



# Unbreakable: an Autobiography

*M.C. Mary Kom*

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## **Unbreakable: an Autobiography** M.C. Mary Kom

‘My Years of hard work, the refusal to give up, pushing every boundary there was. The thrill, the joy of winning, the successes. The Olympic bronze, my most prized possession. And boxing, the sport I gave myself to. All of it is real. I was the David who took on the Goliaths in the boxing ring – and I won, most of the time.’

MANGTE CHUNGNEIJANG MARY KOM. Queen of the Indian boxing ring. The winner of five world championships and an Olympic medal.

Born to parents who were landless agricultural labour in the state of Manipur in Northeast India, Mary’s story is one of relentless struggle and unflagging passion for the sport of boxing. A childhood of hard labour prepared her body for the sport just as well as any fitness training might have. Her own will and aggression carried her through the minefield of politics that any sport in India is. Nimble of foot and pulling no punches, the boxing ring was Mary’s dominion.

M.C. Mary Kom is not yet ready to call it a day, but here she tells her story so far, no holds barred – her tough childhood, her rebellions, how long she waited for Onler to propose marriage, how she was willing to run away with him and, of course, how she held her own in the male world of boxing. It’s all packed into this inspiring, exhilarating tale of a woman who faced impossible odds in a man’s world – and won.

## **Unbreakable: an Autobiography Details**

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# From Reader Review Unbreakable: an Autobiography for online ebook

## Anil Swarup says

Short, sweet and inspiring. It is another riveting story of someone rising to stardom from nowhere. The narration is simple, reflecting the persona of the author. The story has already inspired a lot of sportspersons all over the country but more so from the North-East. What is really remarkable is the grit and tenacity of Mary Kom that takes her to the summit. She had everything going against her. She was a woman, born in a poor family that could barely make both ends meet and from a strife torn state in the North-Eastern part of the country. She was aspiring to be in a sport that was the preserve of men. Yet she made it. Despite all odds.

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## Sankalpita (bookGeeks India) says

Pursuing professional sports in India is a daunting job and that job becomes even more difficult when the gender in question is the fairer sex. Women sports in India are still treated as a joke.....

Read the full review here - <http://bookgeeks.in/entries/autobiogr...>

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## Tavleen Kaur says

This book was inspiring, informative and enjoyable to read. I think we all can take something away from her story especially how she started in a poor household and made her way up all because of her exceptional hard-work. Books like these made us realize how privileged we are and how its not impossible to achieve our dreams no matter how high they are. Also, I'm not much into sports so I really liked learning about this field.

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## Supratim says

For those who don't know who Mary Kom is – well, she is the Queen of the Indian Boxing Ring. She is the winner of five World Championships and an Olympic medal. She has won medals in other national and international championships as well.

I had heard about Mary Kom but really learnt a few things about her only after watching the movie based on her life.

When you read about people who have achieved something despite a multitude of obstacles then you realize how insignificant a lot of your own problems are.

Mary Kom is a real fighter. Life kept throwing obstacles after obstacles at her – abject poverty, social prejudice, nepotism, bureaucratic apathy, regionalism, racial discrimination; but the feisty lady knocked them out with her killer punches.

She was born in a family of landless agricultural labourers in Manipur and had a very tough childhood. Kudos to her parents who put in inhuman efforts to ensure that Mary and her siblings could attend school. Mary and her siblings would help in the hard physical labour. Mary would later credit their childhood struggles for providing her with strength and stamina required for boxing.

Mary's struggle with poverty continued during the early years of her boxing career. Support from her parents, in-laws, husband, friends, relatives and at times strangers kept her going. At times her father would come in the way only to relent and support again. Others would have surrendered their dreams but Mary soldiered on fuelled by her passion and determination. There are many instances in the book which would show what sacrifices and deprivations she and her family had to endure.

Mary's affair with her husband, Onler, is something out of a romantic movie. Onler has been a strong pillar of support for Mary – he gave up his studies and career so that he could take care of the children. The man even had to endure stinging remarks for his involvement in *womanly* activities such as household chores.

