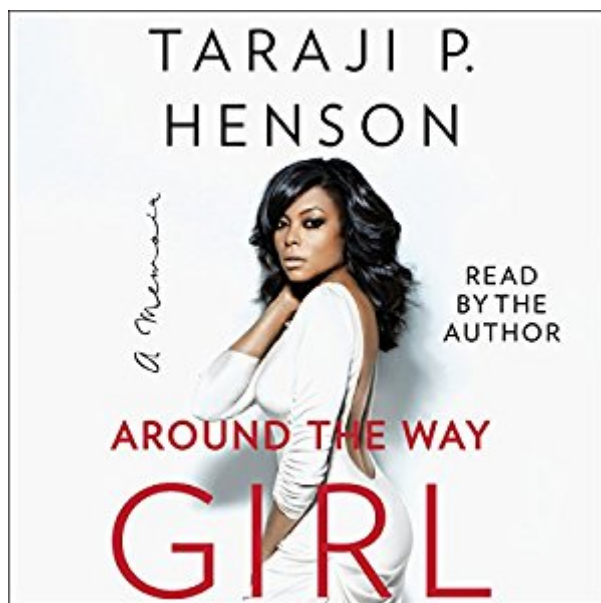


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# Around The Way Girl: A Memoir



## Synopsis

Academy Award nominee and Golden Globe winner Taraji P. Henson reads her inspiring and funny book about family, friends, the hustle required to make it from DC to Hollywood, and the joy of living in your own truth. With a sensibility that recalls her beloved screen characters, including Yvette, Queenie, Shug, and the iconic Cookie from *Empire*, yet is all Taraji, the screen actress writes of her families - the one she was born into and the one she created. She shares stories of her father, a Vietnam vet who was bowed but never broken by life's challenges, and of her mother, who survived violence both in the home and on DC's volatile streets. Here, too, she opens up about her experiences as a single mother, a journey some saw as a burden but she saw as a gift. Around the Way Girl is also a classic actor's memoir in which Taraji reflects on the world-class instruction she received at Howard University and the pitfalls that come with being a black actress. With laugh-out-loud humor and candor, she shares the challenges and disappointments of the actor's journey and shows us that behind the red carpet moments, she is ever authentic. She is at heart just a girl in pursuit of her dreams.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Five stars. It's not your typical autobiography, where the narrated details every significant milestone in their life, from birth until present day. One of the first things I thought when I started the book was, "wow, she is really spending a lot of time talking about her childhood." But as I got further into the book, I realized she was really taking her time to make the reader understand the significance of the

events she was describing, how it made an impact in her life and the people around her. I loved how she described her experiences playing Cookie, Queenie, or Yvette, she talked about how she really put her all into the parts. It made me look at the roles she played in the movies differently, movies I have seen many times already. I added them all to my Netflix queue to re-watch them with a more critical eye. This book is a great read, I highly recommend it!

A really good read, easy flow, and great story telling. If you are or are not a Taraji P. Henson fan, you'll still enjoy this book. You'll gather more about her as a person, and her rise to what we seen on the TV screens. She had humble beginnings and being a DC native myself I can appreciate all the more, what she endured to make it. She's a hard working woman!

Some people have crosses to bear, just to be a testimony to others. This woman is that. Love it !

Loved the book!! I could hear you telling the story to me!! Only thing I can't see the pics on electronic version of the book which I was really looking forward to...please let me know if this is a common issue!!

I have long admired Taraji's work and after reading her book, I have gained a higher level of appreciation. The pages came alive listening to her voice, tell her story and feeling her emotions. This is beyond a memoir, this is her legacy. I would recommend this book to anyone who as a dream. Thank you Ms. Henson

Taraji has written and most fascinating and heartwarming story of her life. I have always enjoyed her work but will now have a new respect and admiration of her as a thoughtful. sensitive human being. I love her honesty coupled with feistiness as she interacts with not only those in the industry but with family and friends. There is not a trace of phony devious attempts to further her own agenda while she remains true to herself. I enjoyed reading about her thoughts and feelings regarding her various roles. As she said she becomes the character and it is quite evident. I had such a warmly excited and positive feeling about Taraji P. Henson that I began exploring all things Taraji. I have actually ordered her movies so that I will own them and watch whenever the mood strikes me. I also was motivated to find out the source of where her name came from. Taraji means hope and Penda (her middle name) means love. I may have switched them but if you do a diligent web search you can check for yourself. My movies are due to arrive tomorrow and I will jump write in watching. As an

aside, I like the way she revealed her commitment to a healthy diet and regular exercise which should be a motivating goal for us all, particularly Black women who want to live a long time and be healthy doing it.

Taraji has not gone from rags to riches, but from being a loved little girl to a determined young woman to a Hollywood star. Reading this book makes you feel like you are having a conversation with her one on one. There are no twists or turns, no startling revelations, and no surprises. There are some predictable parts of the story. It's a story about a good girl done well. I salute Taraji for having made it in Hollywood, and apparently raising a good young man on her own.

A good, close up, look at Ms. Henson's childhood, family and unstoppable desire to become a star. The flow of the story telling was much to disjointed. The constant back and forth of time periods caused me to lose interest. There is a lot of repeating herself.... how many times is it necessary to inform the reader that Ms. Henson is a fan of Carol Burnett, Lucille Ball and Goldie Hawn? I got it! I am too...but dang, not necessary to say it over and over again. Some passages simply felt like page fillers. Nonetheless, I give the book three stars. I do admire her grit! Personally, I think her best performance to date is Hidden Figures, amazing that she doesn't think so. I hope this book is a best seller for her and I did enjoy the photo selections, they were well chosen and captured her story.

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