, there is a great new book out on the simply unforgettable three-fight rivalry warriors Arturo Gatti and Micky Ward engaged in back in 2002/2003, that just has to be read. If you didn't get a copy released as it was just before Christmas and you care anything for the Gatti-Ward fights, then Intimate Warfare: The true story of the Arturo Gatti and Micky Ward Trilogy is a must. The reviews have all been excellent and the book is written by Dennis Taylor and John J. Raspanti covers the fascinating careers of both sluggers, while the scintillating action contained within the three super-fights is given fitting tribute. Indeed, with this kind of subject matter, the book simply could not fail. Of course, Ward was given the Silver Screen treatment in the fabulous film, 'The Fighter,' and now both gladiators get the star treatment in this new book.... [A]s special as Gatti-Ward was/is, Intimate Warfare just might be the essential boxing read of 2016 (or 2017 if you have yet to get hold of a copy). (Boxing247.com) This is a stirring, engrossing story, a paean to the 'Sweet Science'; a thrilling glimpse into the world of prize fighting.... The authors, Dennis Taylor of Monterey and John A. Raspanti of San Francisco obviously have a deep knowledge and love of the sport.... This is a terrific read for any sports fan. (The Californian (US Today Network)) [An] outstanding effort by Dennis and John. You learn about Micky and you get to know Arturo Gatti and their troubled lives both in and out of the ring.... The two authors obviously did their homework when writing about this trilogy. But far beyond facts and figures they captured the personal intimate relationship these two men had. They respected each other in and out of the ring. Ward and Gatti were unique in that way, far beyond what most athletes ever feel for each other.... The book flows easily and [you can] actually feel the pain being inflicted as the fights were being described.... Any boxing fan will love reading this book. It is a gem! (MaxBoxing) This book was a great read. I remember the Gatti and Ward fights very well. Dennis Taylor and John J. Raspanti have captured the grit, passion, and determination of both fighters in their enthralling new book, Intimate Warfare, which has a powerful message about the true art and science of boxing. (Virgil Hunter, trainer of two-time world champion boxer Andre Ward) This book is a vivid portrayal of Micky Ward and Arturo Gatti, two of my favorite fighters, who fought three of the most enjoyable fights of all time. They will never be forgotten and will always be remembered in the

history books of boxing. (Joe Cortez, International Boxing Hall of Fame referee) One of the greatest trilogies in the history of boxing. This book captures all the thrilling moments that Micky Ward and the late Arturo Gatti provided to those of us who were at ringside. It is a must read. (Harold Lederman, HBO Sports)

Dennis Taylor is a professional journalist of more than 40 years. He is the editor/publisher of [www.ringsideboxingshow.com](http://www.ringsideboxingshow.com) and host of The Ringside Boxing Show, a worldwide Internet radio program. He has also written for [www.boxing.com](http://www.boxing.com) and [www.ringtv.com](http://www.ringtv.com). Taylor is the author of A Puncher's Chance: Amazing Tales from the Ringside Boxing Show, a nonfiction boxing book, and The Miracle Myth, a novel. John J. Raspanti is Chief Lead Writer for both [www.maxboxing.com](http://www.maxboxing.com) and [www.doghouseboxing.com](http://www.doghouseboxing.com). A well-known boxing writer, Raspanti has also contributed to The Ring online ([www.ringtv.com](http://www.ringtv.com)).

Book Review: By Dave Wilcox  
**Intimate Warfare: The True Story of the Arturo Gatti and Micky Ward Boxing Trilogy**  
In 2002 and 2003, Arturo Gatti and Mickey Ward fought three times and created one of the greatest rivalries in Boxing's rich history. The two warriors showed us blood and guts and thrilled the boxing world with the truest form of will that our beloved sport can muster. The authors, Dennis Taylor and John J. Raspanti dive deep into the tale of Gatti vs Ward and capture all of the emotion that the three bouts provided in their fascinating new book, **Intimate Warfare: The True Story of the Arturo Gatti and Micky Ward Boxing Trilogy**. Within the first 50 pages of reading, I was brought to tears twice. As I continued through the pages, the memories of this great rivalry flashed through my head and I couldn't put the book down. Taylor and Raspanti hit it out of the park with this effort. They dig into the personal lives of each fighter and chronicle the bouts with pinpoint perfection. I anticipate this won't be the last time I open this book. It's a perfect read for a rainy day and is a "can't miss" for all Boxing fans. The book comes in a very sharp and old school hard cover that will fit nicely on everyone's book shelf. Do yourself a favor and get a copy today.

This book has plenty of meat and details for the boxing enthusiast, to be sure. But it even kept me, a non-boxing fan, completely enthralled. Because the writing is so relatable, and the humanity is placed front and center, I found myself immersed in Micky and Arturo's worlds. Taylor and Raspanti paint a fascinating and heartbreaking portrait of not just the fighters, but the men.

Epic All Time Great ! Once I read this i had to rewatch fights 1-2-3 again !

good guy to bad how it all ended

Intimate Warfare by Dennis Taylor and John J. Raspanti is an excellent book worth the time of any boxing aficionado or novice (like me). The book brings together the personal and professional lives of two boxing greats: Arturo Gatti and Micky Ward, who finally meet in a sensational trilogy of matches. The writing style is like a boxer's short jabs. Not only are you informed, but it feels like you are in the ring with the men. I particularly liked the book's end sections: the personal comments by the participants and the statistics. It demonstrated the amount of research the authors did and confirmed the accuracy of their story. Every page is worth your time. Neal Cavanaugh

I like to read about operatic battles and what brings people to those very moments, pushing themselves past the point of common sense, digging into a part of their soul they never knew they had. Dennis Taylor and John J. Raspanti do that in a way that grabs you by the throat and refuses to let go - you can not put it down, you can not walk away. You will crave to turn that page. There is a fault we all suffer from, something we can not escape no matter how hard we try. Doctors call this the Human Condition. Intimate Warfare shows how two humans became pugilistic Gods one round at a time. Be good to yourself and get this book.

As a boxing writer and author of Max Baer and Barney Ross: Jewish Heroes of Boxing, I was deeply impressed by Intimate Warriors. It is well written, succinct, and provides evocative touching stories about two legendary boxers, Gatti and Ward.

Just spent 2 hours at Starbucks talking with Dennis Taylor and an ole NY projects boxing lover, talking about this book! Lots of memories and great boxing facts... Get this book!!

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