Slowly things would start looking up for Mary. She got sponsorships, a government job through sports quota (after much struggle), prestigious national sports and civilian awards often came with monetary benefits. Mary would also get the chance to rub shoulders with celebrities, corporate chiefs and be a brand ambassador.

All these helped Mary Kom alleviate her family's poverty – she bought lands for her parents, kept her promise of buying them a car, took care of her siblings and also her extended family. Today Mary Kom also runs a boxing academy for underprivileged boys and girls – where all the expenses for food, lodging, equipments etc. come out of her own pockets. She has some sponsors and receives help from the Indian Army.

Mary's life is a story of success but there are many other sportspersons (from non-cricket sports) in India who despite being talented never see success. They leave sports to find employment in often lowly menial jobs and live in abject poverty. Lack of sponsors, bureaucratic apathy, public indifference towards the sports all contribute to this.

Another thing I should mention is that there are some differences with the movie – some events shown in the movie are not written here. I wonder if these events were cooked up for the movie or Mary chose not to reveal them in the book. Who knows!!

My only criticism of the book is the writing – it is *dry*, I mean to say that it reads like a text book. It fails to connect. The book tells a very inspiring story of a woman who never bowed down to life's pressures – it should have been told in a manner befitting the person, her grit, her determination.

I am giving the book a rating of 4 simply because it tells the story of this indomitable woman. Otherwise, I would have given it a rating of 2.5 or 3 at max.

If the writing was better I would have happily recommended the book to all. However, if the book appeals to you, you can give it a try. The book is 150 odd pages long and can be read pretty quickly.

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**Allwin Jeba says**

## The Magnificent Mary

This is an autobiography of India's most celebrated women boxer Mary Kom. She carved a career out for her. From humble beginnings to highest honor, Mary has seen it all. The book reads more like a self help book than a real autobiography. She goes in depth to explain her poverty and the sacrifices her near and dear made to give her an opportunity to be what she is today.

Her husband is a real hero, Mary had all the fame. Under her shadows he did everything he promised and more. No body talks about her husband, but yes he is the real hero.

Again, as an autobiography she seldom talks about any boxing techniques or strategies. I was expecting her to explain certain bouts technically. Like how the opponent threw a right and she blocked with left high and threw a right hook. Or her favorite upper right etc. Or even when she was hurt and she did something to come out and win the bout. But none of those details exist.

She just mentions the tournament name and gives the round score and the result if she won or not. Over and over again. Atleast she could have explained her final bout in olympics. But nope.

Having said that, Mary has a remarkable story and lesson for everyone.

She has made India proud on multiple occasions and all the best for Olympics 2016!

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## Sheetal Maurya - Godse (Halo of Books) says

Mary Kom, I think there is nobody who doesn't know who she is. She is a five-time world-champion boxer and mother of three sons. She is the inspiration for millions of Indians. Her life has been presented in the movie but I wanted to read this autobiography to know her life from her voice.

You may read full review on my blog [Unbreakable: an Autobiography by M.C. Mary Kom- Book review](#)

Chungneijang was an ordinary girl who lives in the remote village of Manipur. She is the eldest daughter in the family. Chungneijang's parents were landless labor and they worked very hard to feed their family.

Chungneijang was a tomboyish type of girl who always protects her siblings. She loved to play but doesn't get time as she has to work with her father on the farm. During school, she dreamt to go into the sports and get a government job through sports quota and support her family.

But sport training doesn't come free. Chungneijang and her family worked very hard to meet the need of her sports ambition. This was the time when she changed her name from Chungneijang to Mary. She desired to go into boxing, but boxing was not famous during that time and it comes with various taboos for girls. But Mary chose to fight against the odds.

Mary goes through from various sports academy and won several medals for the country. During one such time, she met Onler and soon they became husband and wife. Her father opposed this marriage saying that marriage will put a full stop on her career. Opposite to all of the assumption, Onler always put Mary and her ambition first. Mary writes that 'People refer to Onler as 'Mary's husband', but I know that behind Mary's success, there is Onler.'

