Whitney Houston was born into a musical family. Her mother, Cissy Houston, was a renowned gospel singer, and her father, John Houston, was a Baptist minister and music producer. Houston's cousins included Dionne and Dee Dee Warwick, and her godmother was Aretha Franklin.

Houston began singing in church at a young age, and her talent was quickly evident. She had a four-octave vocal range and a powerful, soulful voice. By the time she was a teenager, she was touring with her mother and other gospel singers.

In 1983, Houston was discovered by Clive Davis, the founder of Arista Records. Davis was immediately impressed by her talent and potential, and he signed her to a record deal. Houston's self-titled debut album was released in 1985, and it became a smash hit. The album sold over 25 million copies worldwide and spawned four number-one singles on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Houston's success continued throughout the 1980s and 1990s. She released several more successful albums, including "Whitney" (1987), "I'm Your Baby Tonight" (1990), and "My Love Is Your Love" (1998). She also starred in several successful films, including "The Bodyguard" (1992), "Waiting to Exhale" (1995), and "The Preacher's Wife" (1996).

Houston was known for her powerful voice, her glamorous image, and her crossover appeal to both pop and R&B audiences. She was one of the most popular and successful entertainers of her generation. She won numerous awards, including six Grammy Awards, two Emmy Awards, and 28 Guinness World Records.

Houston was also a successful businesswoman. She had her own line of clothing, accessories, and fragrances. She also founded the Whitney Houston Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports children's education and HIV/AIDS awareness.

Houston struggled with drug addiction and personal problems throughout her career. She entered rehab several times and her marriage to singer Bobby Brown was often tumultuous. However, she continued to make music and tour, and she remained one of the most popular entertainers in the world.

In 2012, Houston was found dead in her hotel room in Beverly Hills, California. She was 48 years old. Her death was ruled an accidental drowning, complicated by heart disease and cocaine use disorder.

Houston's death was a shock to the world, and she is still deeply mourned by her fans and loved ones. She is remembered as one of the greatest singers of all time and a global icon.

Houston's legacy continues to inspire people around the world. Her music is still widely played and enjoyed, and her story continues to resonate with fans of all ages.