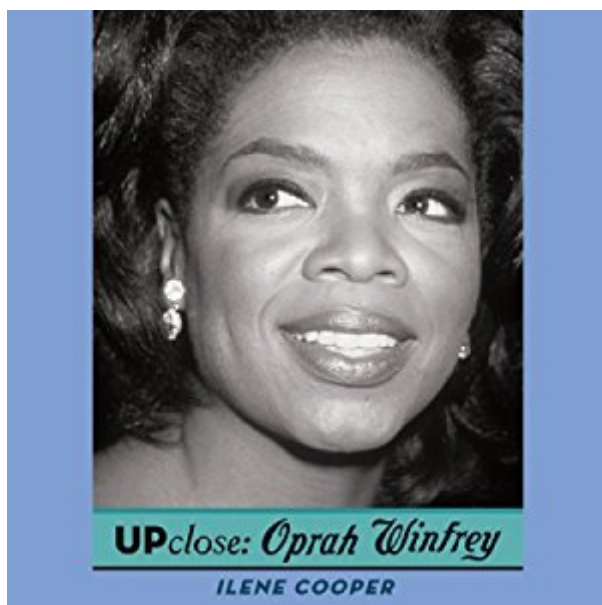


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# Up Close: Oprah Winfrey



## Synopsis

Oprah Winfrey has been called the Queen of All Media for good reason; during her more than thirty-year career, she has left an indelible mark on radio, television, film, theater, magazines, and books. Oprah is also a committed humanitarian. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I know more about Oprah now. I was never a fan because she comes off so judgmental. I decided to read about her because she is successful and generous, I thought maybe I can learn something. Now I have more respect for her. She's come a long way. This book gives me hope.

The first half was good. It had details of this remarkable woman that was inspiring. The second half read a bit rushed and cursory, with an abrupt and less-than-something ending. I bought this for my Kindle. At the 74% mark, the bibliography and endnotes started. Disappointing. Had I known, I would not have paid the \$6.xx.

What more can I say? Oprah Winfrey Up Close was purchased for my wife and 95 year-old mother-in-law. They both love it. And from my perspective, the book arrived in a timely fashion in good condition and was purchased for an excellent price. Good buy for me!

I thought this was a really good book. I learned a lot about Oprah's life, a lot of things I did not expect. Up Close books are great books and I would recommend all Up Close books to anyone interested in reading.

At first we may thought about Oprah, a pure TV product...but the book is a wonderful story about a born poor, black, woman, a rebel who was suffering during her childhood but Oprah is a God's child and has been supported once she was a young woman. Why? How? read the book and you will know a compassion and authenticity. I am a leadership expert and can tell you how I was surprised of her simple way of life: perseverance! I was living the story of Oprah Potter! but Harry is only a fiction, OPRAH is GENUINE. Dear Oprah, with all my love for what you have done and continue to do. You are a role model and it is just the beginning! Prof. Franck Renand Thank you for your attention.  
franckrenand@yahoo.fr  
Oprah Winfrey: "I Don't Believe In Failure" (African-American Biography Library)

My 11 year old daughter was given this book as one of the choices for a book report. This book is not for an 11 year old girl. The beginning talks about how Oprah was raped. That right there is enough to ban the book from my daughter's library. How does a book with that kind of detail end up in a 11 year old girl's book bag? Please, do not allow your child to read this book! It may be a good book for an adult, but not for children.. Beware parents and be cautious of what your kids read!

