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CELEBRITY WHEEL OF FORTUNE ABCs "Celebrity Wheel of Fortune" stars Vanna White and Pat Sajak. (Eric McCandless/ABC via Getty Images) The showgirl and
actress known for her roles in several Clint Eastwood films has passed away. 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-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: Evolution of a Game, and its big-screen adaptation, The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game, and its big-screen adaptation, The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game, and its big-screen adaptation, The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game, and its big-screen adaptation, The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game, and its big-screen adaptation, The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game, and its big-screen adaptation, The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game, and its big-screen adaptation, The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game, and its big-screen adaptation, The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game, and its big-screen adaptation, The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game, and its big-screen adaptation, The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game, and its big-screen adaptation, The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game, and its big-screen adaptation, The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game, and its big-screen adaptation and its big-screen adaptation.
her performance in the Best Picture-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 Monday. Here's how The Blind Side stacks up to the real story, what Oher has said about the movie over the years, and the legal turmoil brewing more than a decade after its release. Oher's birth parents weren't around muchOher was born in 1986, right smack in the middle of the crack cocaine epidemic that swept the United States' inner
cities. 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, benise, 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 OherA chance trip to a prestigious private school changed his life—eventuallyBy 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 was already 6-foot-5-inches and 350 pounds, which made him a prime recruit for drug dealers seeking some muscle. He was less of a desirable prospect for prestigious private schools, but when Tony took his son Steven to the
local Briarcrest Christian School, Big Mike, as he was called, tagged along for the ride anyway. "He was real quiet, you know," He was real quiet, you know, and just stayed to himself."He was so quiet, in fact, that Briarcrest's admissions team couldn't really find a reason to admit him, let
alone offer him a scholarship. Having spent his life just trying to survive, getting into an expensive private school wasn't really on Oher's radar. He barely spoke during interviews, his reading comprehension level was closer to elementary school, and tests showed he had an IQ that barely cracked 80. Perhaps, these facts led to the movie's general
portrayal of Oher, who is played by Quinton Aaron. It's one of Oher's biggest complaints, though he has complimented Aaron's acting. "I felt like it portrayed me as dumb instead of as a kid who had never had consistent academic instruction and ended up thriving once he got it," Oher wrote in I Beat the Odds. Still, the Briarcrest football coach was
interested in Oher, not just as a prospect for the team but as a redemption story. This was a kid who'd never been given half a chance, he told the school president and principal, Steve Simpson, felt stirrings of sympathy and issued Oher a challenge: If he
could get his grades up in another private school, he could enter the far more prestigious Briarcrest the next semester. Within a few months, Simpson had a change of heart and admitted Oher to his school. But entering Briarcrest was no panacea and produced no immediate change. The kid was out of place, shy, awkward, and way behind. This is
where the movie and real life began to diverge. In reality, Oher couch-surfed at the homes of his fellow students and football—before ever meeting the Tuohy clan in 2003. In the movie, Oher, played by Quinton Aaron, is fully homeless and has
nothing to do with athletics until the very wealthy and generous Tuohy, played by Sandra Bullock in the movie, is the outspoken matriarch of the family
and wife of Sean Tuohy, played by Tim McGraw, a former college basketball star and wealthy fast food entrepreneur. The movie posits that their young son S.J.'s mismatched schoolyard friendship with Oher is the catalyst for their involvement in his life, while in reality, it was actually Sean noticing Oher on the sidelines at the gym that prompted their
involvement. Soon after Sean first met Oher, he set up a standing cafeteria account for him so that he'd be able to eat lunch every day. Eventually, on Thanksgiving weekend, the family crossed paths with Oher, who was walking alone in the rain, wearing his only pair of shorts and going nowhere in particular. They took him in for the weekend, an
arrangement that soon became permanent. A tutor was hired. New clothing was purchased. The Tuohys are conservative Christians and taking Oher in raised eyebrows in their community, but it was quickly a natural fit. Leigh Anne told The New York Times point-blank that she was raised by a racist father to be a racist herself, but she'd moved past
her upbringing by the time she'd grown up and had children of her own, including a daughter named Collins, who was in high school at the same time as Oher. After some early awkwardness, Oher became a full-fledged member of the Tuohy family. In the movie, one scene shows Oher accepting Sean and Leigh Anne's offer to become his legal
guardians. Both The New York Times and The Los Angeles Times have described the real-life relationship as a legal guardianship in past reporting, though Oher and the Tuohys have publicly called it an adoptive parents but rather his
conservators, according to an August 2023 lawsuit Oher filed in Tennessee. Sean told The Daily Memphian that he and Leigh Anne were advised they couldn't adopt someone over the age of 18. His football dominance opened up new doors Just as in real life, the fictionalized Oher ultimately becomes a force of nature in high school football, but how
that happened and the timeline his development followed was a real bone of contention. "I could not figure out why the director chose to show me as someone who had to be taught the game of football," Oher wrote in I Beat the Odds. "Whether it was S.J. moving around ketchup bottles or Leigh Anne explaining to me what blocking is about, I watched
those scenes thinking, 'No, that's not me at all! I've been studying—really studying—the game since I was a kid!' That was my main hang-up with the film." Given the gaps in his formal education and his lack of athletic training, Oher had virtually zero reputation when he began playing football at Briarcrest, but that changed soon enough. Once he
polished his game on the football field, it became clear that he was special, and football scouts were starting to notice. Universities across the South showed up during the spring of 2004, hoping to recruit him. Prominent coaches later appeared in the movie as themselves, underscoring the huge interest in Oher's potential. He was a First Team
Preseason All-American at left tackle, perhaps the most important non-quarterback position on the offensive side of the ball. Oher was closer with the head coach, Hugh Freeze, than the movie suggests, having spent plenty of time with him and his family both on and off the field. He even once said Freeze's daughters were "like my sisters," a sign of
just how many families were eager to take him in. (Freeze later resigned as head coach of Ole Miss after a personal scandal, though Oher, and Leigh Anne Tuohy stand together during senior ceremonies prior to an Ole Miss game against the
Mississippi State Bulldogs in November 2008. Both Tuohys had gone to the University of Mississippi, which complicated Oher's decision to follow in their footsteps, at least in the eyes of the NCAA. His academic record, spotty at best given his years of struggles and lack of schooling, also made it difficult for him to initially attend the school. But with
some correspondence courses and tutoring, he was able to raise his grades enough to earn his diploma and tearn admission into the school. He was an instant success: First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and then First Team All-American his first year, Second and the first year, Second and Se
Getty ImagesThe Tuohys were there to cheer on Michael Oher when the Baltimore Ravens drafted him in April 2009. By that point, his backstory wasn't at all relevant to his playing skills, which clearly stood on their own. Lewis' book was published in 2006, while the movie hit theaters in 2009, just after Oher was drafted in the first round—23rd
overall—by the Baltimore Ravens. If anything, the attention from the movie grew to frustrate him during his career. Making the NFL and sticking in the league is hard enough without the added pressure of a mega-hit, Oscar-winning movie about your life to draw international attention to your rookie season. The attention from The Blind Side often
overshadowed his career in the NFLThe movie would continue to follow him throughout his career, which had its ups and downs. Making it to the NFL is remarkably difficult and staying in the league more than a few years is exceedingly rare. Careers average just a shade over three years, and not all of that time, if any, is generally spent as a starter
on a winning team. "People look at me, and they take things away from me because of a movie," he said in 2015, near the end of his career. "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. This stuff, calling me a bust, people saying if I can play or not... that has
nothing to do with football. It's something else off the field. That's why I don't like that movie."It's not that he didn't have his successes, of course. The Ravens got more than they might have expected from a late first-round pick. Oher helped the team reach the playoffs in his rookie season. Then in 2013, he won a Super Bowl as a Ravens starter.
