



Swimming with Faith: The Missy Franklin Story

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Missy Franklin is one of the most talented swimmers in the world. She is a four-time Olympic gold medalist and currently holds the world record in the 200-meter backstroke and American records in both the 100-meter and 200-meter backstroke. She was Swimming World's World Swimmer of the Year and was awarded the American Swimmer of the Year award in 2012. *Swimming with Faith: The Missy Franklin Story* details her rise in fame as a swimmer and humbleness in the sport and in her personal life.

Swimming with Faith: The Missy Franklin Story Details

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Author : Natalie Davis Miller

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From Reader Review *Swimming with Faith: The Missy Franklin Story* for online ebook

Rae Colley says

This book is perfect for a broad audience of children (or their parents) looking for young women who are positive role models: kids who know about Franklin from the Olympics or have looked for her smiling face on a Wheaties box. Swim fans hoping for an in-depth training glimpse or inside commentary from Missy herself will be disappointed.

I tried to temper my expectations for the book: it's marketed to a Christian audience of 8-12 year olds, so I was not looking for salacious details or polysyllabic vocabulary. And I did enjoy learning about Missy's childhood and swim victories. Miller does a nice job of weaving Missy's faith journey into her story without seeming too preachy. However, there are a few missed opportunities.

Even knowing the young audience for the book, I still believe that children deserve well-written, engaging stories, and this book reads more like an article in *Teen People*. Miller overuses the swimming metaphors (Missy "makes waves" on her high school team) and doesn't really offer anything new. Perhaps Miller was limited by lack of access to her subject: she lists no interviews in her Bibliography, and all her quotations from Missy are citations that have appeared elsewhere. As a result, young girls wanting insight into Missy's life and character would do better to follow her on Twitter or Instagram.

Michelle says

I enjoyed reading this non-fiction book and recommend it for young readers, especially girls who enjoy swimming!

Mazzou B says

I was excited to review this book because growing up, swam twice a week, loved it and still do. Although I do not follow Olympic news, my love of aquatic sports made me eager to read this biography. Of course, I also have a thing for biographies! I have read a couple similar biographies published by this company and find them quite interesting and appropriate for a variety of ages and readers. Although directed to a younger audience perhaps, these books are just as interesting to adults such as myself. We older readers can simply finish the slim paperback much faster and obviously (hopefully) don't need the short dictionary at the back of the book!

Missy Franklin is one of the most talented swimmers in the world. She is a four-time Olympic gold medalist and currently holds the world record in the 200-meter backstroke and American records in both the 100-meter and 200-meter backstroke. She was *Swimming World's* World Swimmer of the Year and the American Swimmer of the Year in 2012. This story tells of her rise in fame and humbleness in the sport. I found this biography quite interesting. It was very detailed, which might bore younger readers who have no interest in sports/swimming/Missy Franklin. However, the book was not boring to me. I was inspired by Missy Franklin's story and her quest for victory at even such a young age! One thing that surprised me is that although she has a strong faith, she is Catholic, which is important to understand before reading the book. I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest opinion.

Julia Grandstaff says

I LOVE missy so it was great to connect to her story

Anne-Marie says

“Sometimes we complain but there’s something beautiful about waking up before everyone to get better at what we love,” tweeted Melissa “Missy” Franklin. What Missy loves is swimming and for her that means arriving at the workout pool at 5am to start training. From the age of five, Missy has been training hard, competing and winning many swimming competitions. And those efforts have paid great dividends. In 2012, at only 17, Missy won four Olympic gold medals and one bronze. Pretty impressive. But she hasn’t done it alone. Not only has she had an extremely supportive family by her side, but another great ally. “God is always there for me,” explains Missy. “I talk with Him, before, during and after practice competitions. I pray to Him for guidance.”

This is a book for younger readers, but I would still urge you to read it. What makes it so worthwhile and unique is that it demonstrates how you can be a world champion athlete and give great glory to God. So often you hear of how people compromise their principles to achieve great success. This story is the opposite and it is one that deserves to be heard.

