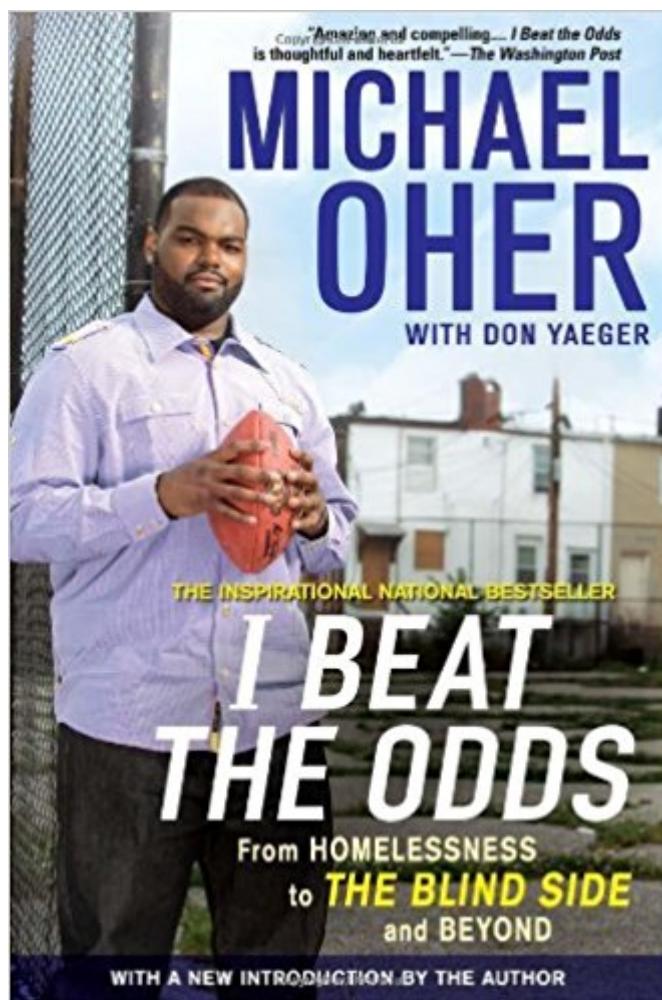


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I Beat The Odds: From Homelessness, To The Blind Side, And Beyond



Synopsis

The football star made famous in the hit film (and book) *The Blind Side* reflects on how far he has come from the circumstances of his youth. Michael Oher shares his personal account of his story, in this inspirational New York Times bestseller. Looking back on how he went from being a homeless child in Memphis to playing in the NFL, Michael talks about the goals he had to break out of the cycle of poverty, addiction, and hopelessness that trapped his family. Eventually he grasped onto football as his ticket out and worked hard to make his dream into a reality. With his adoptive family, the Touhys, and other influential people in mind, he describes the absolute necessity of seeking out positive role models and good friends who share the same values to achieve one's dreams. Sharing untold stories of heartache, determination, courage, and love, *I Beat the Odds* is an incredibly rousing tale of one young man's quest to achieve the American dream.

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Customer Reviews

"The real Michael Oher just might be the first person with more sparkle and good looks than his movie counterpart...the book offers a harrowing first-person account from a child's point of view of the Dickensian conditions many American kids endure." • USA Today "With the release of his memoir...Oher finally takes ownership, filling the gaps in the familiar narrative and somehow managing to make his journey from the streets to stardom seem even more amazing and compelling...*I Beat the Odds* is thoughtful and heartfelt, a young man coming to grips with an amazing journey that required the distance of years and perspective to fully grasp." • The

Michael Oher is an American football offensive tackle for the Baltimore Ravens of the National Football League. He was drafted by the Ravens in the first round of the 2009 NFL draft. He played college football at the University of Mississippi for the Ole Miss Rebels. He is best known as the subject of Michael Lewis' 2006 book, *The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game*, and the even more popular 2009 film *The Blind Side*, in which Michael is portrayed by Quinton Aaron.

While not quite better than the *Blind Side* book, this is also a fascinating book. *The Blind Side* started as a sports book and ended up with a human interest story occupying 2/3 of the book. Now Michael Oher, strips away the sports story and even his adoption by wealthy white parents and focuses on what it's like growing up in the bottom 1% of the economic scale. This is the incredibly emotional read generating sympathy for what so many of our citizens go through. But to Mike, it was normal so it's really incredible to hear him describe how hard he tried to keep this environment together, as bad as it was, because that's all he knew. It's worth repeating the point that Oher keeps repeating: he was getting out one way or another. I really believe this. Oher seems to have a calm spirit in the way he carries himself making it almost difficult to believe he makes his profession in such a violent sport. I can't recommend this book higher! You will finish this book feeling like you know Oher personally. And that's a good thing.