Three years later, he was back at the Super Bowl, this time for the Carolina Panthers. He played eight years in the NFL, which is a great career for anyone in the league. Ultimately, Oher was released by the Panthers in the summer of 2017 due to his trouble with post-concussion syndrome, which wound up marking the end of his pro career. Today,
Oher is a public speaker and author. His second book, When Your Back's Against the Wall: Fame, Football, and Lessons Learned through a Lifetime of Adversity, released this month. Oher reportedly received no money from the movieThe Blind Side grossed more than $309 million at the box office, but for all its success, Oher claims to have been left
out of the profits. In August 2023, he filed a court petition stating he unwittingly made Leigh Anne and Sean his conservators—granting them the sole authority to make business deals in his name—in December 2004. At the time, Oher believed he was signing adoption paperwork. The Tuohys then negotiated a movie contract The Blind Side, covering
themselves and their birth children, with 20th Century Fox for $225,000 plus 2.5 percent of all future "defined net proceeds," according to the petition. Meanwhile, Oher's signature appears on a separate agreement that grants Fox the rights to his life story without any compensation. In addition to ending the conservatorship, Oher asks in his lawsuit
for his share of the profits from a story "that would not have existed without him," along with damages. Sean told The Daily Memphian all the family—including Oher—earned money from the movie, amounting to roughly $14,000 each. That payout came from author Michael Lewis who split half his share with them. "We're devastated," he said. "It's
upsetting to think we would make money off any of our children." He added the conservatorship was done to appease the NCAA and that he and Leigh Anne would end the legal arrangement if that's what Oher wanted. Biography.com EditorsStaff Editorial Team and ContributorsThe Biography.com staff is a team of people-obsessed and news-hungry
editors with decades of collective experience. We have worked as daily newspaper reporters, major national magazine editors, and as editors-in-chief of regional media publications. Among our ranks are book authors and award-winning journalists. Our staff also works with freelance writers, researchers, and other contributors to produce the smart,
compelling profiles and articles you see on our site. To meet the team, visit our About Us page: In 2009, Alcon Entertainment and Warner Bros. released The Blind Side, a football film written and directed by John Lee Hancock. The story was based on real-life events featuring Michael Oher, a "homeless and traumatized boy who became an All-
American football player and first-round NFL draft pick with the help of a caring woman and her family." The Blind Side, has released to mixed reviews but grossed $255,959,475 in the United States while Oher entered the NFL as a first-round pick in the 2009 NFL Draft. Sandra Bullock, the best-known name from The Blind Side, has released a string of
critical successes in the years since the film's release. Many of the other cast members have continued to work in a variety of ways. The list includes Tim McGraw, who has found considerable success as both a musician and an actor. Here is where the stars from The Blind Side are as of 2021. Bullock was a star prior to her role in The Blind Side, and
this has only increased in the years since. Although she may not have as many projects as other actors in The Blind Side. Bullock won an Academy Award for The Blind Side and earned a nomination for Gravity. Her 2021 schedule includes Bullet Train, a
film about five assassins with a common goal. Quinton Aaron, the man who portrayed Oher, has been very busy since starring in The Blind Side. He has acted in numerous films in recent years, such as Summertime Dropouts, Gods of Medicine, and Bad Company. Aaron currently has several projects in the works, the majority of which are in pre-
production. Some titles are The Baby Pact, Trail Blazers, and The Leather Man. Tim McGraw has appeared in various films since The Blind Side, including Tomorrowland and Country music's biggest stars and is constantly touring or releasing music. He has sold
millions of albums worldwide, including his six-time certified platinum greatest hits compilation. Ray McKinnon played a prominent figure, coach Burt Cotton, in The Blind Side. He has since appeared in numerous projects. He had roles in Justified and Sons of Anarchy. He also played a prominent role in the first two seasons of Mayans M.C. However,
his character has only been discussed during the first few episodes of Season 3. McKinnon's most recent project is Chaos Walking, a film also starring Tom Holland and Daisy Ridley. Since portraying the science teacher Mrs. Boswell in The Blind Side, Kim Dickens has continued to work in several TV shows and films. The list includes Sons of Anarchy,
Fear the Walking Dead, and Briarpatch. Dickens also returned to the Deadwood universe and Joanie Stubbs in 2019 with the HBO film. Her most recent project is Land, a film about a bereaved woman, Robin Wright, moving to Wyoming. Adriane Lenox, who portrayed Oher's mother in The Blind Side, has been very busy in her acting career. She had
recurring roles in Law and Order: Special Victims Unit, The Blacklist, and Daredevil. She also made several appearances in films, such as The United States vs. Billie Holiday, It's Time, 21 Bridges, and Lee Daniels' The Butler. The Blind Side featured several college coaches in roles to add a layer of authenticity to the production. University of
Alabama head coach Nick Saban was the biggest name of this group. Interestingly enough, he represented the LSU Tigers during his recruitment scene while throwing it back to his previous coaching role. Saban technically had a minor role in The Blind Side, but he is an important figure in the college football landscape. He has six total national
championship victories on his resume, including the 2020 victory over Ohio State. The Blind Side was nominated for Best Actress Oscar. Nominations Best Actress — Sandra Bullock Nominations Plot[] The remarkable true story of All-American football star Michael Oher. A
homeless African-American youngster from a broken home, Oher is taken in by the Touhys, a well-to-do white family who help him fulfill his potential on and off the football field. At the same time, Oher's presence in the Touhys' lives leads them to some insightful self-discoveries of their own. Living in his new environment, the teen faces a completely
different set of challenges to overcome. As a football player and student, Oher works hard and, with the help of his coaches and adopted family, becomes an All-American offensive left tackle. Trailer[] full Gallery[] Posters[] A new legal claim from Michael Oher, the former NFL player and student, Oher works hard adopted family, becomes an All-American offensive left tackle.
