

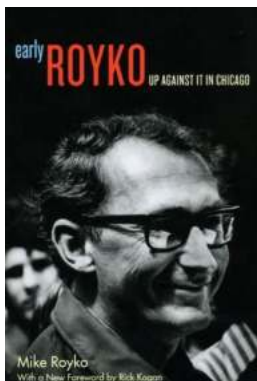
Early Royko Up Against It In Chicago: The Story of an Iconic Journalist

When it comes to legendary journalists who left an indelible mark on American journalism, one name that stands out is Mike Royko. Born on September 19, 1932, Royko went on to become one of the most influential newspaper columnists in Chicago's history. His sharp wit, fearless approach to tackling social and political issues, and unwavering commitment to the truth made him a beloved figure in the Windy City.

The Early Years

Royko's journey in journalism began in the early 1950s when he started working as a columnist for the Chicago Daily News. During those initial years, he faced numerous obstacles and challenges as he tried to establish his name in a highly competitive industry.

Chicago, as a city, was not an easy place to break into journalism. It was a melting pot of political corruption, criminal activities, and complex social dynamics. Royko found himself navigating these treacherous waters as he strived to provide concise and insightful commentary on the city's issues.



Early Royko: Up Against It in Chicago

by Mike Royko (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 651 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 232 pages



His early articles often focused on the gritty reality of Chicago: its crime-ridden neighborhoods, rampant political corruption, and deep-seated racial tensions. Royko pulled no punches, delivering hard-hitting pieces that resonated with the average citizen who had grown tired of the status quo.

The Birth of "Boss" and His Rise to Prominence

One of Royko's most notable works was his book "Boss: Richard J. Daley of Chicago" published in 1971. In this critically acclaimed masterpiece, he dissected the political machine that operated under Mayor Richard J. Daley, uncovering the inner workings and scandals that plagued Chicago's government.

The book became an instant success, earning Royko widespread recognition and catapulting him to the forefront of American journalism. His fearless approach to exposing corruption and holding those in power accountable earned him a devoted following and countless accolades.

A Compassionate Voice for the Working Class

What set Royko apart from his contemporaries was his ability to connect with the everyday person. His writing was accessible, relatable, and often sprinkled with humor, allowing his readers to not only understand complex issues but also find solace in his words.

He championed the working class and advocated for fair labor practices, calling out businesses and politicians who exploited the vulnerable. Royko's genuine

concern for the less fortunate struck a chord with his audience, making him a trusted voice in Chicago and beyond.

A Legacy That Continues to Inspire

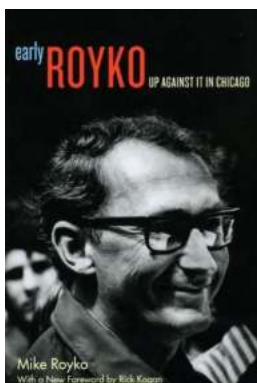
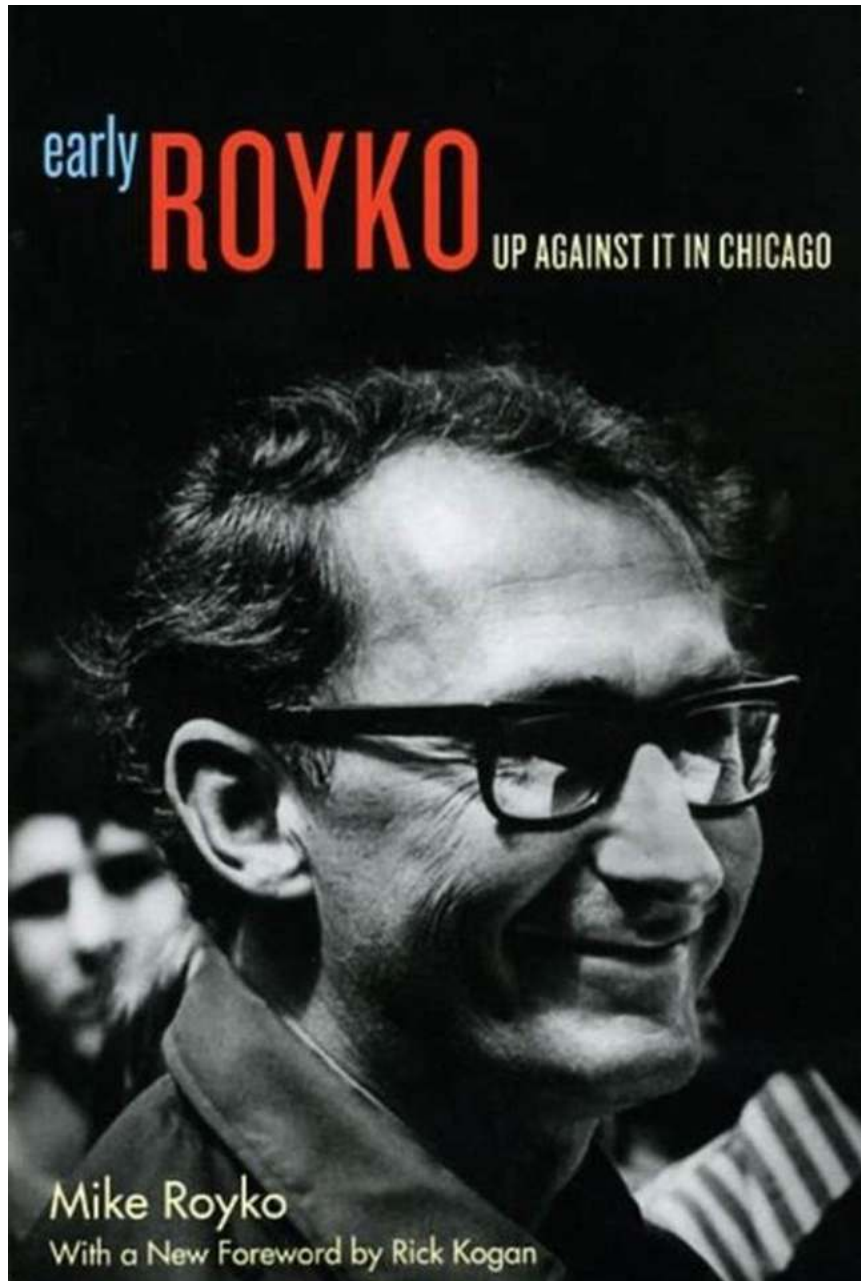
Even after his death in 1997, Royko's legacy lives on. His impact on journalism and the city of Chicago cannot be overstated. He set the standard for investigative reporting, fearlessly tackling difficult topics and challenging the status quo.

