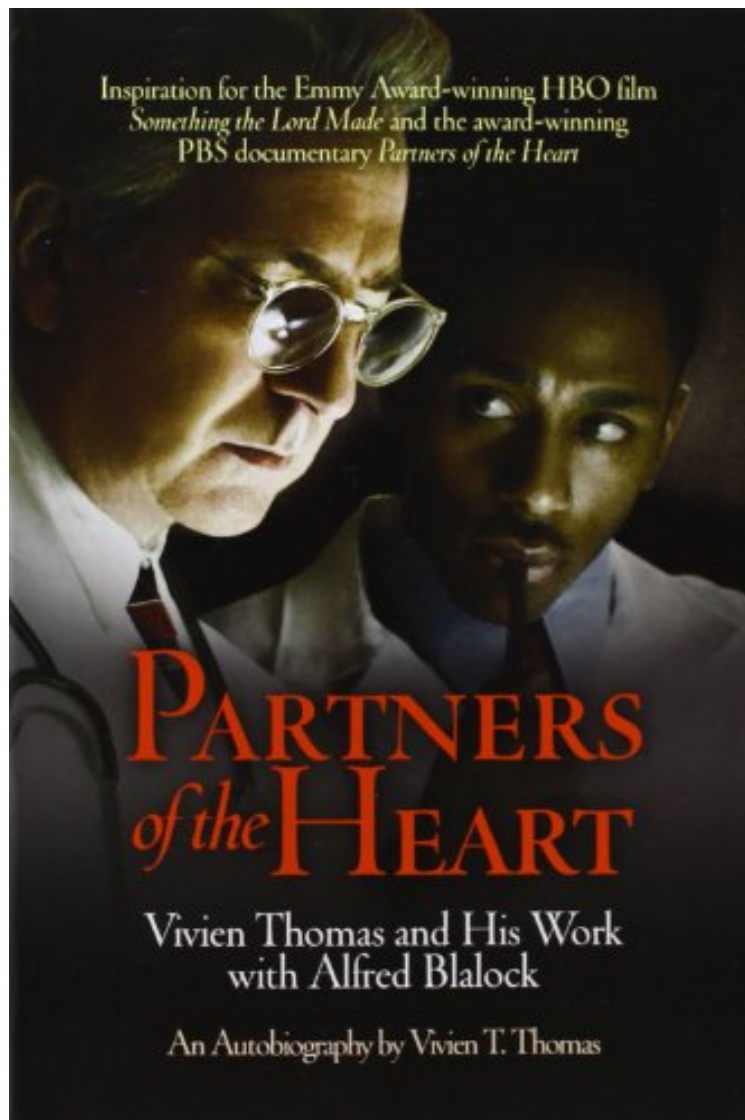


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## Partners of the Heart: Vivien Thomas and His Work with Alfred Blalock: An Autobiography

Vivien T. Thomas

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**Vivien T. Thomas : Partners of the Heart: Vivien Thomas and His Work with Alfred Blalock: An Autobiography** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Partners of the Heart: Vivien Thomas and His Work with Alfred Blalock: An Autobiography:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A must read!By country girlThis 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!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I like reading historic books about BaltimoreBy MDMomBeing from Baltimore, I like reading historic books about Baltimore.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy craig finlaysonwell written

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.

"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 MedicineAbout the AuthorVivien 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.