

Tekst 10



I'll fight for the right to get in the ring



Hattie Garlick

(1) It was all going so well, right up until the moment she punched me. I had been training in a professional boxing gym for months, next to women who practised law or nursing by day, but battered each other every evening, taking real fights when they could. I was floating like a butterfly, stinging like a bee. Then they put me in the ring. I heard the bell, I smelt the sweat, I felt the tight padded leather connect with my cheekbone and I felt ... nothing. My natural aggression failed me. I couldn't hit another woman, but I'll fight tooth and nail for another woman's right to do it.

(2) The decision to include women's boxing in the 2012 Olympics is obviously right. Every argument against it is knocked cold under the feeblest attack. The veteran promoter Frank Warren fears it is dangerous. But it is nonsense to suggest that it is more dangerous for women than men. Mr Warren worries for

25 unborn babies put at risk if women fight without realising they are with child. But what are we saying? That women cannot be responsible for their own fertility? We gave them that, along with the Pill, in 1961.

30 (3) Gymnastics has its hazards, dressage can be treacherous. Amateur boxing carries the same risk of head injury as ice-skating. No one asked Jayne Torvill to hang up her skates to protect her pretty face. Why? Because it is not safety that the critics worry about. It is what happens to their own idea of women if they have to acknowledge that some want to beat another woman until she can't get up from the floor. And what would it say about them if they enjoyed watching it? It is too late to ask. We have been enjoying male boxing since the Olympic Games of 688 BC. If it is too brutal, ban it. If not, treat men and women the same way. It is too late to wrap femininity in scented tissue paper.

45 (4) The last argument standing, as the bell sounds for the final round, is that there are not enough participants for an international standard of competition. But more than 500,000 women are licensed to box. The only way to raise that number is to legitimise them fully.

50 (5) I will cheer at the Olympics, even if I am watching through my fingers. Equality must rule, though it is not always photogenic. But it is always bigger and more important than the ugliness of battered faces.

The Times, 2009

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- “It was ... punched me.” (lines 1-2)
- 1p 39 What happened to Hattie Garlick at that moment?
- A She discovered she had not worked hard enough on her boxing techniques.
 - B She found out she preferred free fighting to regular boxing.
 - C She learnt what being knocked out in professional boxing really means.
 - D She realised she lacked certain characteristics essential for a boxer.
 - E She was surprised to be hit so hard by a woman.
- 1p 40 What becomes clear about Hattie Garlick in paragraph 2?
- A She believes female boxers fight less aggressively than male boxers.
 - B She disagrees with Mr Warren’s advice on contraceptives.
 - C She is convinced female boxers can make their own decisions in health matters.
 - D She thinks pregnant women should be discouraged from taking part in hazardous sports.
- 1p 41 How does paragraph 3 relate to paragraph 2 with regard to Hattie Garlick’s opinions?
- Paragraph 3
- A adds more arguments to the ones in paragraph 2.
 - B proves that the arguments in paragraph 2 are false.
 - C questions the arguments in paragraph 2.
 - D ridicules the arguments in paragraph 2.
- 3p 42 Geef van elk van de volgende citaten aan of dit wel of geen beeldspraak bevat.
- 1 “I was floating ... a bee.” (lines 7-9)
 - 2 “I’ll fight ... to do it” (lines 14-16)
 - 3 “Every argument ... knocked cold” (lines 19-20)
 - 4 “No one ... pretty face.” (lines 34-36)
 - 5 “The last argument ... final round” (lines 50-51)
 - 6 “I will ... my fingers.” (lines 57-58)
- Noteer het nummer van elk citaat, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.