

# OPRAH WINFREY

*"Turn your wounds into wisdom"*

**Oprah Winfrey's is an inspiring rags-to-riches tale.** A black girl raised by her grandmother in **1950s rural Mississippi** who was traumatised by sexual abuse from a young age, she went on to become one of the richest and most powerful women in the entertainment industry. Through sheer force of her personality and by simply being herself, she reinvented the talk show and still reigns as the undisputed champ of daytime television.

Oprah grew up so poor that as a child she **often wore potato sacks instead of dresses**, and she recounts **watching her grandmother boil clothes to get them clean.**

**Her childhood experience was unstable.** With a revolving series of caregivers, passed from her grandmother, to her mother, then her father, and back again, Oprah could scarcely have had a worse childhood.

Aside from the poverty and instability, Oprah also had to overcome a slew of emotional issues. Her younger sister, who had lighter skin, was her mother's favourite. To make matters worse, **Oprah was sexually molested at the age of nine.** This incident signalled the beginning of a pattern which would continue at least until her early teens when she gave birth to a premature baby – who died after only two weeks.

In spite of her tragic childhood we are also aware of her larger-than-life success. So the question is: **With such clear disadvantages, how did she rise up to such prominence and success?**



**GOLDEN GLOBES  
AWARD**

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