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EBERTRY WHEEL OF FORTUNE ABCs "Celebrity Wheel of Fortune" stars Vanna White and Pat Sajak. (Eric McCandless/ABC via Getty Images) The former Wheel of Fortune host still keeps up with the old co-star. By Kane Mitten The longtime Disney exec has died. By Kane Mitten (Credit: Liudmila Chermetska / Getty Images) The showgirl and actress known for her roles in several Clint Eastwood films has passed away. By Kane Mitten The TV host shared an important message with the children of Shanelle Jones. By Kane Mitten Photo Credit: Bryan Bedder/Getty Images for ReedPop David Duchovny at the premiere of "You People" held at the Regency Village Theatre on January 17, 2023 in Los Angeles, California. (Photo by Gilbert Flores/Variety via Getty Images) Michael Oher might be the only Super Bowl champion to be more famous for being a character in a movie than, well, being a Super Bowl-winning football player. After all, it's hard to outshine a blockbuster success, especially one starring Sandra Bullock. Before Oher spent eight years in the NFL, he was the subject of acclaimed author Michael Lewis' 2006 book, *The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game*, and its big-screen adaptation, *The Blind Side*. The movie, written and directed by John Lee Hancock, traces Oher's journey from homeless teenager to Division I All-American left tackle for Ole Miss. Bullock won an Oscar for her performance in the film. The movie-nominated film, a smash hit that made over \$300 million at the box office, the *Blind Side* took some liberties with the particulars of Oher's life story. And now, Oher says he didn't earn any money from the film, even as the family who took him in when he was a teenager has profited, according to a court petition filed in 2015. Oher, who was 12 when he was taken in by the Tuohys, has since become a successful businessman, and his family has moved to a new home in the affluent city. He was one of 12 children born to a mother who had fallen victim to the cheap and ultra-addictive narcotic, which set him along a troubled path from the start. His father disappeared early on, while his mother, Denise, struggled with addiction for many years. "When my mother was off drugs and working, she would remember to buy groceries and there would be a mad scramble to grab whatever you could before anyone else got to it," he wrote in his 2011 memoir, *I Beat the Odds: From Homelessness to The Blind Side and Beyond*. The problem was that she was rarely off drugs and working, so Oher was a nomad from an early age. Child services removed him and his siblings from their mother's home when Oher was at the tail end of first grade, and he bounced around between foster families, friends' couches, and wherever else he could find a warm place to rest his head. With little adult supervision or stability, Oher barely made it to school. He repeated both first and second grades, attended nine different schools over the course of 11 years, and missed dozens of school days per year even when he was passed along to the next grade. The most stable home he had was in a housing project called Hurt Village, where he lived from age 11 until he began high school. Michael Oher's chance trip to a prestigious private school changed his life—eventually by the time he was 15, Oher was bunking up with a local athletic program director named Tony Henderson, who had an extra room in his house. Oher had already been 6-foot-5-inches and 350 pounds, but he made a prime recruit for drug dealers seeking some muscle. He was less of a desire trip to a prestigious private school changed his life—eventually by the time he was 15, Oher was bunking up with a local athletic program director named Tony Henderson, who had an extra room in his house. 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educated. How is this latter detail worth mentioning even once, let alone twice? Or the fact that she was childless?An interesting parallel life, one that actually intersects with this story, involves Collins Tuohy, the daughter who is about Michael’s age and who married Cannon Smith. At the time of the story, they were dating at Ole Miss. Now, interestingly, Cannon apparently went to public school, Olive Branch High School, near Memphis on the Mississippi side. He also (according to his online bio), was one of 10 kids. Cannon also played college ball and tried to go pro. The key difference, though, is that Cannon was born to the billionaire founder of FedEx. As a consequence, he had options that Michael Oher did not. He didn’t even need – gasp! – private schooling to get ahead in life. However, he did benefit from being white and born to a rich family, two things Michael Oher was not. The next best thing to being adopted by a rich white family like Oher is to actually be born into one like Smith.In the end, Lewis identifies a little too much with his rich, white, subjects, and he delights in retelling Oher’s story a little too much from their perspective, not Oher’s own. Proof of this comes late in the book, where Lewis acknowledges that Oher called Lewis, not the other way around, regarding an interview. That’s an odd journalistic twist, but one that speaks volumes about Lewis’s mindset in writing and researching this, and it’s evident on every page. Oher is an