Countless journalists have been inspired by his work, following in his footsteps by writing truthfully and tirelessly to expose corruption and injustice. Royko's dedication to the craft serves as a constant reminder of the power of journalism in holding those in power accountable.

In

Mike Royko was a true icon of American journalism. His early struggles in Chicago shaped his writing style and determination to shed light on the city's most pressing issues. Through his words, he gave a voice to the voiceless and inspired generations of journalists to fearlessly pursue the truth.

His relentless pursuit of justice and unwavering commitment to the working class cemented his place in history as a journalist who made a difference. Royko's legacy continues to inspire and remind us of the importance of a free press in a democracy.



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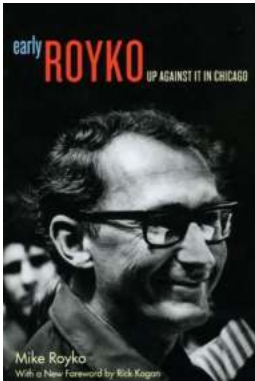


Combining the incisive pen of a newspaperman and the compassionate soul of a poet, Mike Royko became a Chicago institution—in Jimmy Breslin’s words, "the best journalist of his time." *Early Royko: Up Against It in Chicago* will restore to print the legendary columnist’s earliest writings, which chronicle 1960s Chicago with the moral vision, ironic sense, and razor-sharp voice that would remain Royko’s trademark.

This collection of early columns from the *Chicago Daily News* ranges from witty social commentary to politically astute satire. Some of the pieces are falling-down funny and others are tenderly nostalgic, but all display Royko’s unrivaled skill at using humor to tell truth to power. From machine politicians and gangsters to professional athletes, from well-heeled Chicagoans to down-and-out hoodlums, no one escapes Royko’s penetrating gaze—and resounding judgment. *Early Royko* features a memorable collection of characters, including such well-known figures as Hugh Hefner, Mayor Richard J. Daley, and Dr. Martin Luther King. But these boldfaced names are juxtaposed with Royko’s beloved lesser knowns from the streets of Chicago: Mrs. Peak, Sylvester "Two-Gun Pete" Washington, and Fats Boylermaker, who gained fame for leaning against a corner light pole from 2 a.m. Saturday until noon Sunday, when his neighborhood tavern reopened for business.

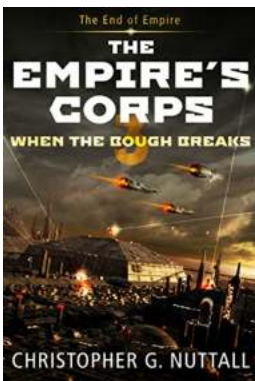
Accompanied by a foreword from Rick Kogan, this new edition will delight Royko’s most ardent fans and capture the hearts of a new generation of readers.

As Kogan writes, Early Royko "will remind us how a remarkable relationship began—Chicago and Royko, Royko and Chicago—and how it endures."



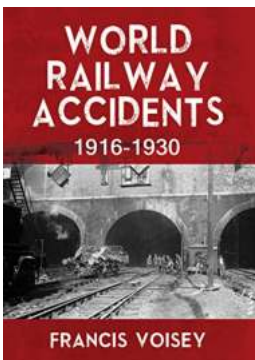
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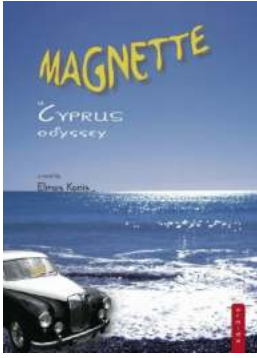
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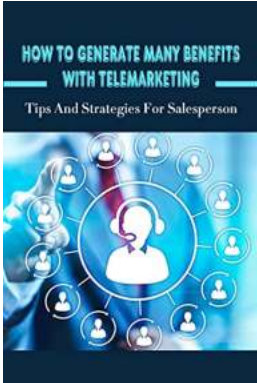
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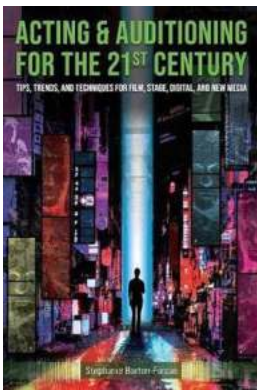
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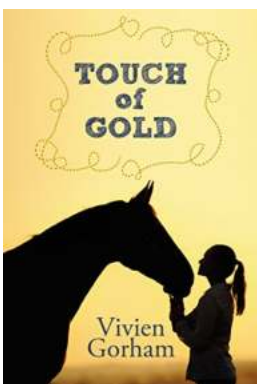
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