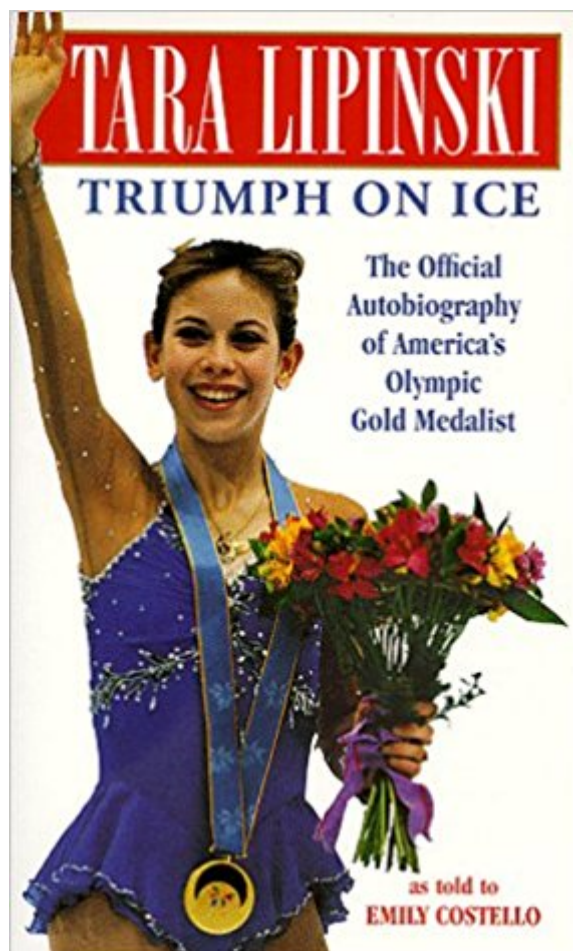


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# Tara Lipinski: Triumph On Ice



## Synopsis

The world title...the U.S. national title...the Olympic Gold Medal...Tara Lipinski took the skating world by storm when she captured the gold at both prestigious championships at age 14. Now Tara reigns as today's youngest and most spectacular figure skating champion. Her dazzling triple loop-triple loop combination--the first ever performed by a woman or a man in competition--has become her trademark jump. And Tara's artistry and exuberance always shine through. At every performance, the crowd goes wild! Overnight, Tara Lipinski has become the adored star of figure skating. In her autobiography, *Triumph On Ice*, Tara talks about her love of skating; the hours of practice, her friend Todd Eldredge and their coach Richard Callaghan; her family; and her many accomplishments outside the skating world. Tara Lipinski's enormous talent and golden triumphs have propelled her to figure skating's premier spot. As the song she uses in her favorite exhibition routine says, she's "walking on sunshine."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 4-8? This autobiography doesn't reveal deep, dark secrets but does convey the very real horrors of a killing six-day schedule (rising early in the morning to wedge in practice time before school) and the geographic logistics demanding difficult family decisions (she and her mother moved to Detroit for her training, while her father remained in Texas). Mention is made of non-skating friends, as well as a few famous acquaintances (gymnast Dominique Moceanu and television actress Lacey Chabert). Readers will most remember the constant daily grind, the

ever-looming competitions, and the non-skating realities of preparation?costuming, choreography, hair, makeup, and music. Fans will enjoy Lipinski's list of "My Favorites Things" and the radiant, full-color photos. A helpful guide to scoring and a glossary of skating terms is included.?Marilyn Payne Phillips, University City Public Library, MOCopyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 4<sup>-6</sup>. Fifteen-year-old ice skater Tara Lipinski recounts her life story from her early years in Sewall, New Jersey, where she began roller-skating at the age of three, through her 1997 triumphs as both U.S. and world women's figure skating champion. She describes the long hours of practice and private tutoring sessions that fill her days, and though she spends much of her time training away from home, she seems upbeat about her life, almost unaware that she might be missing out on anything else. So far, Lipinski appears immune to adversity (whether financial, mental, or physical), and she emerges as a hardworking, positive young woman likely to inspire others to follow in her footsteps. For a look at the life of another young figure skating champion, see James' Michelle Kwan: Heart of a Champion. Kay Weisman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Although this book is aimed at the 9-12 age group, it is actually written for Tara's younger fans with its large print, double spacing and limited vocabulary. Like most children's books, it is bright, cheery, and very positive. It makes for a great "read aloud" book especially for parents with all those exclamation points. It seems many reviewers feel the book is too fluffy or childish, but after all, it is marketed as a children's book, not something for readers over 12 years of age. It reads more like a fan magazine, and if you're looking for a book with more detail and depth on Ms. Lipinski, read Christine Brennan's somewhat biased account of Tara in "Edge of Glory", also available at .com. (Note: Brennan is not a Tara fan.) My only gripe with "Triumph on Ice" was the writing style. In an effort to capture Tara's youthful enthusiasm and her confident attitude, co-writer Emily Costello overdoes it and Tara comes off sounding rather conceited and full of herself. Given Tara's busy schedule during the time this book was published, I doubt that she even penned a single word. It sounds more like Emily Costello wrote this book based on taped phone interviews with Tara. As one reviewer said, hopefully Ms. Lipinski will rewrite this book. Personally, I would like to see Ms. Lipinski actually write a more detailed and in-depth autobiography after she has matured and has experienced more of what life has to offer.