family never actually adopted him has caused a stir. But this isn't the first time the 2009 film sparked controversy. Though many found "The Blind Side" inspiring, critics were quick to point out that the movie had portrayals of white saviorism and racial dynamics. Since the movie release, Oher has opened up about his side of the story, saying the
movie wasn't an accurate portrayal of his life, and is doing so more vocally now. In August 2023, Oher filed a petition alleging that the popular movie has major inaccuracies and claiming that the Tuohy parents exploited him for their personal gain. Here's what to know. What are 'The Blind Side' movie and book about? Both the film and book follow
Michael Oher, played by Quinton Aaron in the movie, as he navigates moving through school systems while homeless. After recognizing his potential, Leigh Ann Tuohy (Sandra Bullock) and her husband Sean Tuohy (Tim McGraw), take the high schooler under their wing. In the film, the Tuohy pair eventually adopt Oher, which changes both the family
and his lives. Oher goes onto to excel in academics and become a star football player, garnering him a number of football scholarships and eventually landing him a spot on the Baltimore Ravens. "The Blind Side" was nominated for best picture at the 2010 Oscars, with Bullock earning an Academy Award for best performance by a leading actress in a
leading role that same year. What has Michael Oher said 'The Blind Side' movie? In his 2023 memoir, "I Beat the Odds," Oher said the gap between the movie did a great job of raising awareness about teens in foster care who might succeed if given a loving family and a chance,
it did not do a good job of accurately painting my life. Situations get exaggerated for the sake of Hollywood. I understood that when I heard a movie was being made, but it's a strange process to live through: to suddenly lose control of your own story and to have your story written and nearly completed before you were approached for an interview,"
he wrote. Oher had two major issues with his portrayal in the movie: One, that he was written as being "dumb," and another that he needed to be taught football — when in fact he knew it well. "I felt like ('The Blind Side') portrayed me as dumb instead of as a kid who had never had consistent academic instruction and ended up thriving once he got it,"
he wrote in the memoir. He continued, "Quinton Aaron did a great job acting the part, but I could not figure out why the director chose to show me as someone who had to be taught the game of football. Whether it was S.J. moving around ketchup bottles or Leigh Anne explaining to me what blocking is about, I watched those scenes thinking, 'No,
that's not me at all! I've been studying — really studying — the game since I was a kid!'Oher went into more detail on "The Jim Rome Show." "The movie took away the hard work and dedication I had from a child. First one in the locker room, last one out in. I think the biggest, for me, is being portrayed as not being able to read or write. Second grade,
I was doing plays in front of the school. When you go to a locker room and your teammates don't think you can learn a playbook, that's heavy," he said. Finally, Oher said that "for the most part," his "struggle and fight for survival ... was a solo journey." "I survived the hands dealt to me from the ages of three to 18, before the Tuohys ever entered the
scene like you saw on the big screen," he in his memoir. He told Jim Rome, "You don't need to have someone come save you and rescue you to be successful." Oher also said the movie's central plot - that he was adopted — is inaccurate Based on court documents obtained by NBC News, Oher said that the film's portrayal of him as a Black teenager
experiencing homelessness and drifting from school to school was accurate. But the premise of the movie — that he was adopted — is inaccurate, according to Oher. Instead, he entered into a conservatorship. Despite the pinnacle of "The Blind Side" being his adoption into the Tuohy family, Oher said in court documents the parents never attempted
to obtain legal custody of him. They did, however, invite Oher to live with them, refer to them as "mom" and "dad," and bought him clothes. According to Oher's legal filing, the Tuohys saw him as "a gullible young man whose athletic talent could be exploited for their own benefit. "The Tuohy family declined to comment to NBC News, but Sean Tuohy
told The Daily Memphian his family is prepared to do "whatever Michael at 37 just like we loved him at 16," he said, calling the allegations
 "insulting."Tuohy also explained the intention behind a conservatorship, saying it was a way to get around NCAA's scrutiny, since Oher was headed to college to play football. Tuohy played basketball at Ole Miss and, with Oher eventually playing football there, it would seem like he was a "booster," or a third party supporting a college sports
of the family. This would do that, legally.' We contacted lawyers who had told us that we couldn't adopt over the age of 18; the only thing we could do was to have a conservatorship. We were so concerned it was on the up-and-up that we made sure the biological mother came to court."TODAY.com has reached out to the NCAA for comment.Adoption
is legal after 18 in the state of Tennessee, but Tuohy said he was advised against it. The Tuohys issued an official statement to TODAY: "Unbeknownst to the public, Mr. Oher has actually attempted to run this play several times before — but it seems that numerous other lawyers stopped representing him once they saw the evidence and learned the
truth. Sadly, Mr. Oher has finally found a willing enabler and filed this ludicrous lawsuit as a cynical attempt to drum up attention in the memoir and elsewhere, said the movie overshadowed his football career. In 2015,
he outright told ESPN he "(doesn't) like the movie." He said, "This stuff, calling me a bust, people saying if I can play or not ... that has nothing to do with football. It's something else off the field. That's why I don't like that movie." He wrote he fellower to the field that movie impacted his trajectory. He wrote he fellower to the field that movie." He said, "This stuff, calling me a bust, people saying if I can play or not ... that has nothing to do with football. It's something else off the field. That's why I don't like that movie."
