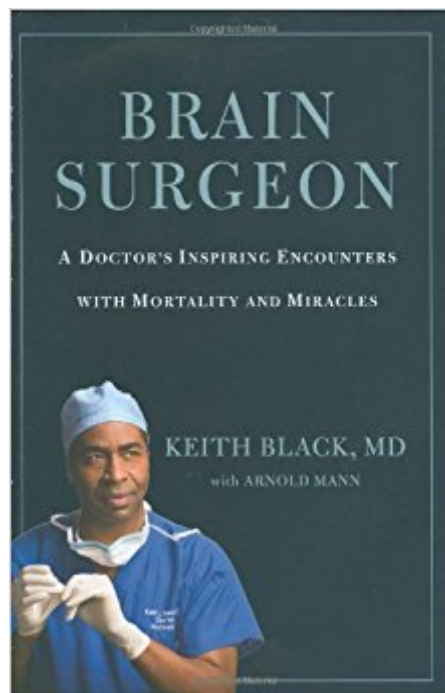




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Brain Surgeon: A Doctor's Inspiring Encounters With Mortality And Miracles



Synopsis

Welcome to tiger country: the treacherous territory where a single wrong move by a brain surgeon can devastate-or end-a patient's life. This is the terrain world-renowned neurosurgeon Keith Black, MD, enters every day to produce virtual medical miracles. Now, in **BRAIN SURGEON**, Dr. Black invites readers to shadow his breathtaking journeys into the brain as he battles some of the deadliest and most feared tumors known to medical science. Along the way, he shares his unique insights about the inner workings of the brain, his unwavering optimism for the future of medicine, and the extraordinary stories of his patients-from ministers and rock stars to wealthy entrepreneurs and uninsured students-whom he celebrates as the real heroes. **BRAIN SURGEON** offers a window into one man's remarkable mind, revealing the anatomy of the unflinching confidence of this master surgeon, whose personal journey brought him from life as a young African-American boy growing up in the civil rights era South to the elite world of neurosurgery. Through Dr. Black's white-knuckle descriptions of some of the most astonishing medical procedures performed today, he reveals the beauty and marvel of the human brain and the strength and heroism of his patients who refuse to see themselves as victims. Ultimately, **BRAIN SURGEON** is an inspiring story of the struggle to overcome odds-whether as a man, a doctor, or a patient."

"**BRAIN SURGEON** is an inspirational book about true heroes-readers will marvel at Keith Black's achievements both as a doctor and as a man, and will be in awe of his patients' courage and will to survive." --Denzel Washington I often get asked who the best doctor is in the world for various ailments. Truth is, it's a hard question. When it comes to brain tumors, however, the answer is pretty clear: Keith Black. He is the doctor people find when all the other doctors have given up. He is that guy. This book is about the heroic patients he has already helped and saved. If you want a rare, behind-the-curtain look at the life of one of the most pre-eminent neurosurgeons in the world, pick up *Brain Surgeon*. And Keith, from one brain surgeon to another: thank you for honoring our profession. Well done. --Sanjay Gupta, MD, Chief Medical Correspondent, CNN and New York Times bestselling author of *Chasing Life*

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Customer Reviews

Black, chair of the department of neurosurgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, reflects on his extraordinary life and career. As an African-American growing up in Alabama and Ohio, Black benefited from the emphasis his scholarly parents put on learning: I was brought up to believe there was nothing that I could not do, and he published his first scientific paper at age 17 and went on to pioneer blood-brain barrier research to enable chemotherapy drugs to reach brain tumors directly. Introducing the reader to his colleagues and patients, Black tours the interior of the brain with detailed accounts of delicate surgical procedures: Under the microscope I could see the delicate latticework of blood vessels covering the brainstem, all of which absolutely had to be preserved. Documenting the risks and rewards of the procedures he performs, he also examines racial hurdles he had to leap to become a neurosurgeon. Black is equally skilled as an author, alternating incisive writing about incisions with his personal memoir, insightful and inspirational. (Mar. 25) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Black, chair of the neurosurgery department of Los Angeles's prestigious Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, didn't get where he is by having influential connections or being born to wealth and privilege. Well . . . not privilege in the traditional sense. But he does indeed feel privileged to have had parents who ignored the social barriers facing African Americans in the deep South in the 1960s and motivated both their sons to excel beyond external expectations. That's why, when he faced a bigoted department head at the University of Michigan Medical School, who would deny him entrance to the neurosurgery department, Black was prepared to overcome those biases by means of superior knowledge and performance. He went on to achieve a stellar career in research and neurosurgery, first at UCLA and then at Cedars-Sinai. His story, coupled with harrowing accounts of a handful of his patients, is clearly written, inspirational, and a superb fit for the times in which we live. --Donna Chavez

