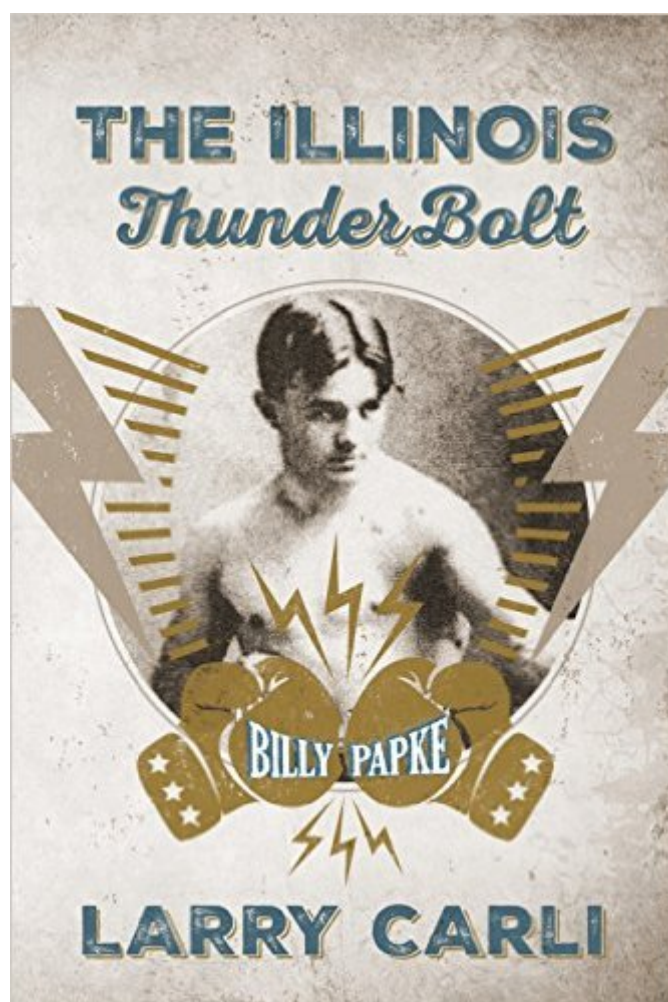


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# The Illinois ThunderBolt



## Synopsis

**BILLY PAPKE: Boxings Enfant Terrible. . .** Without a doubt Billy Papke is one of the legends of the boxing ring. He was finally recognized for his talent in the ring, and he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2001. Though there has never been a book published on Papke, he has name recognition with boxing fans all over the world who still discuss on the internet details of his four classic fights with Stanley Ketchel, which were regarded as the first great rivalry between fighters in the history of boxing. Papke's story is ripe with a blend of violence, tragedy, and mystery. For one hundred years the name of Billy Papke has been associated with treachery in the ring. Did Papke really deserve this reputation? The Billy Papke story is long overdue, and the boxing public and public at large can now read about the true story and not just the myth of Billy Papke.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,164,638 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #222 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Boxing, Wrestling & MMA > Boxing](#) #420 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Boxing](#)

## Customer Reviews

I'm not a boxing fan. But, I bought the book because the author was a junior high school classmate. I haven't seen him in decades, but recall that he was quite fond of all sports and had aspirations of becoming a sports reporter. The author's account of Billy Papke seemed to me to have realness and intrigue. For me, that kept the reading at a smooth and anticipatory pace. Except for a bit of repetitiousness regarding characterization, I found the booklet comfortable and satisfying to read. The numerous newspaper clippings and photos are a bonus. Fifteen rounds (chapters) of boxing history! Quite well done Larry.

My mother gifted me this book as I used to be a boxing fanatic in my teenager years. I had never

heard of Billy Papke until now. The book is very well written and definitely grasps your attention. It is clear that the author of this book is a boxing fanatic and really took the time to gather facts of Billy Papke. The book illustrates some classic photos, which leads me to think the author really devoted his time and passion to this book. Billy Papke, "The Illinois Thunderbolt", is a book about the life of Billy Papke and his boxing career. Without giving the book away, not only is the narrative about boxing, but also about the twisted life of Billy Papke and his tragic end. I highly recommend this book not only to boxing enthusiast, but also to folks who like some twist and tragedy in the narrative. This book really deserves five stars. It kept me interested and I enjoyed every chapter of the book. Hopefully the author will be writing similar narratives to this one.

This book brings back memories from an earlier time when my Dad and uncles and I would sit and listen to the fights on Friday nights. Reading this book put me in the ring with Billy Papke. The author has given us a real jewel; boxing fan or not. It is well researched and is a must read. Thanks to Larry Carli for showing everyone the complete life of the Illinois Thunderbolt.

Illinois Thunderbolt is an excellent account of an almost forgotten Hall of Fame boxer. It is brief but informative and interesting. The author is a boxing enthusiast and can be proud of bringing to life the story of Billy Papke. The book is an easy read and is enhanced by a collection of great pictures. Boxing fans will also want this book to get a more balanced picture of the rivalry between Papke and Stanley Ketchel. Prospective readers from Billy's home towns in Illinois (Spring Valley and Kewanee) will have added reason to read this book.

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