there was "a lot of doubt" surrounding his "intellect," saying he was often "singled out and pulled aside for questioning" about topics that had nothing to do with football. He also said he scored "higher" on the Wonderlic test, an exam to measure math, vocabulary, and reasoning abilities, than other teammates. "In their minds, the character of Michael
in 'The Blind Side' was the same Michael they were eyeing for their draft pick. It is weird to say, especially knowing there are many who dream of having a book written about them, but the book was starting to become one of the biggest unforeseen obstacles in my life. "References to the use of ketchup bottles being my knowledge of the game — a
scene many will remember from the movie — would make many of the teams hesitant," he continued. The movie also courted controversy due to accusation of white saviorism in action. The conversation bubbled up when "The Blind Side" landed on Netflix, and is doing so
again now. In the book "Screen Saviors: Hollywood Fictions of Whiteness," sociologist Hernan Vera and film critic Andrew Gordon, define a white savior as "the redeemer of the weak, the great leader who saves blacks from slavery or oppression (and) rescues people of color from poverty and disease." According to film critic Wesley Morris, "Theorem Saviors and film critic Andrew Gordon, define a white savior as "the redeemer of the weak, the great leader who saves blacks from slavery or oppression (and) rescues people of color from poverty and disease." According to film critic Wesley Morris, "Theorem Saviors as "the redeemer of the weak, the great leader who saves blacks from slavery or oppression (and) rescues people of color from poverty and disease." According to film critic Wesley Morris, "Theorem Saviors as "the redeemer of the weak, the great leader who saves blacks from slavery or oppression (and) rescues people of color from poverty and disease." According to film critic Andrew Gordon, define a white savior as "the redeemer of the weak, the great leader who saves blacks from slavery or oppression (and) rescues people of color from poverty and disease." According to film critic Andrew Gordon, define a white savior as "the redeemer of the weak, the great leader who saves blacks from the great leader who saves blacks from the great leader who saves as the great
Blind Side" examines "the Touhys' compassion and the idea of a white community banding together to help a disenfranchised Black men saved from God knows what by nice white people or sports. Here it's both," he wrote for the Boston Globe in 2009. "That
double jackpot happens occasionally in life. But it's a staple in Hollywood, where large, kind black men are sometimes both a blessing and a threat." Oher's character portrayal as a shy, quiet football player was scrutinized, too. Melissa Anderson of the Dallas Observer wrote he was "mute, docile and ever grateful to the white folks who took him in."
that helped the white savior plot." University of Washington psychology professor Anthony Osuna wrote, "One time I got into an argument with my friends mom about whether The Blind Side is a 'White Savior' movie ... my case has aged well and this story has gotten more frustrating." Becca Wood Is The Blind Side based on a true story? What is The
Blind Side really about? After the award-winning film was released, many people asked: is The Blind Side based on a true story? The answer is yes. The Blind Side based on a true story? Read to find out. Is The Blind Side based on a true story? Absolutely. The
Teams in the NFL were more prone to run the ball, rather than pass it. But a man named Bill Walsh changed all of that because of a deficiency in talent. When Walsh joined the Cincinnati Bengals in 1965 as the offensive line coach, his quarterback could barely throw longer than 20 yards. This wasn't a problem until his teams failed to make the first
down and were required to pass the ball. To address the issue, Walsh designed a system that became known as the "West Coast Offense," in which the quarterback threw short, quick passes to specific spots on the field where running backs would be waiting. This tactic removed the need to step back and scan the field and reduced the number of
quarterback's status came an increase in their salary, and teams started shelling out big bucks to acquire players with stable and consistent arms. But then Walsh came up against Taylor, whose speed was too great. He was able to dismantle the West Coast Offense in a way that had never happened before. This intersection of Taylor's threat to now
 highly paid quarterbacks increased the value of quick-footed left tackle position turned into the second-highest paid position on the field and the focus of recruiters down in the college and high school ranks. The hunt for these freaks of nature that could fulfill this role was on, and a boy named Michael Oher from Memphis was perfect
in every way. This is the beginning of the question "is The Blind Side based on a true story?" Micheal Oher lived in the worst housing projects in Memphis, known as Hurt Village. The community was riddled with drugs and gang violence. Michael had been in and out of foster care homes between the ages of 7 and 10. Although his mother, who
struggled with alcohol and drug addiction, lived in the village, she was unable to care for him and his siblings. He was often left to his own devices, went hungry, and didn't attend school. As was the norm in many of the public schools in the inner city, Michael was passed up from grade to grade without learning anything. He had a dream of playing in
the NBA, but his chances of making it were slim. With his lack of education or resources, the most likely future for Michael was as a member of the local gang. But that all changed when he met Big Tony was a basketball and football coach who came back to Hurt Village often to recruit young players. He saw potential in this 15-year-old boy
who weighed more than 300 pounds and stood at 6'5". He could see the path Michael was going down and wanted to help. He took Michael in and let him sleep on his floor. Tony had a son named Steven, and he'd promised his dying mother he would take Steven across town to East Memphis where the wealthy Christian private schools were located
to get a proper education. Since Michael was staying with him, he decided to take Michael enrolled in Briarcrest Christian School. Steven and Michael enrolled in Briarcrest Christian School. Steven was an excellent student and had no trouble getting in, but Michael was different. He had an IQ of 80 and a GPA of 0.56. The only reason he was let in was that the football coach saw his
size and the principal took pity on him. Michael was quiet and shy and struggled to communicate with others. He didn't know how to learn in a normal way and had a hard time passing his classes. But the teachers could tell that he was not stupid and required allowances to help him learn. When he finally got his grades up from Fs to Ds and Cs, they
allowed him to play sports. Before then, Michael used to hang around the basketball courts watching practice. One day, a man named Sean Tuohy saw Michael in the stands and immediately felt a connection with him. Sean could tell Michael was poor and knew he wore the same clothes every day. Sean had grown up poor in Louisiana but now owned
85 chain restaurants and a private jet. He and his wife, Leigh Anne, were pillars in society, and he often donated money to Briarcrest to help students who couldn't afford the tuition. He figured Michael probably hadn't eaten, so he went over and offered him help. When Michael refused the offer, Sean put money in his school account to cover lunches
for the rest of the year. Leigh Anne took a different tack with Michael and Leigh Anne made a personal connection, and she sort of fell in love with this sweet giant boy. Over the next several months, Michael stayed on the Tuohys' couch
whenever he wasn't able to make the long trip back to West Memphis. He became one of the family, and Leigh Anne finally decided he would live with them for good. Michael was a talented basketball player, and before he started to grow into his current size, he practiced day and night in Hurt Village to become the next Michael Jordan. This training
made him fast and nimble, and he kept those skills as he grew. But he didn't have any fire in his belly. When he first joined the football team at Briarcrest, he was afraid to block the other players and was basically ineffective. He spent more of his junior year on the bench. But a man named Tom Lemming changed everything when he learned about
Michael. Lemming was the premier high school football scout in the nation, and his scouting reports were read by nearly every Division I and II college program. When the Briarcrest coach sent him a tape of Michael chasing down a tiny running back during one game like he was a sprinter, Lemming saw right away that this kid was a freak of nature.
