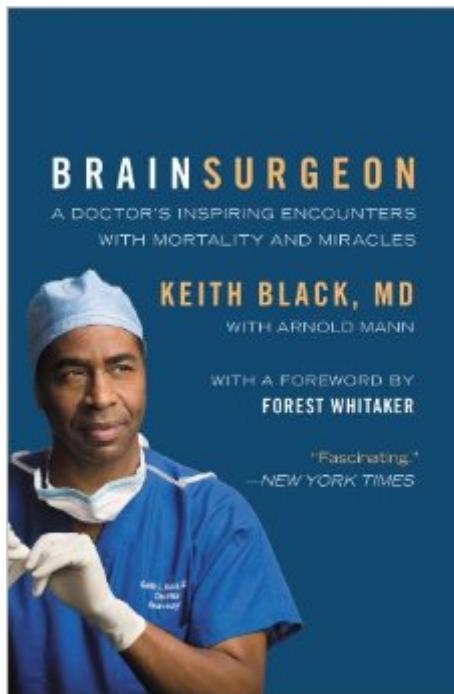


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Brain Surgeon: A Doctor's Inspiring Encounters With Mortality And Miracles



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*

Book Information

File Size: 662 KB

Print Length: 231 pages

Publisher: Grand Central Life & Style; 1 edition (March 5, 2009)

Publication Date: March 25, 2009

Language: English

ASIN: B001UL3ACS

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #103,654 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #16

in Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Surgery > Neurosurgery #69 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Medical eBooks > Internal Medicine > Neurology > Neuroscience #100 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Medical

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BRAIN SURGEON A Doctor's Inspiring Encounters with Mortality and Miracles
Keith Black, MD with Arnold Mann
Wellness Central
Hachette Book Group
ISBN: 978-0-446-58109-7
\$24.99
Reviewer: Annie Slessman
Not being in the medical field, I expected **BRAIN SURGEON**, A Doctor's Inspiring Encounters with Mortality and Miracles by Keith Black, MD with Arnold Mann to be a hard, dry read. I could not have been more wrong! Dr. Black and Arnold Mann have managed to take a subject matter - brain surgery - from the mysterious to something easily understood by everyone. Dr. Black uses a series of stories about his patients and their courage and surprising stamina to relate his experiences and inform the reader about the mysteries of the brain. Each story explains the many types of brain cancer and the degree of difficulty that each occurrence requires in its treatment. For instance, my own daughter was recently diagnosed with a tumor in her liver. We were told the tumor was not cancerous. She had only taken a MRI - how can they tell the tumor is not cancerous by an image test? Well, I got my answer when Dr. Black explained that a tumor which is cancerous absorbs more of the dye making it more prominent in the MRI. Thank you, Dr. Black, I found your book and its ability to explain things in simple terms very comforting. Dr. Black, early in his career leans toward cardiology. When he took his first neuro-anatomy class, he was hooked. As he states, "the bottom line is that the heart is just a muscle, a pump, to be sure, it's a very elegant muscle and a great pump, but it's still a pump. The brain, on the other hand, is the ultimate reduction of self."

I read this book as a person who's needing to select a brain surgeon for a rare type of meningioma. Not only was Dr Black's personal story about how he came to be a neuro-surgeon fascinating, but it was the best source of education I've seen for a patient. I've gained enough of an understanding about how brain surgery is done, to now ask specific questions of potential surgeons that are critical

to my recovery. Dr Black's personal philosophy about how magnificent the brain is directly correlates with his surgical techniques to do everything possible to not touch any healthy brain tissue. He states his job is "to be a thief in the night, by getting in there to steal the tumor before the brain knows he's even been there". His compassion and humility are profoundly represented in the stories he shares about his patients. He repeatedly states that "his patients are the real heroes not the neurosurgeons". It restores my hope to learn of a doctor who continually asks himself, "is this in the best interest of the patient". I was also interested in how he explained that the reward system for traditional medical research doesn't always lend itself to a direct usefulness for clinical practice. The research practice he's set-up is looking for direct "bench to bedside" impact, and that is how we'll see advancement to cure brain cancer. I was shocked to realize that out of the 5000 licensed neuro-surgeons in the US, 4900 of them are dedicated to spinal surgery and of the remaining 100, 50 of those are vascular surgeons. That leaves about 50 docs who are completely focused on brain tumors. Statistics don't lie about the best surgical outcomes for ANY type of surgery is related to how often a surgeon does a specific surgery.

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