object, subject to the narratives of others. He doesn’t even have power over his own story.White people shaped, and in this book are again shaping, the story of Michael Oher’s body. Worse, in Lewis’s case he even made money off of that “freakish” body.October 13, 2014Michael Lewis does it again, this time with football. This is the story of a black kid from the country's third poorest zip code in Memphis who was adopted by a wealthy white family (they own their own jet) and with lots of support from the father of a son and from coaches and teachers and tutors played football at Old Miss and made it to the NFL and multi-million dollar contracts.Woven into the story of Michael Oher is the development of the importance of the left tackle in professional football. It's his job to block the guy whose job it is to approach the quarterback from his blind side and sack him.Even for someone like me, a non-fan of football, Lewis makes the details of who played what position on what team when and against whom interesting and entertaining. And the story of Michael Oher, adopted by what would seem like the last family in the world to love and care for someone like him, is a delight. In fact, so delightful is it they made a movie, starring Sandra Bullock as the steel magnolia who is the mother of the Tuohy family of East Memphis.July 24, 2010I loved this book! Love, love, loved it. Interest in football? Zero. Interest in the surge of importance of a single football position I maybe could point out on the field, but probably not? Nope. Interest in the motives and actions of a white Christian Republican uber-rich Memphis family? Not even. Interest in this book which contains all of the above? Incredible. I couldn't put it down. That is the mark of a very good non-fiction writer. Do you like football? Read this book. Do you not like football? Read this book.good-nonfiction movie-version-availabe read-in-2010September 7, 2022It has taken me so long to read this book because I went back to Texas and it stayed in Connecticut. This book is FASCINATING and provides a much truer and fuller story than the movie The Blind Side did. Lewis toggles back and forth between the story of Michael Oher and the history, importance, and story behind the left tackle position in football. The account of Oher's life is fascinating, as are the varying motivations and prejudices of those around him– both the people looking to protect him and to profit off of him. 4.5 stars.October 21, 2021Let me start this review by pointing out the obvious: This book is NOT the feel-good movie starring Sandra Bullock as the force-of-nature LeighAnn Tuohy (I'm downplaying the fact that it celebrates a white "savior" for a troubled Black boy...). That was a surprise.I really enjoy Michael Lewis' ability to delineate an issue and explain it so even someone w/ no experience in the subject matter can understand it (like me w/ "shorting" stocks. I didn't "get it" at all until my husband had me watch the movie, "The Big Short," based on Lewis' book of the same name.) Lewis' "The Premonition" left me angry w/ everyone involved in the handling of the current pandemic. Therefore, I have to admit that when I figured out that MICHAEL LEWIS wrote "The Blind Side," I thought, "Well, huh. Maybe he just wanted to write a feel-good story about a Black kid who made it out of the 'hood." Nope. The MOVIE is a feel-good story; the BOOK is about the business of being an offensive left tackle in the NFL, and how the change in football offensive strategy from running to passing led to the offensive left tackle becoming one of the highest-paid players on a football team - b/c he protects the very-expensive quarterback's "blind side" (IF the quarterback is right-handeded.). Michael Oher's life story is used as illustration on the shift in focus onto the left tackle. This worked OK for me, as I dearly love college football (and my Chiefs!) and could follow what he was saying about the change in football strategy. It's a good book, but I can't go a full 5 stars, b/c I just can't help that get the sense that Lewis' personal relationship w/ Sean Tuohy left him perplexed about the Tuohys' motives for "saving" Michael Oher from the streets of west Memphis. Lewis' ambivalence translates onto the pages of the book and therefore on to us as readers. Therefore, I rounded down to 4 stars.May 14, 2012After seeing the movie I was curious about the book and though I'm not a big football fan decided to give it a read. The story is well written and Michael Oher's story is compelling. I'd been curious about the Racism vs. Ole Miss angle as it was not emphasized in the film and knowing what I did of Ole Miss's history I was curious. This was covered very well in the book. I was a bit daunted by depth of the coverage of the evolution of football in the book but I can't say I wasn't warned... The title indicated as much. Mostly the explanations of football strategy were very good and I followed most of it though I'm in no way a fan of the game. There were a few sections (particularly when the footnotes got to be close to half a page) when the football details became too much for me but I'm sure that dyed in the wool fans loved it. Even the sections on Lawrence Taylor and and Steve Wallace, and John Ayers were eminently readable, even for a non-fan.If you're