**THE BOXER**

They Told Him.

You Could. You Should.

You Will. You Can.

Sure Way Out.

Ghetto Behind Ticket.

Go For Gold.

Go For World Belt.

The Promised Land.

Be Great.

Have Faith.

Have Hope.

Gloves. Canvas. Ropes.

Lights. Crowds. Bouts.

Life In The Ring.

Is A Sure Fire No Doubt.

Fame Money Thing.

He Worked. Ran.

Jumped.  Skipped.

Lifted. Jabbed. Swung.

Punched The Bags.

Starved. Sweated.

Made Weight.

Went Toe To Toe.

Traded Hooks.

Upper Cuts.

Head Butts.

Gave. Took.

Head. Body Blows.

Hung On. Made The Bell.

Came Back. Arose.

At Nine.

Or Done In.

Down And Out.

Took Ten Count.

Maybe. TKO.

Shattered Jaw.

Busted Chin.

Blood Shot Bruised

Damaged Eyes.

Broken Hand.

Clouded Mind.

Out On His Feet.

Hung In.

Tormented End.

For Two One Win.

Cuts. Blood.

Broken Teeth.

Corner Men.

Patch Him Up.

Then In Again.

Told Him Play Ball.

We Will See.

You Get A Shot.

Just One Dive.

That's All.

We Don't Ask A Lot.

Do What We Say.

Stay Alive.

Our Money's On The Champ.

You Know Who's Who.

Who Owns You.

You Heard The Boss.

What’s A Little Friendly Fix.

Just One Wired Loss.

No Funny Stuff.

Push Back. Double Cross.

And So It Went.

Each Gate. Purse.

Smaller. Less.

Already Split. Stolen. Spent.

From Bad To Worse.

Broken Nose Hands Ribs.

Visage Spirit Soul.

Cauliflower Ears.

Nothing Left To Give.

So Soon. So Done.

So Over. So Old.

Blow Smashed.

Addled Brain.

Now Cross The Years.

Toll Of Ring. Fights. Time.

One Sees. Finds.

A Shuffling Pace.

A Battered Face.

A Scrambled Mind.

The Money Gone.

Old News. Old Papers.

Dead Meat.

On The Street.

Neath Bridges.

Cardboard Boxes.

Trash Can Fires.

Dumpster Picking.

Walking Wounded.

Hit No Mas Wire.

Fates Have Conspired.

No One Cares.

N'er Even Feels.

Remorse. Regret.

Pity. Shame.

No One Knows.

Even His Name.

So It Goes.

So Goes Manly Game. Beyond The Pale.

Never Was.

Has Been.

Might Have Been.

Contender.

Washed Up.

Faded. Forgotten Champ.

Of Long Gone Fame.

Two Equal Stiffs.

Walking Dead.

Shells Of Promise.

Might. Have. If.

Nothing Left.

Nothing Remains.

It All Plays. Pays.

Sad. Tragic

Nothing But.

Manipulated.

Exploited.

Sucker Punched.

Ripped Off.

Tossed Away.

Abandoned.

Betrayed.

Soul Body Mind.

Robbed

Life Stolen.

Same.

PHILLIP PAUL. 12/5/15.

Rabbit Creek At Dusk.

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