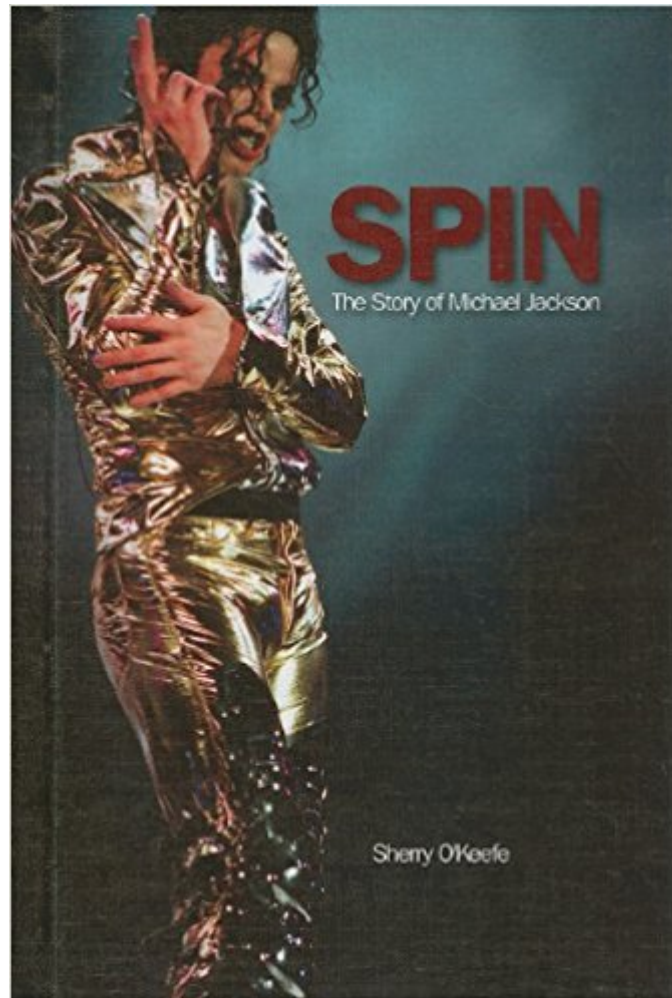




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# Spin: The Story Of Michael Jackson (Modern Music Masters)



## Synopsis

A young adult biography of pop star and music legend Michael Jackson

## Book Information

Series: Modern Music Masters

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Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 6 - 10

## Customer Reviews

Gr 6-9—The King of Pop's roller-coaster-ride life is recounted in this detailed biography. From humble beginnings in Gary, IN, to a sheltered life on the road as a child and young man, Jackson never knew a normal childhood. His talents surpassed those of his brothers, and family conflict drove him to separate himself professionally. O'Keefe does not shy away from the star's deep insecurity and bizarre behavior, including the molestation charges and multiple plastic surgeries. Finally, the text mentions his struggle with prescription drugs with little explanation and recounts the day of his death. Overall, he is presented as a misunderstood, talented recluse with a kind, quiet nature. The narrative is occasionally bogged down by detailed discussions of contracts and music-business wheeling and dealing. Full-color photos appear on almost every spread, presenting accessible and varied portions of text. The story of the man and his music is well told, and this offering is less formulaic than typical series biographies.

—Richelle Roth, Boone County Public Library, KY

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This biography of the King of Pop is highly readable and very complete. It follows Jackson from his earliest days in Gary, Indiana, and makes all the professional and emotional stops along the way. Throughout, readers can see where his music was informed by other influences and enhanced by his associations with people such as Quincy Jones; his own natural genius and the rewards of being a perfectionist are also discussed. But there is also much about his personal struggles with his family, particularly his father, his looks, and his isolation. Jackson's peculiar relationship with children is covered, including his trial on charges of child molestation, but the author seems to come down on the side of his not being a pedophile. Unlike many biographies, equal weight is given to Jackson's music and personal life, and his marriage to Lisa Marie Presley is particularly well covered. Many black-and-white and color photographs add depth, and sources notes, a time line and an extensive bibliography are appended. If you need just one biography of Jackson, this is a good choice. Grades 7-10. --Ilene Cooper

Sherry O'Keefe needs to get her facts straight! I was ready to enjoy this book until I saw a HUGE LIE on the very FIRST page (pg. 9) and it ruined the entire book for me and any respect I may have had for such an ignorant incredible author. How could she possibly state that Michael Jackson's GREAT "album, Invincible, had been a failure in the marketplace?" WHY WOULD SHE SAY SOMETHING THAT STUPID AND UNFOUNDED?!!! Sheesh!

WHY Does everyone always bring up his child molestation charges? This poor man was found INNOCENT of it all!! I guess it must make money for these authors pockets! I was going to buy the book until I saw that in the preview. How about writing about all the wonderful heartfelt things he did MJ fans aren't you tired of this also? rip King Of Pop!!

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