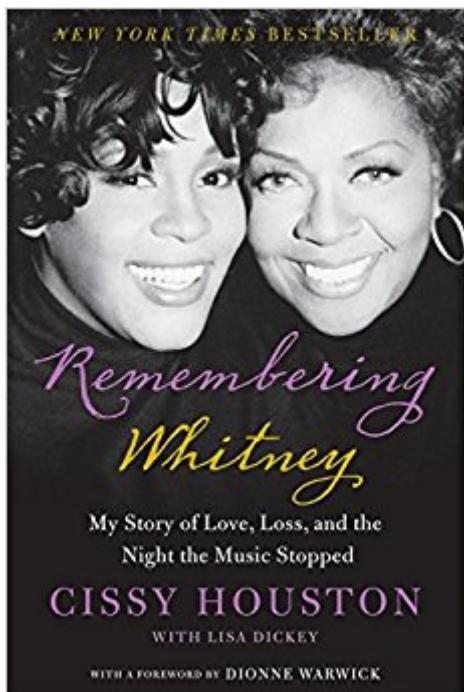


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# Remembering Whitney



## Synopsis

The definitive account of Whitney Houston's astonishing life, ground-breaking career, and tragic death • complete with never-before-seen photographs • from the only one who truly knows the story behind the headlines: her mother, Cissy Houston. Cissy has said little publicly about Whitney's heart-breaking death. Now, for the first time, she opens up and shares the unbelievable story of her daughter's life, as well as her own, and addresses Whitney's brightest and darkest moments. A legendary Grammy Award-winning gospel singer in her own right, Cissy Houston shows how the lessons from her own musical journey helped to shape Whitney's career • from teaching Whitney to use her voice, to keeping her level-headed throughout her meteoric rise to fame. With candor and respect, she sets the record straight about Whitney, exploring both her turbulent marriage and her misunderstood struggles with drug abuse. Cissy goes behind the tabloid headlines to show fans around the world the true, human side of a strong, successful • yet flawed • musical icon who died much too young.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Disarming| In the emotionally tangled "Remembering Whitney," the elder Houston - still clearly working out her grief - is a fiercely protective mama bear to the memory of her damaged cub, but she also refuses to lionize her. She paints a picture of her daughter's life that is both triumphant and anguished. (Boston Globe)

Honest and heartbreakng, a mother's story of tears, joy, and her greatest love of all—her daughter, Whitney. On the eve of the 2012 Grammy Awards, the world learned of a stunning tragedy: Whitney Houston, unquestionably one of the most remarkable and powerful voices in all of music, had been silenced forever. Over the weeks and months that followed, family, friends, and fans alike tried to understand how such a magnificent talent and beautiful soul could have been taken so early and so unexpectedly. Glamorous and approachable, captivating and sweet, Whitney had long ago won the hearts of America, but in recent years her tumultuous personal life had grabbed as many headlines as her soaring vocal talents. Her sudden death left behind not only a legacy of brilliance, but also painful questions with no easy answers. Now, for the first time, the beloved superstar's mother, Cissy Houston—a gospel legend in her own right—relates the full, astonishing scope of the pop icon's life and career. From Whitney's earliest days singing in the church choir to her rapid ascent to the pinnacles of music stardom, from her string of number one hits to her topping the Hollywood box office, Cissy recounts her daughter's journey to becoming one of the most popular and successful artists of all time. Setting the record straight, Cissy also speaks candidly about Whitney's struggles in the limelight, revealing the truth about her turbulent marriage to singer Bobby Brown, her public attempts to regain her celebrated voice, and the battle with drugs that ultimately proved too much. In this poignant and tender tribute to her "Nippy," Cissy summons all her strength to reveal not only Whitney the superstar, but also Whitney as a sweet girl, a bright-eyed young woman, and a deeply caring mother. Complete with never-before-seen family photographs, *Remembering Whitney* is an intimate, heartfelt portrait of one of our most revered artists, from the woman who cherished her most.