He was perfect for the prized position of left tackle, and he told the world about Michael play. Leigh Anne and Sean were skeptical because of his docile character, but Michael proved that he had aggression in him if he was pushed enough. In
the first game of his senior season, he became so fed up with the heckling of a lineman on the other team, he picked the 220-pound player up like he was a doll and carried him off the field. Extra training by his coaches helped Michael learn how to play left tackle, and he became one of the best players in the state of Tennessee. Offers were pouring in
from different schools, but in the end, he chose to accept a full-ride scholarship to Ole Miss, the alma mater of both Leigh Anne and Sean. The only problem was that his grades had not improved alongside his football skills. He'd been working with a tutor named Sue Mitchell for almost a year and was making more As and Bs than Cs and Ds, but his
transcript was so poor, the increase wasn't enough. Sean took Michael to see a psychological examiner to determine whether he had a learning disability. If he did, he could get more time to improve his grades. The examiner determined that Michael had never been taught to read properly but had an amazing gift for memorization. She also learned
that his IQ was actually 100-110, which made him average. Because of his average IQ, he was now technically learning disability. This diagnosis allowed Michael to take extra classes through an online system to boost his GPA. Finally, the summer after his senior year, he
became eligible to play NCAA ball. Michael's inability to see the blessings that afforded him his life made him resentful of people from his past who now wanted help. He didn't have anything, and anyway, he didn't keep and hadn't earned a single cent, but that didn't keep and hadn't have anything to give. He was still an amateur athlete in college and hadn't earned a single cent, but that didn't keep and hadn't have anything to give. He was still an amateur athlete in college and hadn't earned a single cent, but that didn't keep and hadn't have anything to give. He was still an amateur athlete in college and hadn't feel like he owed anyone anything to give. He was still an amateur athlete in college and hadn't earned a single cent, but that didn't keep anything to give. He was still an amateur athlete in college and hadn't earned a single cent, but that didn't keep anything to give anything to 
his family and friends from West Memphis from calling. Once, Michael had stated he would buy a house big enough for his mother's calls and rarely returned his siblings'. He thought that because they started in the same place, they should be able to turn their own
lives around, like he had. Part of Michael's attitude was his feeling that he hadn't changed as a person. He was still the same kid from Hurt Village, just in a new environment. But there was still a close friend. As soon as Michael got his driver's
license, he started bringing Craig to the Tuohy house. And he knew he would take Craig with him when he went pro. What made Craig so special was that Michael trusted him because he felt he was one of the only people who didn't want something from him. Craig never asked for help, and when Michael offered it, he turned it down. Michael took
that as a sign of Craig's integrity, which made him want to help him more. Michael also felt comfortable with Craig because he was the only person who understood that Michael was still the same person he'd always been. But it would be another two years before Michael could reach his dream of playing in the NFL and helping his friend. He was a
sophomore at Ole Miss and couldn't be drafted until after his junior year. But there was no doubt that he would make it, not for Michael or anyone else. Michael or anyone else. Michael or anyone else and told those around him that he would stay and graduate, but
inside he knew it wasn't true. If the NFL came knocking when he became eligible, he was going to answer. Michael no longer looks backwards toward his past. He rarely goes to West Memphis and spends the majority of his time away from the team with his family, the Tuohys. He has successfully shed one life and replaced it with a newer, shinier life
He beat the odds stacked up against him with the wind of the white world, once a presence to hold him down, now pushing him forward. But there is nothing remarkable about this to Michael. It is what it is. So is The Blind Side Based on a True Story? Share — copy and redistribute the material in any
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rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. 129min - English, French Jump to ratings and reviewsWhen we first meet Michael Oher, he is one of thirteen children by a mother addicted to crack; he does not know his real name, his father, his birthday, or how to read or write. He takes up football and school
after a rich, white, Evangelical family plucks him from the streets. Then two great forces alter Oher: the family's love and the evolution of professional football itself into a game in which the quarterback must be protected at any cost. Our protagonist becomes the priceless package of size, speed, and agility necessary to guard the quarterback's
greatest vulnerability: his blind side. 2359 people are currently reading 67281 people want to readMichael Monroe Lewis is an American author to Vanity Fair since 2009, writing mostly on business, finance, and economics. He is known for his nonfiction work, particularly his coverage of
book, Liar's Poker (1989). Fourteen years later, Lewis wrote Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game (2003), in which he investigated the success of Billy Beane and the Oakland Athletics. His 2006 book The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game was his first to be adapted into a film, The Blind Side (2009). In 2010, he released The Big Short: Inside
the Doomsday Machine. The film adaptation of Moneyball was released in 2011, followed by The Big Short in 2015. Lewis's books have won two Los Angeles Times Book Prizes and several have reached number one on the New York Times Bestsellers Lists, including his most recent book, Going Infinite (2023). Displaying 1 - 30 of 4,284 reviews February
16, 2022The Blind Side by Michael Lewis was not one of the Biographies on my massive To-Read list. I did not see the movie and I am probably not a true sports fan. Nonetheless, when Boy brought the book home for his Sports Literature class, I had to read it first. He told me it was about football. It is not about football. Not exactly, and not entirely.
