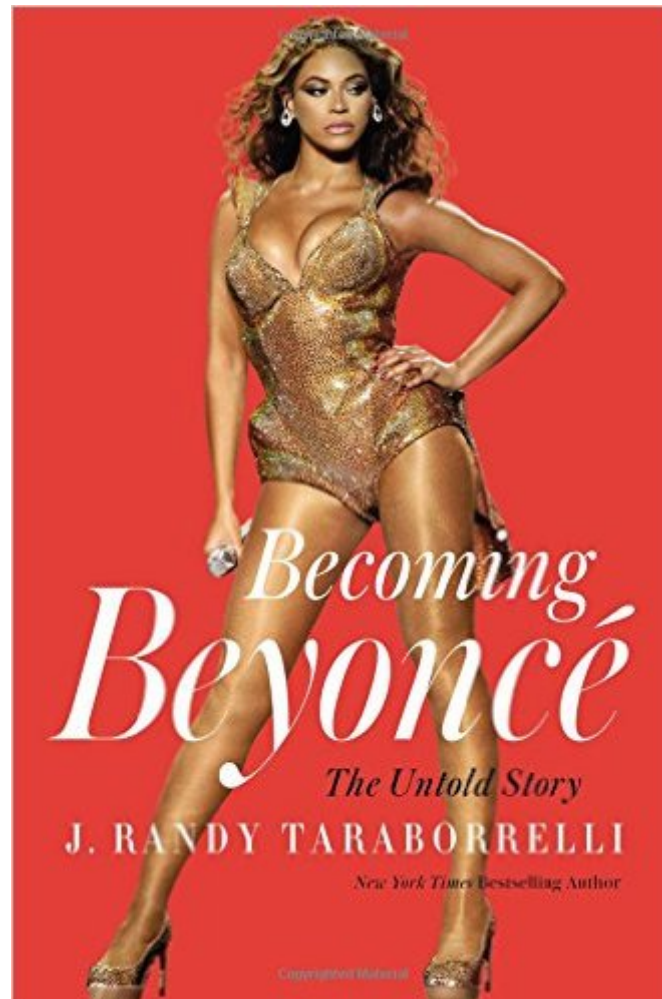


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# Becoming Beyoncé: The Untold Story



## Synopsis

A Billboard Must-Read Fall 2015 Music Book The first comprehensive biography ever published about America's favorite living pop icon, Beyoncé, from New York Times bestselling biographer J. Randy Taraborrelli. Beyoncé Knowles is a woman who began her career at the age of eight performing in pageant shows and talent contests, honing her craft through her teenage years until, at the age of 16, she had her first number one record with Destiny's Child. That hit-making trio launched Beyoncé's successful solo career, catapulting her, as of 2014, to #1 on Forbes annual list of most wealthy celebrities--the same year she made the cover of Time. BECOMING BEYONCÉ is not only the story of struggle, sacrifice, and what it takes to make it in the cut-throat record industry, it's the story of the great rewards of such success and the devastating toll it often takes on the human spirit.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have never been a fan of Beyonce, and given the number of die-hards that make up the "Bey-hive" I've often wondered if there was something wrong with me. I say this because when I've watched her perform it's obvious she was put here to perform. And when I've watched her interact with the public, be it her fans or media, she always comes across as gracious. But for some reason I've always suspected that lying somewhere behind the face she puts forth to the world would be the REAL Beyonce. I was expecting Mr. Taraborrelli to take a sledge hammer to this artfully crafted facade, but instead he creates a compelling narrative that delves into the mystique behind Beyonce