a sports fan or if you've got one on your gift list, this may well be a great buy. If you'd rather not learn a lot about football but are still curious about the Michael Oher story, by all means, check out the movie. and-saw-the-movie sports z-read-in-2012March 2, 2015I loved this book...well most of it anyway. Michael Oher's story was touching and I loved that specific part in this book. He changed his stars and put them in line. It was very inspirational. This started as a solid and clear 5 stars. Michael Lewis wrote this story so well.But then he got all technical about football, coaches, players, and plays. Which, to be honest, really isn't my thing. I like football just a tad less than baseball, and I really don't like baseball. Football, to me, just seems to be a very long game of fat-man tag.So that is the reason it gets 4 stars. I loved Michael Oher's story though. I read somewhere that he wasn't completely happy with the way he was portrayed in this book. But I think the author did a great job with the details that were included in this. So whether or not the author got creative with that...I don't know. But the story he told here was beautiful. Michael Oher has now acually come out with his own autobiography/memoir so the next time I have to read a sports book, I think I will choose that one, just to see his side of the story.biography hfu-2014 non-fictionBrittany | BrittanyIsBookedAugust 5, 2014The Blindside took me by surprise. I was expecting a book documenting the life of Michael Oher, but instead I got a 300 page description of how football has changed– with Oher's experience to enhance it.Lewis uses the facts of Oher's life parallel with notable changes in the National Football League (NFL). Though these events did not occur simultaneously, Lewis connects them as if they were meant to go hand in hand. And in some ways, maybe they were.For anybody who has seen the movie portrayal of the book and has an interest in football, I would deem this book a "must read". I got much more out of it than I did from the movie. You get a better sense of who these people really were. But, I would also say if you're not too interested in the dynamics of the game this book is likely going to prove boring and a disappointment.June 7, 2017I have zero interest in football and wasn't planning to read this book, even though I consistently like everything that Michael Lewis writes. I came across a copy at a book swap, took it home and read it in 24 hours. Fantastic. An amazing story. Lewis is the master at explaining complicated data and trends and making them feel relevant (and understanding which ones actually ARE relevant); and linking them with real people's real stories. He makes these people so interesting, maybe more interesting even than they are in real life. He's a master. Displaying 1 - 30 of 4,284 reviewsGet help and learn more about the design. Movies based off true events are common in the film industry, with many releasing in cinemas each year.But it is not uncommon to see films based on a real-life story to be altered slightly for entertainment purposes - to make it more Hollywood essentially.But you'll often find that the true stories are the best ones, as they are the most relatable. Rather than the typical Hollywood plot lines that are beyond the wildest dreams for so many.One of those real-life tales is the underdog story of Michael Oher in the 2009 film The Blind Side.For those unaware, the sports film is based on the 2006 book of the same name, where a black teenager named Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) is in and out of the school system and is also homeless.Leigh Anne Tuohy (Sandra Bullock), and her husband Seann, take in Oher and eventually become his legal guardians.Oher then begins attending a private school, where coaches notice that due to his height, he could be an offensive lineman for their football team.While Oher may have the physique to achieve big things in the football team, he is rather reluctant to use his ability to succeed.The Blind Side makes it clear that Oher does not particularly understand the rules to football, which obviously hinders his capability to do well in matches.Warner Bros / PictureLux / The Hollywood Archive / Alamy Stock PhotoBut Tuohy manages to turn Oher's form around as the teen is told the importance of a football team and how they are like family.Blocking quickly becomes second nature to Oher, and he ends up dominating every game he is involved in.He later goes on to a glittering career in the NFL and a Super Bowl victory.But the actuality of things was a little bit different for the real Michael Oher, as he was playing varsity football by the time he was in eighth grade, as per his memoir.It seems Oher was not too impressed with the portrayal of himself in The Blind Side, either.The NFL star couldn't wrap his head around the fact that the film implied that he had no football knowledge until he met Tuohy.Tribune Content Agency LLC / Alamy Stock PhotoAnd since The Blind Side was released, Oher found it difficult in NFL until he retired in 2017.Speaking to ESPN in 2015, Oher said: "People look at me, and they take things away from me because of a movie."They don't really see the skills and the kind of player I am."That's why I get downgraded so much, because of something off the field."