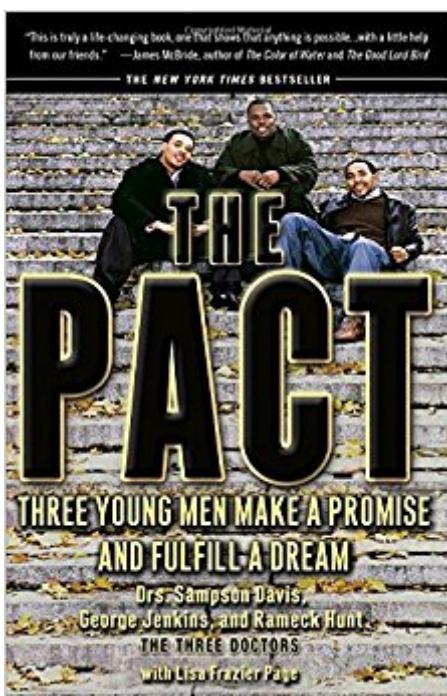


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The Pact: Three Young Men Make A Promise And Fulfill A Dream



Synopsis

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A remarkable story about the power of friendship. Chosen by Essence to be among the forty most influential African Americans, the three doctors grew up in the streets of Newark, facing city life's temptations, pitfalls, even jail. But one day these three young men made a pact. They promised each other they would all become doctors, and stick it out together through the long, difficult journey to attaining that dream. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt are not only friends to this day—they are all doctors. This is a story about joining forces and beating the odds. A story about changing your life, and the lives of those you love most... together.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As teenagers from a rough part of Newark, New Jersey, Sampson Davis, Rameck Hunt, and George Jenkins had nothing special going for them except loving mothers (one of whom was a drug user) and above-average intelligence. Their first stroke of luck was testing into University High, one of Newark's three magnet high schools, and their second was finding each other. They were busy staying out of trouble (most of the time), and discovering the usual ways to skip class and do as little schoolwork as possible, when a recruitment presentation on Seton Hall University reignited George's childhood dream of becoming a dentist. The college was offering a tempting assistance package for minorities in its Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Plus Program. George convinced his two friends to go to college with him. They would help each other through. None of them would be

allowed to drop out and be reabsorbed by the Newark streets. Although this inspiring and easy-to-read book would be enjoyed by any teenager or educator, it seems perfect for minority youth, especially young men of junior high and high school age, who may lack more immediate role models. If the ordinary boys who made this pact could survive college and medical school by sticking together, then so can others. --Regina Marler --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Jenkins, Davis and Hunt grew up in and around the projects of Newark, N.J., a place decimated by crack. "The sounds of gunshots and screeching cars late at night and before dawn were as familiar to us as the chirping of insects must be to people who live in the country." The three attended high school together in the mid-'80s and made a pact to attend medical school together. "We didn't lock hands in some kind of empty, symbolic gesture... We just took one another at his word and headed back to class, without even a hint of how much our lives were about to change." Against incredible odds the almost complete absence of male role models, a history of substance abuse in two of the families, and even incarcerations the trio made good on their word and now practice medicine. Told in alternating first-person chapters, the story of these young men's struggle has remarkable clarity and insight. In extremely accessible prose, the authors articulate the problems they faced: "On the streets where I grew up, you didn't worry about consequences. If someone disrespected you, you beat his ass. Period," says Hunt; while Jenkins recalls, "Sometimes it felt surreal, walking past the drunks, dealers, and addicts on my way home from dental school with a pile of books." Although it is a memoir (which, by nature, is often self-serving), this book's agenda is far from hidden and its urgency is undeniable: through their pact, Davis, Jenkins and Hunt achieved success, and if they did it, others can, too. Agent, Joann Davis. (May 13) Forecast: Books about male friendship are rare. This fills the void nicely, and should be a strong seller, especially among African-American readers. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I never really understood the true pain and struggles of becoming a doctor until I read *The Pact*, which was written by Drs. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt. For me, I only realized how hard it would be to become a doctor because of the exams I would have to take if I ever plan on attending medical school. However, for Davis, Jenkins, and Hunt, they persevered through and accomplished a difficult. Their determination and belief in one another made them who they are today. When George was 11, making a quick trip to the dentist office to fix his crooked

teeth, he didn't know what was going to happen. From the dentist tools to the names and numbers of teeth, he became more excited and curious about the dentistry world. When George said, "I don't remember the dentist's name, but I never forgot what he did for me. He gave me a dream. And there was no greater gift for a smart kid growing up in a place where dreams were snatched away all the time" (Davis, et al. 6), it really opened my eyes about how a complete stranger can inspire someone. Inspiration can definitely be found anywhere. These three men are so brave and intellectual for going after their dreams. Carla Dickson, one of the counselors for the pre-medical/dentist program, advised Rameck, "Your future is going to be brighter than bright. You just don't see it now. Because of this program, you're going to be able to make it through college with no problems. I know it's hard, but realize that you have an opportunity to make a difference in your lives" (Davis, et al. 119). This line was one of my favorites because Dickson explains how college is just the beginning of adulthood. Whatever the person does in life, it is their responsibility to make the best of it because whatever happens will affect them and possibly others around them as well. There is not much to dislike about this book except the lovesick portion. I did not really like that part because I felt it was not really necessary to talk about love in a pact between friendship. Because of love, Rameck almost destroyed his pact with Sampson and George. However, it did not. His heart was broken, but his mind was focused for medical school. Overall, this book taught me about how all struggles can be overcome and nobody is alone. Friends, family, teachers, workers, and more can serve as role models. It is always better to work somebody by your side than alone.

This book is about a journey to success. It can serve as inspiration for young people who are growing up in difficult situations (neighborhood, single parent family, inferior schools, lack of monetary resources, etc.). Their stories can also serve as a guide for individuals and communities who want to help the students who are growing up around them. This is a book with a message, a message full of examples that show how even smart young people can get caught up in undesirable situations that endanger their futures by following poor behaviors that are practiced by their neighborhood friends or their own relatives (drugs, gangs, violence, stealing, e.g.). Readers are also shown how they can help change the outcomes for endangered adolescents by patterning some of the behaviors that were utilized to help lift three young men from the perils that exist in disadvantaged homes, neighborhoods and schools. The authors did not hide their mistakes when they told their stories. We CAN change things if we really have a passion to do so. That is one of the valuable lessons to be learned from *The Pact*.

I read this book one day in school and it gave me such a strong real-life perspective on how easily your choices in life can affect who we become. It's not about who you are; it's about what you do.** I sent this book to a friend in Prison who really appreciated the book as well. Without too much detail, the friend took a lot from the book and had a lot of positive words about it as well. This is the kind of book I would recommend for you or anyone in your life who has many difficult life choices to make. I can't stress that enough. Just buy it and tell them to give it a try. In closing; The Pact leaves a strong impression and is well worth the read.

OK, so the format of switching from 3 different's people's first-person essays on topics was a little jarring at first, but I got used to it. This was recommended to me by a young person and I can see why. I like how it shows what "working hard for success" actually means in practical terms.

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