

# Books

# The Pioneer Woman

by Ree Drummond | ★★★

#### REVIEWED BY ROBIN MICHELI



Fans of Drummond's blog and cookbook will eat up this breath-

less blow-by-blow chronicle of falling in love with Marlboro Man. a.k.a. her husband, and adapting to life on his ranch. For the uninitiated, though, the gushing over

her M.M. and his Wrangler-clad physique may induce toothache. Luckily, generous dollops of self-deprecating humor contribute a welcome tang.



# A Tiger in the Kitchen

by Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan | ★★★

#### REVIEWED BY BETH PERRY

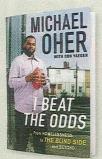


After losing her job as a Manhattan fashion writer. Tan visited

Singapore to master her family's recipes. Her prose is breezy, and her descriptions of duck soup and pineapple tarts entice.

But the meat in this memoir is what Tan learns about her resilient family, whose members come together both to cook and to heal.





# HAVING HIS SAY

After Michael Oher's story became the hit film The Blind Side, his adoptive parents wrote a memoir. Now, in I Beat the Odds. the homeless kid turned NFL player, 24, is finally speaking for himself.

## WHY WRITE A BOOK NOW?

At first I didn't want to—I was almost tired of my story. But I get letters from people saying I've inspired them. I felt it was my time to help.

## WHAT DON'T PEOPLE KNOW **ABOUT YOU?** My message

is that okay, I got taken in by a wealthy family, who I am so grateful for. But before I met

them, I made a choice to say no to violence, drugs, gangs. You don't have to be taken in by a wealthy family to make it.

## DID YOU LIKE THE BLIND

SIDE? It's great. And Sandra Bullock is the nicest lady in the world. She stays in touch with my family. We're all excited to watch her son grow up. -KATE HALLETT