Soon Mary got pregnant and delivered two baby boys through cesarean. While the operation, boxing was the only thing was in her mind.

After the babies, people thought that Mary's career is finished but she proved all of them wrong after winning silver medal at the 2008 Asian Women's Boxing Championship in India and a fourth successive gold medal at the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championship in China, followed by a gold medal at the 2009 Asian Indoor Games in Vietnam. In this book, she has also pointed the partiality she had faced and also written how our sports ministry should help players.

This is the Mary Kom a simple girl from Manipur who becomes the world champion boxer by her efforts and dedication. There cannot be any one like her. Currently, she is running a boxing academy without any cost.

This book should be read by each and every individual, to know about the Mary Kom, to know her struggle as well as to get an inspiration from her.

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### **Rishika S. says**

Unbreakable is the first autobiography I have read, and to be very honest, the writing style takes some getting used to. There are many things about the book itself that doesn't add much to its rating. It is quite haphazardly written, in that it doesn't follow any real chronological sequence of events. While you get to read a lot about the many competitions and events of which Mary Kom was a part, it doesn't follow a dateline, making it a tad confusing to really understand her list of achievements. However, that doesn't make them any less impressive. Then there is the fact that it mentions many names out of nowhere, only to address some of them at a later stage, and leave many of them unheard of again. This kind of leaves you with a feeling of wanting more, and all these points were the reasons I would have given this book a 3 or 3.5 rating.

But what pushes that to a well deserved 4 star rating is the story of Mary Kom itself. As you get used to the writing style and read on, you see a person forming through all the information that you receive - a person who followed her heart and triumphed in many ways in the face of insurmountable odds. What really takes you in is the true from the heart feeling that the book gives you. It is an unabashed, all holds bared telling of Mary Kom's life. She discloses all her desires, what makes her push on, what gave her courage when things seemed impossible, and even touches on the things she fears, her weaknesses, and her failures - all told from her heart. But the best thing about the book is her open and unconditional love for the man who became her husband and support, her children who became her strength, and her family who stood by her in the bleakest and brightest of times. Mary Kom openly expresses her gratitude to every person, however small or big their contribution may be to her success, and that makes the book a truly inspirational read.

I recommend Unbreakable to anyone who faces a difficult time, however small or large that hurdle may be, and to everyone who has a goal of any kind. The book teaches you the many principles and a way of thinking that makes the impossible seem possible, and can go a long way in making you push beyond the odds. Because, at the end of it all, Mary Kom's story will make you believe in your own willpower and in the ability to get that at which you set your heart - just as she did, and continues to do every day.

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### **Indiabookstore says**

Doesn't Mary Kom's look all warm and happy? Medals, fame and a Bollywood movie based upon you. However, only a few people know the pains Mary underwent to reach such dizzying heights of success. Read full review [here](#).

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## **Rishi Prakash says**

The most celebrated boxer of our country speaks here about her life, her struggle and the way to all those accolades which she earned over all these years.

"Nothing is impossible" is the apt phrase that sums up the inspiring story of the Olympic Bronze medal winner and unprecedented five time world championship winner Mangte Chungneijang Mary Kom. A one woman's war against the overwhelming forces of life and her victory, in fact one after another in the ring and outside is one hell of an inspiring story which puts it right up there among the biggest icons of our country.

The 30-year-old Champion belongs to a tiny tribe of Kom which is currently numbered at a miniscule 30,000 and that is how her name has "Kom" in it. The tribe is at the bottom of the many communities in Manipur today in social and economical status which further throws light on her determination and single minded focus.

The book narrates her entire life right from the time she remembers to the current stage when she is a mother of three and dreaming for another Olympic medal in 2016.

A must read for all who face all kind of difficulty and challenges in their lives; for all the things we often crib, despite the comforts we have, this book puts us to rethink and wonder if we really should complain...

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## **Pooja says**

I have only read cricket autobiographies and this was a heartfelt read, especially as it is a women sportsperson. It also gives great insight about the people of NorthEast which a whole other part of India. A short read leading up to her Olympic win and written from her heart. Though not a wizard with words she is pro at boxing and an excellent role model. Humbling read.

