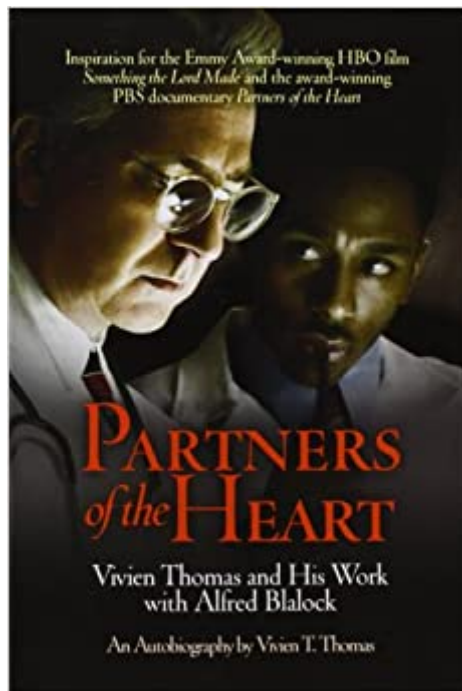


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# Partners Of The Heart: Vivien Thomas And His Work With Alfred Blalock: An Autobiography



## Synopsis

Visitors to the Blalock Building at the Johns Hopkins University Medical Center are greeted by portraits of two great men. One, of renowned heart surgeon Alfred Blalock, speaks for itself. The other, of highschool graduate Vivien Thomas, is testimony to the incredible genius and determination of the first black man to hold a professional position at one of America's premier medical institutions. Thomas's dreams of attending medical school were dashed when the Depression hit. After spending some time as a carpenter's apprentice, Thomas took what he expected to be a temporary job as a technician in Blalock's lab. The two men soon became partners and together invented the field of cardiac surgery. *Partners of the Heart* is Thomas's extraordinary autobiography. Trained in laboratory techniques by Alfred Blalock and Joseph W. Beard, Thomas remained Blalock's principal technician and laboratory chief for the rest of Blalock's distinguished career. Thomas very rapidly learned to perform surgery, to do chemical determinations, and to carry out physiologic studies. He became a phenomenal technician and was able to carry out complicated experimental cardiac operations totally unassisted and to devise new ones. In addition to telling Thomas's life story, *Partners of the Heart* traces the beginnings of modern cardiac surgery, crucial investigations into the nature of shock, and Blalock's methods of training surgeons.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The fascinating tale of an extraordinary black man's involvement, growth, and final recognition in a white man's world of surgical research and medical practice. . . . At the same time, an insightful

firsthand account of the genesis of some of the pioneering research into the nature of shock and some of the early procedures in cardiovascular surgery." —Journal of the History of Medicine

Vivien T. Thomas, a high school graduate, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Johns Hopkins University and was made a member of the medical school faculty in recognition of his contributions to the practice of cardiovascular surgery and to the education of young surgeons. *Partners of the Heart* is the autobiography of this extraordinary man who struggled against overwhelming odds and achieved international recognition.

This is such an amazing story about a brilliant man, Dr. Vivien Thomas. It is amazing what Dr. Thomas accomplished without any formal training beyond high school. The field of cardiac research/surgery would not have been the same without him. When I found out my county library did not have this book I purchased it from so I could donate it to the library. This book should be available to anyone who wants to read about Dr. Vivien Thomas and his enormous contribution to the field of medicine!

Being from Baltimore, I like reading historic books about Baltimore.

well written

A gift for my aunt who is a nurse along with the matching movie. The book was in perfect condition. Still had a few notes & highlights inside but she appreciated it. Worth it especially for the price.

Amazing true story. They made medical history and with a colleague who had no former medical training just what God gave him.

This is written by Vivien T. Thomas himself, has more detail and differs somewhat from the documentary and the HBO movie "Something the Lord Made". The descriptions of experiments and medical procedures can get quite technical, but can be skimmed over. Overall a good read - buy or borrow if you can...

I ordered this book after I watched the movie. Like the movie I really enjoyed the book because it gives a lot of detail on the life of Dr. Vivien Thomas and how he came to work with Dr. Blalock.

I had the pleasure of graduating from Vivien's high school. He was the brother-in-law of one of my favorite teachers so I had to include this book in my library.

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