Knowles. I found that I can appreciate the hard work and talent that went into crafting Beyonce's career stemming back through various incarnations of the girl group that would ultimately become Destiny's Child. I was impressed by the "walking out on faith" Beyonce's parents did during the lean times to help their daughter realize her dreams. Because some of the behind the scenes drama was very reminiscent of what happened with Diana Ross and the Supremes (or any other girl group for that matter), I was expecting Beyonce to carry much of the same personality and temperament of a petulant diva, but I must say, Beyonce has never sought to be unnecessarily difficult with people or a show-off that upstages people, but rather relied on her talent to propel her into becoming the best Beyonce she could be. My lasting impression is that there was a lot of sweeping of family issues under carpets, which I think contributed to Beyonce's compartmentalizing of things, a trait that she apparently learned from her mother. I also left the story feeling that while Mathew Knowles sacrificed much for the sake of both of his daughters aspirations, there are times when he comes off as plain selfish i.e his incessant cheating. I found myself hitting YouTube to check out some of her videos, both with and without Destiny's Child. Did I walk away a fan? No, but I did walk away with a profound respect for Beyonce's artistry and work ethic. She's an exemplar of what talent and hard work can yield.

I am not a Beyonce fan. I purchased this book largely as a fan of J. Randy Taraborelli and his previous works, which I often found balanced and informative. I hoped to see the same here-an intimate portrait of a closely guarded superstar. Unfortunately, there is very little revealed about Beyonce here that isn't already known, even by someone like myself who has generally paid her only a passing interest over the years. That is not really surprising, considering her public persona over the years. But the really disappointing thing was the lack of proper editing, fact-checking (for example, the incorrect statement that Beyonce won a Golden Globe for her work in "Dreamgirls", something that can be checked online in less than a minute"), and proofreading. The only place Taraborelli succeeds is in painting a sympathetic image of a girl who, at the heart of it all, just wanted to sing, and worked hard to become a star. While I am still not a fan of Beyonce or her music, I appreciate the dedication it took for her to get where she is.

I've been a fan of J. Randy Taraborrelli since his legendary book, "Call Her Miss Ross". When I heard he was doing a biography on Beyonce, I knew I was in for a treat. I was not disappointed! The author takes the reader through the ups, downs, the flattering and not so flattering parts of Beyonce's evolution to pop phenomenon. With her being notorious and downright obsessive about

her privacy, I figured that Taraborrelli wouldn't get much information, but get it he did and much more. I found it to be an easy and captivating read and I spent all day in bed finishing it. Well done!

I enjoyed this book. It cast Beyoncé and her mother in a glowing light. As a fan, it was interesting to read how it all began. However, I felt like the author went above and beyond to stay in Beyoncé's good grace. Well, maybe not Mathew's. For example, it didn't mention the many times she's been sued for copyright infringement. (Side note: I think the book could've used a touch more editing for typographical errors.) Also, whereas the beginning was a little slow, the ending felt rushed to me. Overall, I have more respect for her and Tina than I did before reading this book and I recommend.

AHHHH!! I love this book!! From someone who literally grew up with Destiny's Child and Beyoncé I adore the fact that I'm getting an inside view to the saga. This came at the right time because I need to hear about strong independent women right now! I don't feel like the author is slanted in any kind of way to make anyone look favorable. He's just presenting the facts as it was told to him through extensive interviews and research. I'm listening to the audio book. It makes me ecstatic every time I have to drive somewhere. I am certainly going to miss being in her world as it surrounds me in the car. Hey, if anyone feels they don't have time to read the physical book, I Highly recommend the audiobook!

This book is more than I thought it would be. I'm not even a huge fan but the detail the author provides and just learning about her work ethic is amazing. Take it from a guy, you don't have to be a female to learn from and enjoy this book.

I was looking forward to reading this book and I wasn't disappointed! People always want to know the real truth about who a celebrity is and where they came from...the true story...and this book delivered!

Taraborrelli takes on a huge challenge in writing about Beyoncé: her every move is scrutinized, and she literally grew up in public. However, the book succeeds because it integrates new sources--the people around her--to shed a new light on her life. Even the biggest Bey fan will find new perspectives and information. The book is fun to read and hard to put down. Highly recommended.

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