After reading the poorly crafted abomination by Helen S. Garson (Oprah Winfrey: A Biography), I sought additional resource material to further unravel the enigma of a personality that was only hinted at in Garson's book. The first source I tried, a book by her erstwhile boyfriend and "escort for life," Stedman Graham ("You Can Make it Happen"), the puzzle that is Oprah was ignored altogether. Stedman's book, it turns out was a motivational tract aimed mostly at young black men. And while interesting, except for a few disclaimers, was altogether mute on the issue of Oprah herself. While this book began honestly enough, at least in the early chapters, using Oprah's sister Patricia Lee's revelations to begin pulling back the veil slightly, most of the rest of the book, like Garson's, was again poorly organized and devoted to issuing lavish, endless and sometimes unwarranted praise of Oprah's accomplishments. This incessant and sycophantic praising gets tiring very quickly, and in the end serves more to mask and turn Oprah into a one-dimensional caricature of herself than to reveal "the real" Oprah. Without being mean-spirited in anyway, one could certainly argue that there is hardly any further need for another book devoted to praising

Oprah's achievements since they are all on public display daily via her TV show, in her overt support of President Obama, her many public awards, and in her support of the South African Girl's school, which she never misses an opportunity to gush about. Two of Oprah's best friends Quincy Jones and Maya Angelou, also had troubled childhoods that they both wrote about eloquently and honestly. For them, giving an honest portrayal actually seemed to have enlarged rather than subtracted from their stature. By attempting to conceal her troubled past, one fears that Oprah has done just the opposite, and in the process done herself more long-term harm than good: For it is one thing to be a troubled child with an embarrassing background, and quite another to lie about it -- although most of us do lie about unpleasant aspects of our past. However, it takes a different kind of character flaw (on an altogether higher dimension) to seek to enlist the rest of the world in a cover-up of these unpleasant facts, and expect them to keep the secret for life. And then to get passive aggressively incensed when they refuse to participate in the cover-up for life. That is what Oprah did. One now wonders what additional secrets Stedman is holding back for later strategic revelations? All Oprah has done has been to make herself vulnerable to more hidden longer stemmed time bombs, all of her own making. Until this book, what seemed to have been missing from Oprah's biography was the "Rosetta Stone" to her personality and character: a clearing up of and a "squaring of the ledger" for the period of her life from the ages of about 10 to 15. Until her sister had her say in the present book, that phase had been carefully shrouded in self-made legend and purposeful mystery. And frankly the earlier book by Ms. Garson, by clumsily trying to obfuscate and hide that period, simply raised the alarm as well as the stakes, making it all the more important to see behind Oprah's carefully constructed screen. That is what motivated me to pursue the issue further. Much to Ms. Winfry's dismay, Patricia Lee, Oprah younger sister, no longer wanted to be a party to the lie and the sloppy cover-up. So she went public in this book, intentionally destroying the cheesily concocted legend about Oprah during this critical period of her life. According to Ms. Lee, Oprah was a smart but promiscuous, thieving, little out-of-control, entitled bitch, who wreaked so much havoc in their Milwaukee household during the ages of about nine until 13 that her mother sought to have her committed to a girl's reformatory. Had the school not been overcrowded at the time, the Oprah Winfry story may have had a very different ending. But fortunately for Oprah, while waiting to be admitted to the Reform School, Oprah's mother decided instead to foist her off on her father in Tennessee. He carted her back to Knoxville where it was discovered that she was already several months pregnant. Vernon Winfry, as much as it could be done, put a stop to Oprah's lying, thieving and whoring ways, and almost made a respectable lady out of her. In any case, after the baby died under mysterious circumstances, Oprah's life changed

for the better. She stole a couple of beauty contests, and ended up with an offer to co-anchor a TV news program, and the rest is history. My sympathy lies with Oprah. Her's was a very heavy cross for an American celebrity to have to bear. If it were mine, I would have lied about her past too, but to expect that the truth would never come out? That is Michael Jackson (may he RIP) level fantasy. It speaks to Oprah's Cinderella complex: What was clearly driving her (and still is driving her and Gail) is wanting to be the white girl that even her billions will not allow her to become. To live simultaneously in that shattered faux Cinderella world and also be normal in everyday reality, no matter how many billions one has, requires deep personal awareness, long-term therapy and heavy medication, at the very least. And Oprah seems to have had none of these. Oprah, your slip is still showing? Go see a fortuneteller: I see more self-destructive trouble in your future. And afterwards, then please don't walk, run to the nearest therapist. And take your girl friend Gail Bumpus along with you. Two stars

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