will admit to being pleasantly surprised by how incredibly interesting the football parts were. I thoroughly enjoyed learning about Tom Lemming and it was nifty to understand roles and responsibilities for different player positions. The story of Michael Oher and the Touhy family is uplifting and inspiring. An example of good people, simply doing what
they feel is the right thing. A demonstration of the fierce power invoked when huge hearts and open minds collide. Michael has a million reasons to be angry, bitter and seriously cynical. He is none of those things. Instead, he's the go-with-the-flow guy. Crashing on the right floor, at the right floor, at the right time led to Michael attending the elite Briarcrest. A world
away from the public schools he had barely bothered with. To say that Michael stood out would be a gross understatement. He quickly caught the eye of Sean Touhy. Touhy came from very little. He worked hard and became a force to be reckoned with on the basketball court at Ole Miss. He felt a connection to the quiet newcomer. Sean was not
alone. Leigh Ann, and their two children, quickly developed the same kinship. The Touhys welcomed Michael Oher into their family. The four rallied around him to ensure a successful senior year of high-school and to help him transition into college. I am so happy that I read this. I will absolutely be adding it to a few of my favorite high-school
classroom libraries.biography donated non-fiction May 21, 2015FOO-BAH! FOO-BAH! FOO-
Side is a nice, concise slice of today's true American Pastime, and it's the sort of feel-good story that will appeal to a broad audience (and by broad I don't necessarily mean dames!) *twiddles cigar and jiggles eyebrows ala Groucho Marx*. This is essentially the story of Michael Oher, current NFL offensive lineman, former skid row forgotten child of
delinquent parents. This is also the story of privileged white Christians plucking a boy from the ghetto and raising him as their own, giving him an opportunity he would've otherwise never had. Much of author Michael Lewis' book tells Oher's heart-warming tale. When not evoking tearjerking scenes, he occasionally questions the morality of the sport
in question as well as the people that thrust this naturally athletic kid into it. Analysis of the game's (after all, Evolution of the Game is its subtitle) progression and how it's changed the very shape of the players who play it runs through out and provides a nice base from which to play off the Oher example. Football enthusiasts, historians and
strategists may glean some interesting insights from this well-written, flowing story with its palatably presented data tucked in as thought-nuggets through out. Very nice read. I can see why they made a movie out of it, which I ought to get around to watching someday.biography non-fiction sportsOctober 8, 2019The Blind Side:The Evolution Of A
Game by Michael Lewis is a book split into two Stories one is about the game (NFL) and has much history of the game which is interesting also you don't loose sight of the other part of the story either it balances out really well. The
the NFL and becomes one of highest paid athletes, there are many up and downs in this young man's life and all it took was one family who did that one special thing of taking him part of their family and not giving a damn what people say. You don't need to know much about the game (because you'll know the important stuff by the
end ③) but you can certainly enjoy this to read I definitely recommend this December 22, 2007On the merits of the story alone, I enjoyed this book. Lewis is a very good writer, and he is able to tell a compelling story and educate the less knowledgeable without coming off as condescending, which is more difficult than it sounds. The story of Michael
Oher is compelling (and ongoing), and it's hard not to root for him. That said, I have my suspicions about the altruism at the heart of the story. There are too many questionable motivations floating about, although, to Lewis's credit, he does acknowledge them. As much as Lewis tries to drive the point home that the Tuohy family are just generous, kind
people, I do find the story of Michael's recruitment and subsequent (spoiler alert) commitment to Ole Miss very suspect. Consider the facts: 1)Ole Miss is far from a college program in the country, many of which could
 have afforded Oher greater opportunities for national exposure and better quality education; 3)Ole Miss very sketchily hired Michael's high school football coach to their staff immediately before or after (I can't remember the exact timeline) Michael committed to Ole Miss; 4)The Tuohys are well known alumni and benefactors to Ole Miss; 5)Michael
Lewis is an old friend of Sean Tuohy. Taken individually, these factors can be dismissed as coincidence. Together, it adds up to something fishy. I simply don't believe the Tuohy's motives were pure in adopting Michael, and I don't like the way that Lewis casually brushes off the idea that this feel good story could have arose from more sinister origins.
However, that said, he doesn't take the Michael Moore route and does, at the very least, address these issues, and it is a heck of a story. Maybe it's not the made for Hollywood stories. January 13, 2009The Blind Side features two story lines, one traces the evolution of
offensive football since the early 1980's specifically the way it reacted to the way Hall of Fame revolutionized the Outside Linebacker position was played. Thanks to Taylor's prowess at rushing the Quarterback, the Left Tackle(who protects the QB's blind side) quickly became one of the most important, and highest-paid positions on the football
field. The second storyline focuses on Michael Oher, who has all the psyical gifts that NFL scouts look for in the prototypical Left Tackle, the problem: can Michael on his journey from impoverished upbringing, to his enrollement at an elite christian school, where he is taken in by a
them. August 7, 2012I read this after seeing the movie version and was amazed that many of the precious details I assumed had been invented by Hollywood writers were real and actually happened. The book is mostly about Michael Oher, a homeless black teenager who was adopted by a white family in Memphis who then went on to be a successful
football player. There are also a few dense chapters devoted to recent changes in professional football fan, I skimmed those sections.) But the chapters about Oher's rise and turnaround were fascinating and thoughtful. Michael
Lewis is a gifted reporter and I plan to read more of his books.movie-adaptation nonfiction sportsAugust 12, 2020When I was an young adolescent, I was a cheerleader. (This is difficult to admit publicly, but there it is). At the football games, when I faced the audience and performed, I felt on top of the world. When I turned around and was forced to
watch the game, I was bored out of my mind.Once, as we girls were cheering "O-F-F-E-N-S-E: Offense, Go Team!" a dad of one of the players threw an empty soda can at us and shouted, "You idiots! We're on DEFENSE!"I remember looking around at the other girls, knowing that just about every last one of them was a straight A student.
and thinking; you're the idiot. We're just bored. Despite being a cheerleader for 3 years, having a football obsessed father and then marrying a football obsessed father and the father a
happening. (Knowing this about me, you can now know just how much you can trust my recommendation here). This is a book about football, and not just a little. But, it's about football in the way that The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks is about football, and not just a little. But, it's about football, and not just a little. But, it's about football in the way that The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks is about football in the way that The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks is about football.
tackles you (Score!). It's a damn good story, which is obviously why someone else read it and said, "Hey, let's make a movie out of this!"I almost gave this five stars. I know. It's so weird. October 31, 2007Hoop Dreams detailed the machine built around taking poor black athletes from the inner city and sticking them into primarily white school systems.
that only cared about those athletes to the extent that they would help their sports teams win. The Blind Side concerns itself with a similar story, except Michael Lewis tends to pause breathlessly and exclaim isn't this great? He admits that the father, Sean, "had been born with a talent for seeing the court, taking in every angle and every other player
and then attacking in the most efficient way possible. The talent translated beautifully from basketball into life." But Lewis never really weighs the possibility that maybe this chronic manipulater had some dubious intentions when, on essentially a whim, he ends up adopting a tremendous football talent, Michael, a year before Michael decides where
he wants to play his college ball. When an NCAA investigator feels that this adoption (and the tens of thousands of dollars thrown towards Michael) might be some attempt to circumvent the rules and buy his favor, Lewis can't help but vilify her. "[The NCAA] didn't care how things were, only how they could be made to seem. A poor black football star
inside the home of this rich white booster could be made to seem scandalous, and so here they were, bothering Michael more than food, clothing, and shelter.