This book is nothing but shallow fluff. While Michelle Kwan's book had considerable more depth and insight, Tara Lipinski's (ghostwritten?) autobiography is bland and superficial. She writes like a six-year-old and has a very limited vocabulary. As a teenager, I found the book so simple it was as if it was degrading my reading skills. But what can we expect from Tara besides bubbly, childish shallowness, and an attempt to be cute? Her Barbie commercial, huge grin, and ditsy, air-headed, and almost embarrassingly perky attitude are total turn-offs. At her age, she shouldn't be striving to be \*cute\*. Her only talent seems to be technicality in ice-skating and not much else. This book is a total waste of time and money. It will only be enjoyed by those just as simple-minded and superficial as Tara. For a more fulfilling and inspirational read, pick up Michelle Kwan's autobiography. It radiates the same maturity, grace, and depth that Kwan possesses on ice. Forget Tara. My prediction is that as time passes, Tara will fade and be replaced, while the truly talented, intelligent, and deep (both on and off ice) will remain memorable. Tara's book certainly supports my prediction.

Large print, pictures, small vocabulary, Even though it's written by a 14 year old, but still should be much better than this. This book has showed me what's the real Tara Lipinski behind the fame. Here're some quotes directly from the book: "The audience applauded as I finished my program. I felt like applauding too! After my terrible short program the year before at the Worlds, I ended up taking first. Michelle also skated well. But she stumbleddd comping out of the triple lutz in her combination. She came in fourth. Irina Slutskaya was sixth." What's the point of telling how the Michelle messed up? and Irina? "No, it seemed as if the crowd was reacting to Michelle's scores, which had just come up. I looked at them too. They weren't great, and I was a little confused. (Later I found out that Michelle had fallen three times during her program. She'd had a bad day.)" Ok maybe you want to tell us how Michelle didn't skated well, maybe how she fell... but we don't need to know how many times she fell! And adding "She'd had a bad day." at the end? We know you just want to say she sucks. Tara keeps telling who came in after her at the competitions she won. I've never been a big fan of Tara Lipinski, and after reading this book, I will never be.

Tara Lipinski's autobiography is about her life and how she became a star. She was born on June 10, 1982. She became a champion when she started taking roller blading lessons. Then a friend came to talk to her mom, about trying ice skating. When Tara tried ice skating, she loved it. But then her dad got a new job in Texas, so they had to move. But her mom and Tara moved back to Delaware. Soon Tara got a new ice-skating coach, Richard Callaghan. Her mom and Tara had to move again to Michigan. In 1996 Nicole Bobek, an ice skater, drop out of the USA Figure

Championships because of an injury. Tara won 3rd at the championship. Soon after Tara became the first skater to land the triple loop- triple loop combination. In 1997 at the age of 14, she became the youngest figure to win the World Championships. Tara Lipinski taught me that if you do not give up on your dreams, they will come true.

I have always despised Tara Lipinski and her attitude-problem, but this pathetic excuse for a book shames both her and the sport of ice-skating, not to mention writing itself. Who in the world told this girl that she could write? Her vocabulary is far less advanced than my newborn cousin's, and her "I am the best, everyone else sucks" attitude isn't cool or cute or funny; it's pathetic and obnoxious. I was thankful that she turned pro, so I wouldn't have to hear her shrieking at the next winter Olympics, but I cannot escape from her. I read the book to see if I was possibly under-estimating her intelligence; to my shock, I found I had over-estimated it. This book is as spacey as Tara herself, though what else could be expected? As a 14 year old writer, I know that it is difficult to write in a believable way: why were editors invented? I also know that even I can write better, more interesting material than this. So why haven't \*I\* been published??? Tara doesn't deserve to have this pathetic book in print. END

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