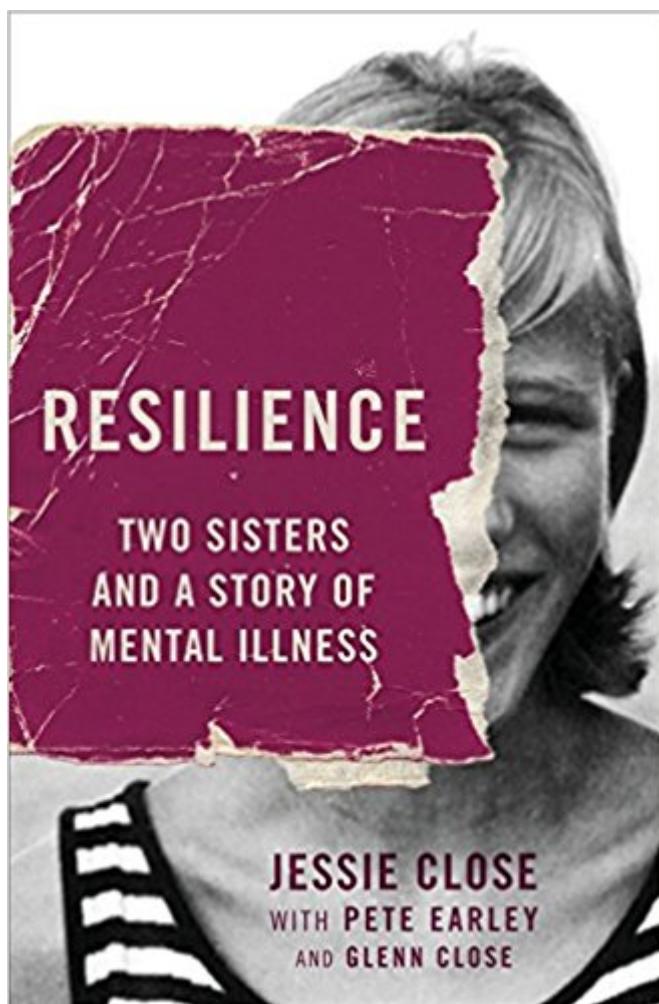


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# Resilience: Two Sisters And A Story Of Mental Illness



## Synopsis

At a young age, Jessie Close struggled with symptoms that would transform into severe bipolar disorder in her early twenties, but she was not properly diagnosed until the age of fifty. Jessie and her three siblings, including actress Glenn Close, spent many years in the Moral Re-Armament cult. Jessie passed her childhood in New York, Switzerland, Connecticut, Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), and finally Los Angeles, where her life quickly became unmanageable. She was just fifteen years old. Jessie's emerging mental illness led her into a life of addictions, five failed marriages, and to the brink of suicide. She fought to raise her children despite her ever worsening mental conditions and under the strain of damaged romantic relationships. Her sister Glenn and certain members of their family tried to be supportive throughout the ups and downs, and Glenn's vignettes in *RESILIENCE* provide an alternate perspective on Jessie's life as it began to spiral out of control. Jessie was devastated to discover that mental illness was passed on to her son Calen, but getting him help at long last helped Jessie to heal as well. Eleven years later, Jessie is a productive member of society and a supportive daughter, mother, sister, and grandmother. In *RESILIENCE*, Jessie dives into the dark and dangerous shadows of mental illness without shying away from its horror and turmoil. With New York Times bestselling author and Pulitzer Prize finalist Pete Earley, she tells of finally discovering the treatment she needs and, with the encouragement of her sister and others, the emotional fortitude to bring herself back from the edge.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"She has lived a life that even at her worst was spellbinding, and it's a definitely-worth-the-read memoir." •USA Today "It's obvious that this is no ordinary memoir...hard to put down...Close is telling her story to the world in hopes of removing the stigma from mental illness. It's a story well worth reading." •BookPage

Jessie Close is an internationally recognized speaker, author, poet and advocate for mental health reform. She authored *The Warping of AI*, and she writes a blog for Bring Change 2 Mind. Jessie has received awards from the National Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health America, as well as the Jed Foundation Award and The McLean Award. She lives in Montana with her Service Dog, Snitz, and three other dogs.