They'd given him a life." And, desipte this ascribed nobility of Sean, his family, and the support system of tutors willing to get him passing grades by any means at hand, I never found myself buying into it fully. Yes, I find myself rooting for Michael Oher to make it in the NFL, but mainly because I feel that if he doesn't, the life that these people have
given him will seep away, and he'll be back on the streets from which he was rescued. I also was annoyed by which the degree Lewis writes from throwing these modifiers on any person where they might apply. But when talking of about a black investment
banker, he isn't written as "a rich black banker", instead he is merely described as being from Washington, D.C. Michael is meant to stand in for so much of what is happening in this country in terms of race and economics, and, while large though he may be, he isn't big enough to tell this story unless Lewis cuts off these annoying details and
nuances. In the end, it rings with the empty ease of a cheer before a football game: "Whitey, go adopt a black kid that can run 4.3 40, on three!" August 19, 2020I think The Blind Side is the kind of book that anyone can read--football fans and foes alike. "Football haters too?!" Yes, dependent on the depth of your hostility. I literally did not care one bit
for football prior to reading this book, and was very okay with keeping things that way. That was... Until recently. My boyfriend ex-boyfriend is hopelessly obsessed with football, and keeps trying to get me into it, with little success. A big reason I haven't been able to extract any semblance of entertainment out of this sport is definitely due to me not
understanding the rules nor what-the-heck is ever going on. So I bought this book on his recommendation and started reading it in hopes of coming out with a better understanding of the game. And by golly... Would you believe it? It actually worked. The Blind Side is in large part a biography of offensive lineman Michael Oher, and it uses his story as
an example of the effects a changing game can have on an individual. In this book you get a heartwarming story in the forefront, while also learning about the intricacies of the football I had something specific I wanted to observe (seeing the things I had read about actually in
action), which drew me in and allowed me to finally start following the game. If you like football, there's a good chance you'll like this. If you don't, there's still a good chance you'll find enjoyment in reading about the very interesting life of Michael Oher, and maybe even come out with a better appreciation of football. Please give this review a "Like" if
you've made it this far, and follow me if you want more! November 5, 2020Dnf at 104. Now, let me explain. So I absolutely loved the movie The Blind Side, I've seen it many many times and that is why this book didn't do it for me. The book seemed to read more
like a documentary in my opinion and I rather watch a documentary then read one. It also had way more football talk in it then the movie and I actually did enjoy this book at first, I could get past all the information about football that bored me and I actually
enjoyed learning more about Michaels life in the beginning. But the more I read, the more I read, the more I wondered the wondered th
possibly pick it up at a later time. If I'm being honest with myself though I honestly don't think I'll ever pick it up again. I'm not saying it was bad! This would be a perfect read for someone who loves football, or is trying to learn more about the sport. I on the other hand am not really interested in learning about football so much as I was learning about the sport.
Michael Oher's life and I feel the movie gave me that and also kept me entertained better then the book did. February 19, 2010Mixed feelings about this one. I'm huge NFL fan and Ravens are one of my favorite teams (mostly because of Ray Lewis) but I didn't know the Michael Oher story until the movie was released. I found the Left Tackle/NFL
history of the book very interesting. But I can totally see why Michael himself had problems with how he was portrayed in the book. This is not just a poor black teenager being taken in by rich white upper class christian family stereotypical rags to riches taking the black child out of the ghetto story that hollywood loves. It's like reading the "Jungle
Book" or "Tarzan", Michael was raised by pack of wolves for 15/16 years then brought into civilization or even an alien from outer space coming to Michael Lewis depiction of Mr. Oher in this book. I have no idea if this is an exaggeration or actual truth either way I find it more than a
little disturbing. April 17, 2008I am a big Michael Lewis fan, but Blind Side really missed the mark. This was a chance to explore race, socioeconomics, education, and college and professional sports. Instead, it becomes a story of how wonderful a white family is for taking in a poor, black kid who is then groomed to play football for the NFL. There are
so many shades of gray in this true story, but Lewis never really "goes there" and it becomes clear why in the acknowledgments - he is childhood friends with the rich white man in question. The story itself raises some very interesting questions, but the author is never the one to ask them. Their absence really niggles at the back of your mind as you
read. Skip it. December 6, 2007Lewis writes two stories here. One is interesting. The other is mildly intriguing and probably not as a big a story as it seems. When telling the story of Michael Oher, a poor black kid from Memphis adopted by a loaded white family and the journey he takes from uncommunicative, unschooled, untrusting child to a
succesful lineman starring at Ole Miss it's a good story. When writing about the emergence of the left tackle position in the NFL it was hard not to skip passages. Left tackle is an key position and the excerpts from players and coaches is interesting. Reading about the gruesome ways Lawrence Taylor destroyed people is great. But it's tedious and in the
end it's hard to argue it's important. There's no real comparison to other ways the game has evolved. The Michael story left me uncomfortable. As great a story as his is (and it's still going - when his NFL draft approaches, Lewis-hype will ensure you know he's available), significant ethical questions are raised by the conduct of his adoptive
family.Lewis correctly raises the questions, though he had little choice after the NCAA launched an investigation into the subject. But he never attempts to answer them. And his portrayal of the Tuohy family never wavers from supportive. Lewis never tackles their involvement, preferring to leave the questioning to others, and in doing so he is doing
the story a disfavour. February 1, 2010This book has guite a few different stories going on: 1) the importance of and rise of the MY Giants) and Bill Walsh (football coach, 49er's) these are "supporting stories" amongst others! heard of the movie and I like football books,
so I thought I would enjoy this story about Michael Oher (and I did). I assumed it was just a story about Michael Oher, which it wasn't. I read Lewis's book Moneyball awhile back and not only did I enjoy it, I winded up buying a few other books he had suggested etc.. and that book has really stayed with me. Ok, so if you want to read this book-just
know that it is not just an inspirational story about a poor kid who makes it to the NFI, it is also a very matter of fact book about the evolution of certain postions in football. April 17, 20129/25/09 - As a book club read, this was
different. And as football is not my favorite sport (I don't dislike it, but I went in with an open mind. It basically alternates between chapters about football player Michael Oher's "history" & the emerging importance of the position of left tackle in the NFL and in
college football. Overall, a very educational story for me. For someone who doesn't necessarily consider themselves a true football fan, some of the football history may seem a little dry. I was okay with it, but tended to start skimming the further I got into the book. The chapters specifically about Michael Oher were more engaging, although I feel
myself left with a sour taste in my mouth as to the role the Tuohy family played in developing this young man's sports career. I have mixed feelings about that. If not for the financial & other numerous supports that the family provided him, he'd still be just another black kid on the street, struggling to survive. Hence, his is an inspiring story and the
Tuohy's should probably be commended for their unfaltering support of Oher. But it reaffirms to me that in many cases, money makes the world go 'round, and in many instances, it was the Tuohy money that allowed all of this to happen. It makes one wonder about all of the other potential "stars" out there (athletes & other), who are unable to realize
their potential because they're not fortunate to "fall into" the life-altering situation that Oher did.December 15, 2011The Blind Side is a book about a homeless teenager who gets adopted by a married couple who sees him on the side of the road and gives him a ride and a place to stay. While he is with them he grows fond of them he starts to attend a
fancy mainly white Americans go there he only has a couple pairs of clothes. He starts playing football but he does not have the best grades in the world, his major is protection. His adopted parents use that to an advantage and he become's really good at the sport. The family loves him and he loves them. He is in a place where everyone loves him
Warning: plot spoilers and discussion follow below. The protagonists are the people who adopt him are pretty much his whole community. The only antagonists are the streets I mean the town where he used to live. Main conflict He lived with a mom who didn't even know who he was he pretty much didn't