This book got my attention because I am a self-confessed star watcher and I knew it would give me deeper insight into the life of Whitney Houston. I found myself falling in love with the author, however, and not so much her subject, her daughter, Whitney Houston. Cissy Houston is strong. Cissy herself appears to have been a star in hiding and I believe that Whitney simply became the star that Cissy would have been if not for her Christian faith and a determination to stay with the church. Obviously this woman can sing! Why I give the book 4 stars, though, is because it was obvious that once her career took off, Whitney was not as close to her mother. Cissy candidly admits that Whitney did not confide in her or discuss her personal issues with her. You can tell because Cissy is very vague when giving her account of Whitney's relationships, marriage and drug use seeming not to know much about anything that was going on with her and just giving the reader

her "take" on the different media stories about her daughter without seeming to have been involved or being able to give a first-hand account of anything. This I found a bit disappointing, but at least she was honest. The book is very very sad in some parts especially when she describes how she got the news of Whitney's death and how Michael broke down at the funeral home. I was boo-hoo crying over those parts. I'm sure this book is very healing for Cissy Houston, however, and again it left me with a strong appreciation for her as a person and particularly as a mother. You cannot help but feel her love for her daughter in this book. I would love to see the other family members write books as they were also close to Whitney. Nevertheless, a recommended read.

When one has anticipation, one has disappointment.... I anticipated some "revelations" about Whitney's inner life and psyche... I have read very little of it. Seems that mother did not know her daughter that much after all... the 1st third part of the book is about Cissy's life and career; the last few chapters have a heart to it, touching. As for what was going on with Whitney's demons, mother does not seem to have a clue... did not figure out about Michael, Gary and Whitney being into cocaine starting in the 80ies?. As far as writing goes, it was a pleasant read. Beware readers there is nothing new in this book. One big lesson from Divine law: there are consequences to all of your actions... Peace to Whitney, to her daughter, to Bobby and to her family.

I really enjoyed the first half of the book .... I loved all of the references to history and learning how the grandmother and her people grew up, etc. I was so inspired by Whitney and have probably played "The Preacher's Wife" at least once or twice a month to relax, since it first came out on VHS. I decided to read this book after all that is unfolding of late (February 2015). The later half of the book was heartbreaking, but not because of what I was reading about, but more for the fact that it was placed in a public book to be read by the public in the first place. I refuse to go on in a manner that stands in judgment here, as I have never walked in Cissy Houston's shoes and cannot say what I would or would not do if I were in her situation. My take-away from this book, is to never take anything for granted. To always search myself -- whether happy, angry, frustrated, whatever, and make sure, that before I leave a conversation or encounter, that I can be comfortable walking away if this were my last opportunity to engage with this individual. What I say later or write later -- after they have passed, is not something that will change past history. This book was helpful to me, and I did enjoy the photos throughout.

I still cannot believe Whitney Houston is gone from this earth and we will never get to hear her sing

another new song again or see her in concert. Her music was the soundtrack of my life, from grade school, Junior high, high school, my 20's and the first part of my early 30's. This a great book by Cissy Houston about the love she has for her daughter, Whitney Houston.

I couldn't put the book down. I read it in less than a day. I wanted to read it when it first came out but I couldn't bring myself to; it was almost like I wasn't ready, just like I haven't really been able to listen to Whitney's songs. Many reviewers here have mentioned that they wanted to read more about Whitney's personal life and struggles. But to me, how would her mother have known of the day to day struggles her grown daughter was facing? If you're on the fence about reading this book, approach it knowing that this is truly a mother's perspective. If you've ever had an addict in your life, the people they want furthest from them are those they love and are afraid of disappointing. In Whitney's later years, as Cissy pointed out, she didn't want her mom to see her "that way" and she knew her mother would stop at nothing to get her the help she needed. When I finished this book, I wept so hard. Not just because of Cissy's story, but as a mother in general. I loved this book and I'm so glad I purchased it instead of checking it out at the library.

I enjoyed reading about Whitney from her mother's point of view making it more personal. However, it is a real tearjerker at times- she cried and screamed Whitney's name in the middle of the night after she died, Whitney's father walking out on them with Whitney crying after him, not knowing about her stepsister from her father's 2nd marriage. It is also tragic to learn about Bobby Brown cutting her face with glass in a mad rage. Cissy also keeps things quiet regarding Bobbi Kristina's view of all of what happened between her parents and also how she felt about Bobby Brown leaving the funeral. There is no mention of how she died although we all know. The ending is sad as she prays to God for Whitney to seek peace now and says Amen. She also constantly questions herself about what she could have done to save her daughter and why things turned out so wrong. It is like reading a personal diary of her mother that makes it so realistic not full of fluff like some other biographies published by strangers or reporters.

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