Enjoyed learning about his upbringing and his patient's surgeries. He suggested that dental x-rays and cell phones may cause brain tumors. If you enjoyed this book you will enjoy Dr. Ben Carson's memoir. You may want to read your books on airplane mode-less radiation.

I really enjoyed this book. It was an intelligent and insight description of what it takes to be not only an excellent brain surgeon but one that had faith in his skills and the strength that is needed to be one of his patients. He not only relied on his skills to perform these difficult surgeries, but wouldn't unless you both were on the same page that you will have a good outcome from the surgery. It was more of a partnership. He never lied about the risk and the patients always knew that he would do the best to get the best results for you. Wonderful to be such a gifted surgeon.

This is a fascinating read particularly about the themes and the details of surgical removal of brain tumors. It is also an inspiring and eloquent read. Dr Black is an extraordinary healer and the book makes this crystal clear. Thank you Dr Black for giving more people the opportunity to understand the beautiful and inspiring nature of your story.

As the grandmother of a gbm who's a Sr in college, I absorbed every word. I also think people should use earphones on their cell phones. I recommend this book to everybody. Stem cells. Surgery. Chemo. Maybe vaccine in near future!!! Exciting stuff

This book is a real page turner and everything positive that the other reviewer's already wrote is true. Dr. Black is at the top of his field and has every right to mention that, because it's one of the reasons he's qualified to write this book. This book is not just about him. Teamwork is one of the main themes of this book. He often gives credit to his team of doctors, writing about them by name, and detailing their contributions to some successful operations. He explains the beauty of the human brain and explains more than a few medical terms regarding the brain. He takes us inside the world of brain surgery, detailing the experience, enabling us to visualize what's done. This book can be very helpful for anyone who may have, or knows someone who may have a brain tumor. He reveals a fascinating gift that enables him to look into and work closely with the human brain, God's art, in the process helping people get some relief from a terrible disease. I don't have a brain tumor, and I'm not even aspiring to be a brain surgeon, but the book inspires me to tackle life's problems, small to great, with a renewed zeal.

An interesting peek behind the curtain in the world of neurosurgery. Part memoir, part case studies. I enjoyed most learning about the different types of cancers. I struggled to identify with the author, who is clearly massively talented, but comes across as someone perfectly talented, immensely compassionate, very hard working - in essence, not particularly human or relatable. I would have liked more about his experiences as an African American breaking into neurosurgery, although the one chapter provided was very interesting. I preferred "Black Man in a White Coat", by Damon Tweedy.

Dr. Black is honest, informative, straight forward and compassionate. This book is graphic in places, which I appreciate and found not only educational but brings the reader to more fully appreciate our wonderful brain! From the beginning of the book, the reader easily can see, that Dr. Black is passionate about neurosurgery and the brain. It is part of him not separate. This is what makes him great. He honors and respects his patients and although he is very much aware of their medical "diagnosis" and the statistics of prognosis, he also is aware that statistics are just that..statistics. Individuals are unique and each person's healing goes beyond numbers. This book is inspiring and for me not so much about miracles but what is possibilities for everyone when we look beyond limitations.

A very readable book and informative to the highest degree. Well worth anyone reading it.

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