Jessie's is a story that needs to be told. I appreciate the fact that she spares the reader nothing in terms of the details of her highs and lows. She lays her soul bare for readers to both relate to and understand. She is unflinching in her honesty and helps outsiders understand mental illness and its devastating impact. I was very moved. However, take this book with one caveat. I am a mental health provider and Jessie comes from a privileged, wealthy background and has a high profile, wealthy sister. It seems at points in the book when people without resources would truly struggle, Jessie picks up the phone and calls Glenn or her family and they are able to throw money at her problems (buy her a coffee house, pay for her radio station, send her child to private schools, send her child to private mental health facilities, rescue her, bail her out.) Whereas often people with bipolar d/o find themselves in a pickle for walking out on jobs, etc. Jessie always had the financial cushion of her grandmother, sister, parents, etc. This is not a reality for most and makes this tale a little less relatable for the middle class and poor with mental illness. At times, the author comes across as spoiled, however, I believe she owns that.

This book by Glenn Close's sister(Jessie), about her life living with bipolar disease and how her life and her families lives were affected, I found it all very enlightening. Very informative book about how bipolar disease can cause strife in a family, how one of her sons was diagnosed with Schizoaffective Disorder and how that affected him, her family, family situations, etc... Also how they both with the love and help of her family, have come out on top. Very interesting information also about her parents lives, interacting with Glenn, Jessie, and their other two siblings, the cult her parents were involved in. Also how their children(Glenn, her sisters and her brother's)lives were affected growing up in this cult. Just a great book for anyone who has a family member with bipolar

or schizoaffective disorder, etc...to deal with. For anyone who is a fan of Glenn Close. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Once I started reading it on my Kindle, it just kept me coming back for more. You won't be disappointed if you buy this book to read.

There's something lurking in this account that feels off to me. The author details a long list of troubled choices that left a path of destruction in the lives of her children, her husbands, and her family. On the one hand she is saying, "See how bad it was?" But on the other hand it often feels like she's kind of getting off on it. I couldn't help wonder if much of this was written during manic episodes. I also thought the chapters written by Glenn Close were too obviously for the sake of Marketing. Living with mental illness is an unbelievable challenge. Finding the right meds, the right therapies, the right doctors can be a full time job. So as far as bringing awareness and removing stigmas, I applaud the author. But I can't say I'd recommend this book very highly. Marya Hornbacher's book *Madness*, covers similar territory and does it with greater sincerity to my ear.

This powerful, unusual, and exceptionally well-written memoir takes the reader from the author's childhood in the care of *Annies* of a cult dedicated to *morally re-arming* the world after World War II and an assortment of family members whose names are synonymous with great wealth. That experience leads to her head-first dive into the sixties and the drug culture that was part and parcel of her life, to increasingly erratic behavior and five failed marriages as the symptoms of her mental illness become more evident. But the heart and soul of her life story is her determination to help her son, who is diagnosed with mental illness prior to her being diagnosed, and her resistance to the overwhelming compulsion to commit suicide, and, in doing so, abandon her three children. Her story is a testament to resilience and the courage to change. An added bonus are the vignettes written by her sister, Glenn Close. Without her emotional and financial support, Jessie might not have lived to tell her story.

I found this book honest and so interesting. Anyone who has lived and experienced life's difficulties will find this book interesting to say the least. Anyone who has struggled with mental issues or has had loved ones who have struggled with them will not only find this book interesting but will find answers they didn't even know they were looking for. It is insightful, honest, brutal, loving and a testimony to continuing to fight when all seems lost. I applaud Jesse Close for her bravery to live her life and to tell about it. She paints her sister Glenn as quite a loving angel and sister and you get the sense that she is not just giving lip service to her. Anyone who has ever struggled in their life would

wish they had a sister as loving and supportive as "Glennie". Read this book if you like honesty and insight into difficulty, strength, mental illness and love

I have been reading a number of these memoirs and think it is such a good thing that publishers have recognized the importance of these writers sharing their experiences. This was a fascinating and harrowing story of the life and struggles of one person with mental illness and how she has been able to work with her celebrity sister, Glenn Close, to try to help others who struggle themselves or have family members who do.

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