The movie, *The Blind Side*, was really wonderful. Sadly, it was only nearly half the truth. I guess that happens when it comes to movies for dramatization purposes. The book, written by the very Michael Oher himself, clarifies plenty of what has been misleading in the movie. To be fair, the author/football player did not have time to consult with the Hollywood script writers. He was real upset after viewing it (after the NFL season ended) and decided to do an autobiography. True and straight from the heart! Don't take it the wrong way, the movie itself was truly wonderful. If you prefer real-life incidents, I strongly recommend that you read his book. I don't care for athletes in general, but he is one of the very few I would love to meet!

Michael Oher would get maybe 2 stars from me for his writing style, but he deserves 5 stars for his wonderful message. In his book, he goes into much more detail about his childhood, and, if you thought it was bad in the movie, you have no idea how bad it got. He should get 10 stars for overcoming all of the obstacles that were placed in front of him. He was born to fail. He was

destined to fail. He should have failed! Michael refused to fail, and he attacked each problem that he encountered as if he were in a fight to the death. Today, he is inspirational and mentors children who are in places like the one he left behind. Michael doesn't embrace the thug life, he is the antithesis of it. Michael is cheap....well, frugal. He gave his siblings cars (used), and he does not live extravagantly himself. He remembers those who helped him; but he doesn't let the past burden his present or his future. This young man is someone to look up to, unlike those who are admired and adored by many. Don't let the writing style deter you - the message is what counts in Michael Oher's book. Buy it!!!

There is only one thing wrong with this book - not enough of a particular type of person will read it. It will find a large audience among people who work with disadvantaged youth and with those kids themselves. And among people who like uplifting stories and people with compassion. The people who need it most won't read it. They are the ignorant people who think that all poor kids need to do is pull themselves by the bootstraps to escape poverty. There is no doubt - and Oher makes it clear - that such kids need the will to change their circumstances to succeed. He had this, much more than you would imagine from seeing *THE BLIND SIDE*. But he also had examples of the kind of behavior he wanted to emulate. He saw them, in his real life. And he recognized them for what they were - positive influences - and kept them close. There weren't many, but there were enough. You can not emulate behavior that you do not see in your life. If your friends and family are enmeshed in the cycle of poverty and the media wastes your time showing destructive behavior, how are you supposed to know, and more important, believe, that there is another way? I also appreciate that Oher corrects some errors of fact in the movie though I suspect not all of them. But he sounds like a gracious and grateful young man. If the NHL lockout really comes to pass, some of his colleagues will have a lot of time on their hands and not know what to do with it. I expect that Michael Oher will be very busy telling his real story and helping other kids to beat the odds.

I am a big fan of Michael Oher. Reading in his own words all he faced and overcame only makes me a bigger fan. God bless you Michael and the man you have become.

I'm new to the story after following a random link last night; the movie was cheesy but what attracted me was that it was overall a real story. This book is my favorite as it is straight from the source; what it took to achieve big dreams. It's beautiful because I hope it can inspire those in the most hopeless-seeming situation, but at its core the advice is sound for anyone trying to achieve

something. Be it for themselves, or mentoring someone else. And a rare bit of solid advice on what to do with big success.

Michael Oher, you rock! I truly enjoyed the book and the movie "The Blind Side". This book of yours takes us so much farther into the lives of at risk children. Although I'm not especially a fan of Ole Miss or The Ravens, I have followed your career for many years. Being a SEC, I heard about your college career from the beginning and kept up with it. Also, I watched Sean Tuohy play basketball at Ole Miss and I am a true fan of the Memphis Grizzlies so I am able to watch one of my all time favorite commentators regularly. Thank you so much for this wonderful insight into your life as you remember it. You are a true inspiration to all.

First off, this book was amazing. It tells the story of Michael Oher, the football player, and how he went from terrible living and pretty much being homeless, to a football superstar playing in the NFL. This is a must-have for not just football fans, but for everyone. The emotion in this book is higher than the clouds. One second you are very happy for Michael and the next you are on the verge of tears. Gangs, drugs, and guns to the NFL, fame, and a happy life and family. This book makes you realize how lucky you really

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