

"Comedian Brian Copeland once got a letter accusing him of not being a genuine black man, and his memoir would seem to support this. He doesn't play basketball. He quotes James Garner from MAVERICK. He listens to Rick Springfield. But the book does more than list his tastes; with humor and pathos it traces a life spent dodging racial epithets from blacks and whites (he's been called Oreo as often as the n-word) and achieving what he sees as the true African American attribute: resilience. A native of the once all-white San Leandro, Calif., he concludes that "no one person or group...holds the monopoly on what in this society is the 'true' black experience." He has demonstrated as much in this affecting book."

-Josh Emmons  
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