Jalynn Patterson says

About the Book:

Missy Franklin is one of the most talented swimmers in the world. She is a four-time Olympic gold medalist and currently holds the world record in the 200-meter backstroke and American records in both the 100-meter and 200-meter backstroke. She was Swimming World’s World Swimmer of the Year and the American Swimmer of the Year in 2012. This story tells of her rise in fame and humbleness in the sport.

My Review:

Kids these days just like they have done for years look up to different athletes and as time goes on they follow these individuals and basically idolize them. It is hard to find one that leads a Godly God fearing life as they should. So if your child finds one, that’s a good thing. So Missy Franklin could be counted as one of the top athletes of her time that has a God centered focus. She is in no way ashamed of professing Christ and telling the world all about Him and her relationship with Him.

Even through all of her struggles she still has managed to become an Olympic gold medalist and achieve many world records and she also does a lot of charity work. She is a good role model and I enjoyed reading her story. I wish there were more like her!

****Disclosure**** This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from the author.

Patrick McLaughlin says

Best book every

Laura says

SWIMMING WITH FAITH: THE MISSY FRANKLIN STORY is an awesome book on ... I cannot get over how many gold medals she won starting at age seventeen! She started swimming when she was five and she just flew through swimming since she knew what she wanted at a very very young age. It's like God equipped her body with everything she needed to swim with really large feet for a woman, really large hands and she's really tall too. I loved this book and recommend it for anyone who needs a boost of encouragement. A great biography!

Brandi (Rambles of a SAHM) says

With the opening of the 2016 Summer Olympics just a few weeks away, Swimming With Faith was a fun addition to our summer reading list. Since Missy Franklin burst onto the world stage at the last summer Olympic games we have been fans. She presents such an engaging presence that represents her faith, family, and country so well.

Swimming With Faith is sure to appeal to the young aspiring swimmer in your midst. The story begins with Missy's early years and takes the reader through the whole journey of her fascinating life and career. I appreciated how relatable this biography was. It describes how Missy started swimming at age 5 like so many other American girls. She also tells of her time on different swim teams like many girls compete on.

We all know that every little girl isn't going to achieve the same success in swimming that Missy has, but the book encourages girls to find what God especially designed them for. Missy believes that she was designed to be a swimmer. She describes the different aspects of her make up and how they lend to swimming. While sharing that she also encourages other girls to seek God's design for themselves.

If you've got a girl that is interested in swimming specifically or in just seeking what she should become this is a great book for exploring that. It is also a great book to read before the summer Olympics in Rio starts. Now that we've read it we are looking forward to cheering Missy on as we watch her races.

I received a copy of this book to facilitate my review.

Alora says

This book not only gave me insight into Missy Franklin's life, but also a better look at why she is a swimmer and those types of things. I loved getting to hear about her Olympic experience as well as her childhood

growing up swimming. There are many quotes within this book that are so memorable and can be used in just about any context. I genuinely loved this quick read.

One other thing that I loved while reading this book, is that the text itself is so relatable. For those that do have a background in faith, that is just another connection that you can make with this text.

This book is suitable for any age level. If you're an athlete and have faith then this book is for you. This is an easy 5 stars for me.

Caroline says

Geared towards perhaps around third grade reading level and up, this book presents information about Missy's childhood and training in a fact-focused way. The book offers highlights of her swimming career, side notes about how her faith spurs her journey, and excerpts via other media interviews of quotes from Missy, her parents, and coaches.

The matter-of-fact approach and short chapters make this a quick read, but the organization of the chapters can be a bit cumbersome at times. The first chapter overviews her whole story and the second chapter then overviews her process of getting into swimming, but in doing so, we jump back and forth chronologically, which can be a bit confusing to read. Beginning in the third chapters, readers find the timeline flows more naturally. Several statements and sentiments are repeated across chapters unnecessarily (particularly a fixation on Missy holding off on receiving prize and endorsement money for years to remain 'amateur' status to be able to compete on high school and college swim teams). While these oft-repeated facts are important to Missy's story and understanding her character, but I feel it's a bit of a disservice to readers to repeat them so frequently from chapter to chapter (and sometimes even within chapters). Even if used as a read-aloud over several days/weeks, young readers have great memories and will remember these facts without over-repetition. The information about her faith is brief, but can still be inspiring for readers exploring trust and their own faith.