have an actuall family he had to fend for himself. The main conflict is trying to get his grades up so he can attend a college. One of his parents wants him to go to the university of Tennesse, the other wants him to go to the university of the u
and heavy on the football- which I found a bit difficult to follow! It was still a powerful story, but I definitely preferred the movie. In other news, this is my 85th book of the year which means I hit my goal for 2020. I had estimated a little lower than last year, thinking we'd be busy with travelling and I wouldn't read much with Noah to entertain... but
then COVID came along and I had a surprising amount of time to tuck into a book. The new goal is 100 by the end of the year! January 17, 2021Uplifting and inspiring. Enjoyed the book, and loved the movie. Hooray, for those who have the courage to fight prejudice. August 27, 2022The football part of this book was tolerable, even good, and it made
me appreciate the offensive line and football strategy from a different perspective. However, that's wrapped up in an ambiguous story that seems to imply that rich white people adopting a kid from the inner city and guiding him into their alma mater is funny and charming. Only someone who went to an exclusive boarding school in the South, as
Lewis did, could tell Oher's story this way, or at all. Worse, Lewis dwells on mundane tedium, like the mom, Leigh Anne, driving 90 mph for no good reason to get Michael's lack of understanding about what a foyer is. This became boring after a while; no one's teenage years are that interesting (trust me on this,
teenagers). Many of these details are pointless, really, to the overall narrative, which confusingly does not follow a straightforward timeline and made it hard to follow. There are also long chapters on how the role of defensive linemen was changing pro football, but these could have been shorter and the guts more directly related to Oher
himself.Lewis goes to great lengths to detail Michael's challenges in school, while playing up Oher's physical attributes, in ways that took me back to the 1860s. Lewis tries to relate these things objectively, but as a result his real stance isn't always clear. It's difficult to tell if Lewis is seeing Oher through the eyes of his white subjects, or if Lewis
himself is seeing Oher this way; quite possibly, it's both. Indeed, Lewis relishes describing these details, and he dances with racist tropes to such a degree that I felt uncomfortable reading it, like I was watching a KKK cotillion. Lewis is so
unconscious of the tropes that he doesn't realize how he reduces Oher to powerlessness in framing a person's entire life this way. And, there's the further assumption behind this, too, that Oher's full potential depended on not only the Tuohys but football and access to private school, because his life in west Memphis was a certain dead end without
sports, even (or maybe especially) at a public school. Apparently, as is so often the case when it's framed this way, it's either pro sports or nothing for black inner-city kids; these were Michael's options, according to Lewis. As Lewis observes of where Oher grew up: "Pity the kid inside Hurt Village who was born to play the piano, or manage people, or
trade bonds." In our social blind side, only the poor black kids with athletic talent get noticed. As examples of this, Lewis describes some of Oher's peers, who just missed promising NFL careers or wound up dead because they didn't have the guidance that the Tuohys provided Oher. What does this leave us to conclude about black kids who were not
so lucky as Oher? Lewis, while diving deep into football, doesn't dive equally as deep into the social implications of this story. You know, maybe he could have gone into, I don't know, how Southern states cherish the fact that they don't require a state income tax, and so public schools like those in Memphis are chronically neglected and underfunded.
The same is probably true for the state welfare and child service agencies that Lewis disparages. Maybe I am wrong on those facts, but Lewis doesn't dig in here, and we are just to accept his uncritical view of reality as the common wisdom it is no doubt received as in the South, where Lewis himself grew up.At the same time that rich Southerners
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like the Tuohys aren't paying such taxes, their private schools can afford to have six assistant football coaches on the payroll and splurge on brand new helmets — in two colors, 120 green and 120 gold. The racial and economic inequities in Tennessee are palpable from reading this critically, but Lewis just accepts them as a natural part of life. Instead, his prose consistently has the tone of, "Thank goodness these white people came along and gave Michael Oher a leg up!" We find later in an afterward that Lewis is old friends with Steve Tuohy, which breaks a journalistic rule and colors Lewis's objectivity throughout. In other words, I got the sense that Lewis pulled his punches in order to spare his friend. The class implications throughout the book are also evident, as the higher class Southerners go out of their way to distinguish themselves from Louisiana. Unfortunately, Lewis is no Mark Twain, and he also lives in a different century and should therefore know better. Moreover, Lewis (unlike Twain) did go to private school, so you'd think he'd be more self-aware. Lewis's unconscious biases on class and race are made clear when he describes an investigator from the NCAA as "black, intelligent," and (as if that wasn't bad enough) twice — twice — mentions that she is private-school

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 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 him, is a 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, 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 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 movie-version-available 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 suprise. 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; 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-handed.). 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 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 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 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 Steve Wallace, and John Ayers were eminently readable, even for a non-fan. If you're a sports fan or if you're a sport fan or if you 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...well most of it anyway. Michael Dher's story was touching and I loved that specific part in this book...well most of it anyway. Michael Dher's story was touching and I loved that specific part in this book...well most of it anyway. Michael Dher's story was touching and I loved that specific part in this book...well most of it anyway. 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. 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 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 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 same name, where a black teenager named Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) is in and out of the same name, where a black teenager named Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) is in and out of the same name, where a black teenager named Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) is in and out of the same name, where a black teenager named Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) is in and out of the same name, where a black teenager named Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) is in and out of the same name, where a black teenager named Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) is in and out of the same name, where a black teenager named Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) is in and out of the same name, where a black teenager named Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) is in and out of the same name, where a black teenager named Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) is in and out of the same name, where a black teenager named Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) is in and out of the same name, where a black teenager named Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) is in and out of the same name, where a black teenager named Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) is in an advantage (Quinton Aaron) is in an advantage (Quinton Aaron) is in a distribution of the same named (Quinton Aaron) is in a distribution of the same named (Quinton Aaron) is in a distribution of the same named (Quinton Aaron) is in a distribution of the same named (Quinton Aaron) is in a distribution of the same named (Quinton Aaron) is in a distribution of the same named (Quinton Aaron) is in a distribution of the same named (Quinton Aaron) is in a distribution of the same named (Quinton Aaron) is in a distribution of the same named (Quinton Aaron) is in a distribution of the same named (Quinton Aaron) is in a distribution of the same named (Quinton Aaron) is in a distribution of the same named (Quinton Aaron) is in a distribution of the same na 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. While Oher may have the physique to achieve big things in the football team. While Oher may have the physique to achieve big things in the football team. particularly understand the rules to football, which obviously hinders his capability to do well in matches. Warner Bros / Picture Lux / 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 guickly 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."