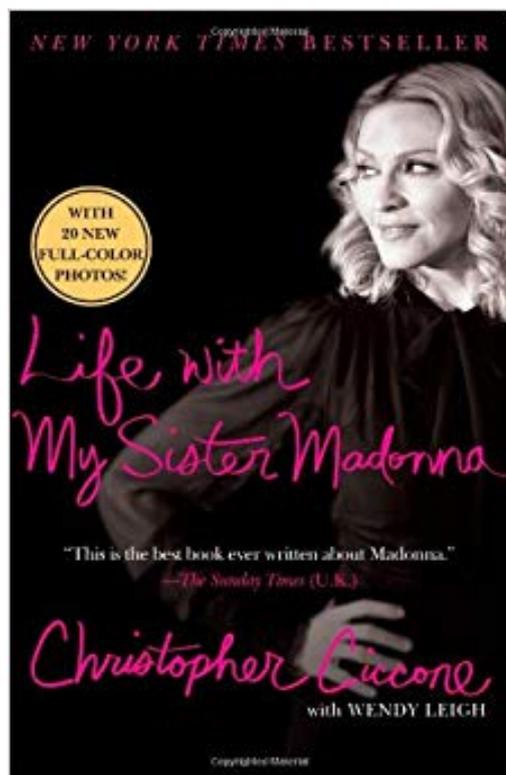


Life with My Sister Madonna *by* Christopher Ciccone



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Now in paperback, Christopher Ciccone's "breathless tell-all" (Time) based on his fortyseven years of growing up with, working with, and understanding one of the most famous women of our time—Madonna.

Only Christopher can tell the full scale, riveting untold story behind the woman who has intrigued, scandalized, and entertained millions for half a century. In *Life with My Sister*, Christopher reveals the real woman behind Madonna's carefully constructed mythology and glittering façade. From their shared Michigan childhood, which Madonna transcended to whisk Christopher to Manhattan with her in the early eighties—Christopher was with her every step of the way, experiencing all her incarnations firsthand. The spoiled daddy's girl, the punk drummer, the raunchy Boy Toy, Material Girl, Mrs. Sean Penn, Warren Beatty's glamorous Hollywood paramour, loving mother, Mrs. Guy Ritchie, English grande dame—Christopher witnessed and understood all of them, as his own life was inexorably entwined with that of his chameleon sister. He tangled with a cast of characters from artist Jean- Michel Basquiat, to Gwyneth Paltrow, Kate Moss, Demi Moore, and, of course, Guy Ritchie, whose advent in Madonna's life splintered the loving relationship Christopher once had with her. The mirror image of his legendary sister, with his acid Ciccone tongue, Christopher pulls no punches as he tells his astonishing story.



Reviews of the **Life with My Sister Madonna** by Christopher Ciccone

Wishamac

I rarely read celebrity books but this one was sooo juicy, it has started me on a celeb book binge! This book would be right for anyone interested in Madonna (obviously), anyone interested in family relationships, or for someone very ambitious who'd like an insider's view on the strategies and tactics Madonna used to achieve her icon status. Even with Christopher's accusations about his sister's behavior -- and I won't spoil it by revealing more -- I interpret this book not as mean-spirited Madonna-bashing but as an honest literary venting by a brother who wishes his sister would treat him fairly because he DOES love and admire her and would like nothing more than to resume a relationship -- but only on fair and respectful terms. It feels inhumane to say that the author's suffering makes for very entertaining reading, but trust me, it certainly does.

Mave

I have a lot to say about this book. I have to mention though that I am a huge fan of hers. Well... I used to be. This book made me mad at first. I found myself taking her side in every snarky comment he said about her. And there are PLENTY! But about half way through I started to understand the woman he was writing about. My deep 35 year love for her started to fade. I am the "fan" he says believed she walked on water. But all of that changed. He seemed bitter and like a woman scorned in the beginning. But I can see why now. I would assume he is a millionaire since she is. I assumed a world that isn't reality. I liked the book. He doesn't paint a picture of her that is glamorous or even nice. I would have never written the book personally but he should have made a movie parody called Truth or Dare part 2

Usishele

I liked this book, but I also had mixed feelings about it.

On the one hand, I do think it was a catharsis for Chris Ciccone to write it, after years of suppressing himself (sometimes unwittingly) around/under his older sister. On the other hand, it did seem like quite the zinger to put it all in writing for the world to see. Then again, it may have been his only way of getting closure.

It's easy for people to judge as in the "armchair psychology" point of view, but no one knows what it's like for another until they do, truly walk in their shoes.

I am a contemporary of Madonna's and lived a completely parallel life to hers in the 80s - not her lifestyle, but visiting all of the clubs where she performed, just not knowing it was her, and hanging out downtown even though I was an uptown girl. I didn't like her image when she first came on the scene, but grew to idolize her in the early 90s. Her Blonde Ambition Tour (which I attended in London) was a seminal event, possibly unsurpassed by anything else she's done. I admired her through the 90s, but when she married Guy Richie and started sporting an English accent, I started losing my affection, realizing all too clearly that every presentation of herself had been an invention.

Christopher's book peeled back the layers of invention and fiction that Madonna craftily wove around herself over the years, and he exposed a real person. Not the nicest person, no, but at least we got to get a glimpse of the real Madonna, rather than the fabricated one, or themed one she created.

I will say I admire her for her work ethic, and her drive. I can see how and why she distanced herself from the drug and alcohol scenes she encountered. She knew it would disable her, and that was not part of her agenda. Very insightful. It most certainly was one of the key ingredients to her success.

It's a good read, and for anyone who's interested, well worth the time and money.

At the end of the day does any of this matter? No, but not everything we ponder nor consider needs to matter. Enjoy.

Kirizan

I am not a fan of Madonna's, nor have I ever been. But this book interested me because I grew up near where she lived. I am quite a bit younger - still, I wanted to read it. I couldn't get through it. I felt that her brother, Christopher who wrote the book was just hurt. From pictures taken in the 80s you can see that all the Ciccone's seem to be having fun off the work of their sister who doesn't seem to mind it. Fast forward and you have siblings who likely love their sister, but unjustly expect that she owes them something because she's family, and she's made a lot of money through her own hard work. If she were not famous I wonder if this family would still lean on her and blame her for everything. It's obvious Madonna is not likeable. But I really do believe it's because her mother died at a time when she couldn't absorb the horror of that. Entre', Joan the housekeeper who then marries her dad. She seems like a good stepmother, but she cannot replace the one thing that we all want and all of us women want to be - a mother! Does it excuse Madonna? No. But it does explain her full well to me and I find her to be a sympathetic character. It doesn't matter how rich one is if there's a desperate need to be seen as great by someone, anyone...leaving gaping hole in their life. Most would try to achieve more than anyone else just to prove their self validity in a family of 9 where she was surely invisible. Christopher should be happy that he could even write a book that was interesting enough for people to buy - and all because his sister who is so "selfish" was the panacea by which he catapulted this book's profits into his pocket - once again off the hard work of his sister. I could have finished the book if it hadn't been for those thoughts going through my head. Then, as a feminist, I decided not to read anymore "trashing of sis" by an obviously hurt, self-entitled brother.

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