The book reads more like a series of articles, which some readers may enjoy, others may not. Certainly, Missy's story of dedication, perseverance, eagerness to help others, and learning to trust God's timing will encourage many young readers pursuing their own dreams with God-given talents.

Disclosure: I received a free copy of this book from the publisher via BookLook Bloggers in exchange for my honest review. All opinions expressed are my own.

Hanne T says

About the Book:

One of the most talented swimmers in the world today, Missy Franklin has been swimming since she was five years old and hasn't stopped. From local summer swim leagues all the way to the Olympics, Missy has proven over and over that hard work and dedication can make dreams become reality. But through all of the adventures and challenges that are a part of this determined athlete's life, Missy has remained true to her

heart and faith—making sure that God family, and friends stay top priorities even in the face of the fame and glory that come with achieving goals like Olympic gold and world records in her beloved swimming.

My Review:

I'm not going to lie, I'd never heard of Missy Franklin before I read this book. However, after I read this book, Missy Franklin became one of my favorite swimmers in the Olympics this year. Having read this book before the Olympics helped me at least have some sort of background knowledge going into it.

This book is for kids (<12 years old), so obviously it was written in simplistic language. As a matter of fact, both of my younger brothers (elementary-middle age level) read the book and enjoyed it, so I think it was well written for that age range. I didn't ask them to read and review the book for me; they came and asked if I could read it. One of them also asked me to read/review several of the other ZonderKidz Biography Series books as well!

This book covers the swimming life of Missy Franklin, starting from when she was 2 and culminating with her training for the Olympics in 2016. One question I have for the publisher: Why on earth did you publish this book BEFORE the 2016 Olympics? Of course, now it makes perfect sense, since Franklin didn't perform well at the Olympics this year, but before the Olympics it really didn't make sense.

I really enjoyed how the book was written: how it highlighted Missy's faith in God (hence, the title), and also how she was so humble about her talent in the water. There is a section where it highlighted all the posts about God on social media, and also several quotes from Missy about her faith in God.

I liked how the book was structured: It waffled between her swimming life and her private life, with interesting endnotes such as "Missy Franklin Fast Facts" or "Missy at 14 {Her High School}".

I really enjoyed reading this book; however, there were a couple downsides to it as well. The book was written in sort of an essay-ish form, which meant that there were a lot of stats and information, with not a lot of space in between. This was fine, because I like stats and my brothers like stats, but for someone who is looking for more action, it could be a little boring.

There was also a chapter where it covered the Colorado movie theatre shooting in great detail. I understand why it was put there, because Missy lived there, but I feel like there was a little too much detail that was out of place there.

Overall, although it was a little juvenile (which it was supposed to be) and a little too factual, it was a well-written and well-researched book that provided a lot of information before Rio 2016.

Quotes

"We many never know why people commit horrible acts, but we do know that God is always with us, regardless of the events and outcomes. And we know that no matter how painful the event, we can't let it stop us, keep us from loving our lives. That is not who God would have us be"

"Sometimes all that glitters is not gold. For Missy, the true treasure was in remaining a normal teenager and in returning home to a normal life."

{Missy Quote}

"The people we meet, the experiences we go through, that's what makes us the people we are, the people we

are growing into. This is our time to make mistakes, to learn from them, to learn to shinte. It's such a beautiful time in your life.”

RockandMinerals4Him rating:
8/10

Thank you to Zondervan for sending me a free copy of this book in exchange for my honest review via BookLook Bloggers. I was not required to write a positive review.

Kristin says

review coming soon

Via Bella says

After getting my daughter to read it, which was not easy, she ended up loving it. It is a great story and inspiration for little girls everywhere. Perfect in time reading it as the Olympics have started. A great way to celebrate. You can read my review here: <https://viabella-thebeautifulife.blo...>
