

12 ROUNDS



Fighting for clicks is *easy*. Saving a friendship is the *real* battle.

STREET FIGHT

EVAN JACOBS

CHAPTER 1

JUST PRACTICE

Steve yelled from outside the ring. “Don’t just hold!”

Daniel had grabbed Adam with all his strength. Neither fighter moved as they pressed their weight against the other.

Steve pushed his shaggy brown hair out of his eyes. He was the biggest in the group. But he wasn’t as fit.

Rico stood next to Steve. He recorded the fight on his phone.

The four friends were at Fitness Gym. Most people went there to use the weights. Some

enjoyed the sauna. Daniel, Adam, and Steve liked to work out. They loved that the gym had a boxing ring. It was small. Nobody else used it. Rico liked recording Daniel and Adam's fights.

Daniel and Adam had been best friends since fourth grade. Now all four of the boys were juniors. They went to Den High School.

Adam and Daniel had bonded over their love for mixed martial arts. They were always watching MMA videos. In the ring, they practiced MMA moves.

The boys couldn't afford to join an MMA gym. Membership at Fitness Gym was only \$10 a month. They used the place to try what they saw in videos.

Daniel grabbed Adam's leg. They fell to the mat.

"That's what's up!" Steve yelled.

Adam moved quickly. He got behind Daniel. Then he wrapped his arm around Daniel's neck.

"Reversal!" Steve yelled.

He's going for a hold, Daniel thought. Keep calm.

Daniel put his hands under Adam's arm. Adam wrapped his legs around Daniel's lower body.

The two barely moved. Adam tried to tighten his hold. Daniel gritted his teeth. He kept pressing against Adam's arm. This reduced the pressure of Adam's hold.

"Done?" Adam asked.

"No way!" Daniel said.

Adam laughed. "Fine." He let go of Daniel. "I'm too tired anyway."

Rico and Steve chuckled. Daniel rolled off of Adam. They shook hands. Both were breathing hard.

Daniel was happy. He and Adam weren't really fighting. It was just practice. They were trying to learn fight techniques from each other.

"I'm glad you were tired," Daniel said.

"Why?" Adam asked.

"Because I was too."

This made the whole group laugh.



The sun set as the boys went home. Cars passed on the street.

“I’m hungry,” Daniel said. He was tall and thin. His shaggy black hair was cut shorter on the sides.

“Me too,” Adam said. He rode his skateboard in front of the group. Adam was tall and thin too. Many people thought he and Daniel were brothers.

Steve laughed. “Too bad we’re all broke.”

Adam pushed down the tail of his skateboard. Then he tried to pop it up as he jumped.

He didn’t pull it off. His feet landed on the ground. The board rolled away. Steve and Rico cracked up.

Daniel smiled. “Almost. You’ll get it, bro.”

Adam smiled too. He picked up the board.

Daniel and Steve watched the video that Rico had shot.

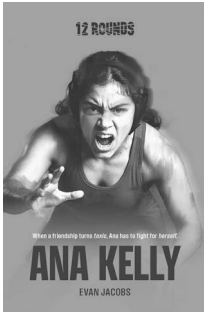
“I like when you’re standing up better,” Steve said. “Being on the mat is boring.”

“There’s a lot happening on the mat,” Daniel said. “You should roll with us. It will help you get in shape.”

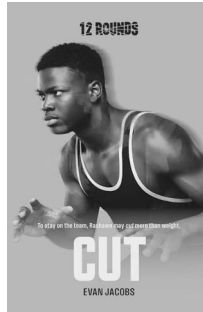
“My shape is fine,” Steve said. “I’m the bodyguard. They’re always bigger than the people they protect.”

“And I’m the videographer,” Rico said. “You guys keep fighting. I’m going to make money selling the footage.”

12 ROUNDS



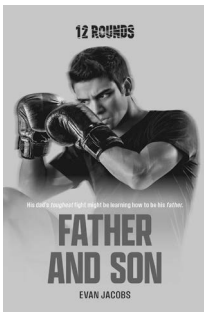
9781638896210



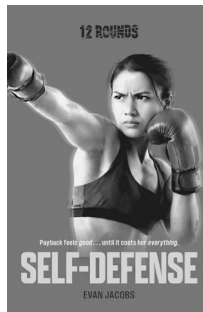
9781638896364



9781638896388



9781638896425



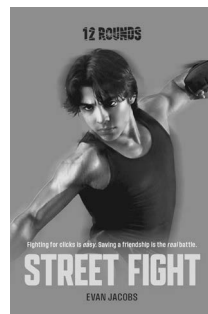
9781638896326



9781638896401



9781638896159



9781638896265

WWW.SDLBACK.COM/12-ROUNDS

12 ROUNDS

STREET FIGHT

Daniel and Adam have been friends for years. Now juniors in high school, the two enjoy going to the gym and practicing mixed martial arts in the ring. But when another friend convinces them to fight for real and post the videos, will Daniel and Adam's friendship be destroyed?