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## **Soumyajit Pradhan says**

Just finished reading,  
Unbreakable: An Autobiography by MC Mary Kom

Inspiring to the core, it's a direct, no-holds barred, empathy-laced account of Mary Kom's unparalleled sporting journey, perhaps reflective of her style of boxing, as she describes herself: bop-bop-bop. Ha! Her unswerving dedication to family, community, friends and fellow boxers is praiseworthy and she never misses an opportunity to acknowledge their support with all humility. And yes, not to forget her matter of fact self-belief in her talent and unbeatable tenacity.

I wish you Magnificent Mary, all the very best for your Gold Quest of 2016 Olympics and your laudable dream ventures in boxing, self defense and community development!

She is special. She is an icon. She is a fighter.  
I look forward to the movie.

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### **Dhruv Sharma says**

Very well written and I really enjoyed reading it.

This book is really inspiring. There are so many lessons which we can learn from her life. She has not lived a privileged life but still, she manages to fight all the odds and fulfilled her dream.

No doubt she has suffered a lot and sacrificed a lot but the way she embarked on the positive way is something must learn. This book is very pleasant to read as I also learned about the culture of north-east.

Mary is the iron-lady and there is no one who can challenge her, even her unplanned pregnancy was not able to stop her.

This book should be read by each and every individual.

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### **Khurram says**

A great story, of a great person and athlete. Mary Kom's struggles and successes are truly inspirational. The language is simple which is understandable as English is not even her second language. Mary very openly talks about the sacrifice her and her family had to make, and is thankful for everyone who has helped her. Also how appreciative she is for every award. Being an Asian I know how obsessed India is about cricket and in their eyes if you are not a cricket or hockey player you are not considered real athlete. Add to the fact that she is a woman from a poor background I cannot even imagine what she had to endure to prove herself. The bottom line is she did it, and truly changed not people's but Indian society's opinions. That has to be classed as her greatest victory.

The only reason I did not give this book 5 stars is because of the details about the fights and training. I think this book could have been double or triple the length of she talked about specific drills or training she went through. Says things like "I cycled 20km did my chores then attended training", but now what she did in training. Also her fights she tells us the results "I won the match 24:4 points", but she does not describe a blow or the experience of being in the ring which would be the most exciting part for a contact sports fan like me. I do understand this is not what she was trying to express in this book, but how hard work, and sacrifice made her a success and a role model which she undoubtedly is. Her unbreakable will outside the ring, but I would have like to hear about her in-ring mentality as well.

A great success story, of overcoming obstacles, following and breaking traditional thinking yet with honour and keeping yourself grounded and humble despite incredible success.

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### **Meghaditya Roy Chaudhury says**

"I was not always recognized as Indian in my own country. Because of our oriental looks, people from



Northeast are often mocked in other parts of India. We're called Nepalis, or Chinkies, and people call us names ... Whether or not I look 'Indian', I am an Indian and I represent India, with pride and all my heart."

In a country where cricketers are worshipped as sportsmen and other sports are only ignored, M.C.Mary Kom pursued her seemingly unachievable dream of becoming a world-class female boxer and succeeded in it too. Despite her financial odds, politics in the associations and occasional strokes of bad luck, she held on to her goal and made her way. The book was truly an inspiring read.

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### **Ankit Saxena says**

Oh Man!! What an amazing read was that?

Touched my heart to the fullest. The life of Mary Kom ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_Kom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Kom)) in itself a very big inspiration. The struggle she went through was completely motivational. And the way she depicted the same in her Auto-Biography is worth reading.

Starting from scratch and touching the Sky was not easy for everyone. She in herself has proved that she is no less than a Legend. Winning Gold all-over in all the Championships resembles her victorious mindset to gain every sort of achievement. List of her National and International title wins in Boxing field is not so short to remember for anyone in one shot but for her it was just a milestone that she already crossed towards her Destiny.

For me it deserves: 5.0/5.0 without any Doubt.

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