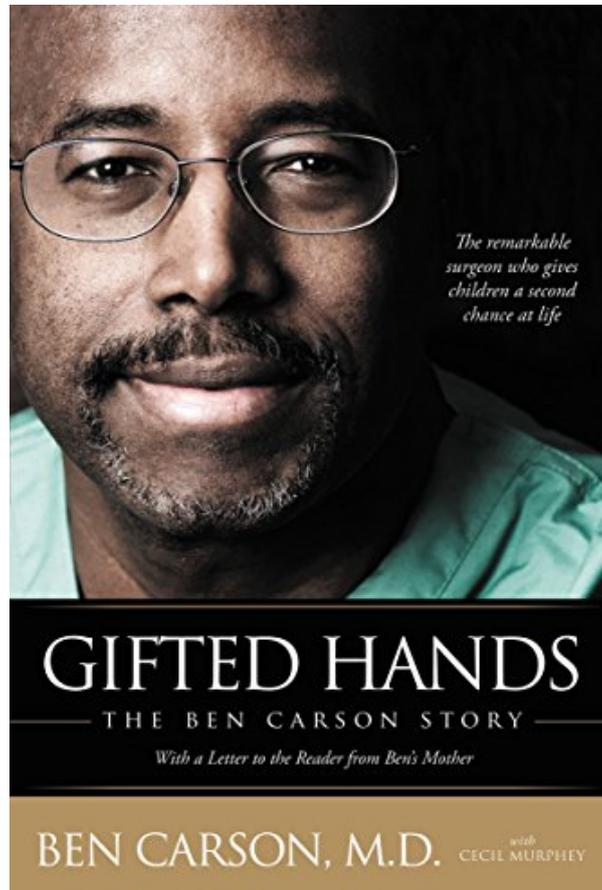
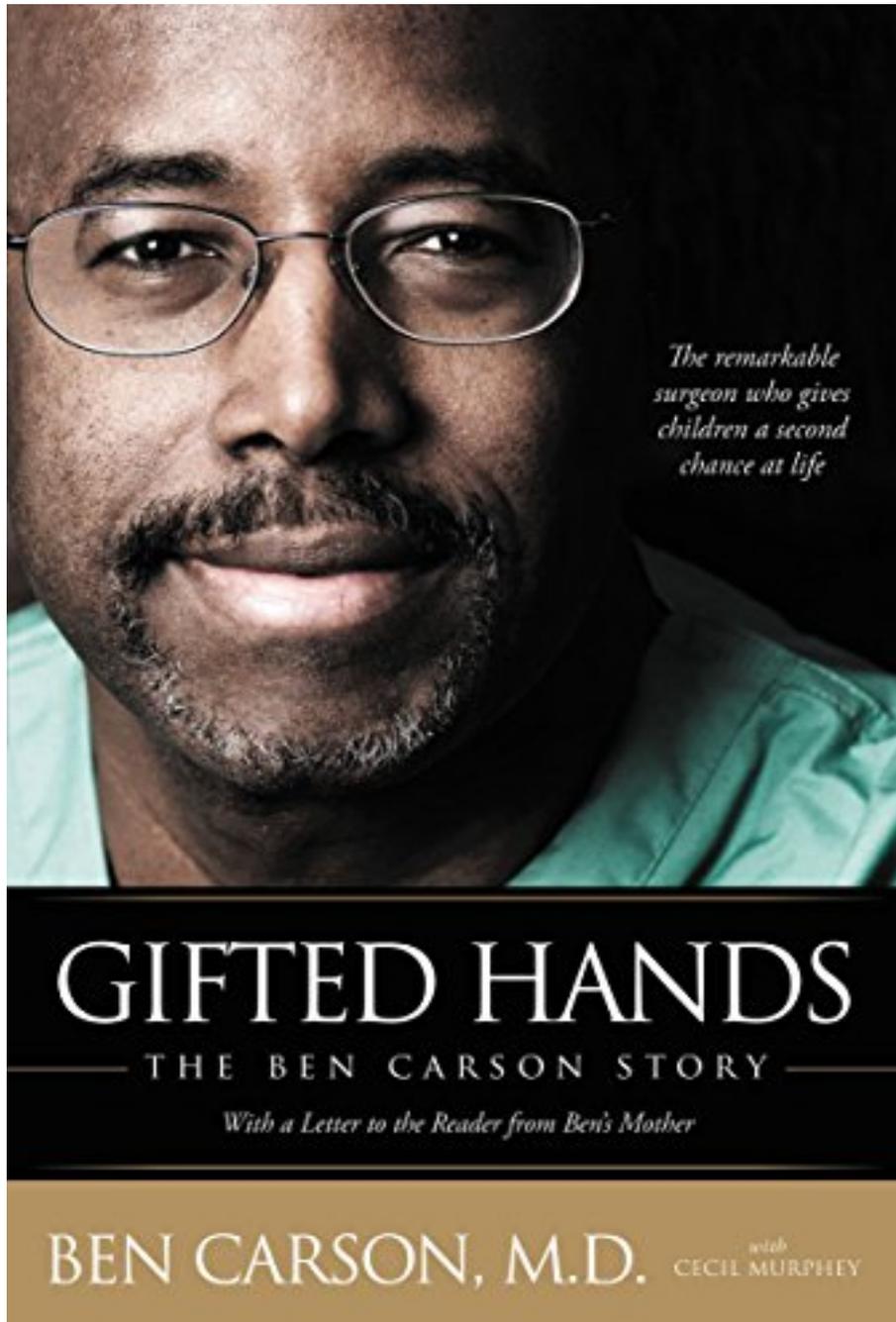


# GIFTED HANDS BY BEN CARSON M.D.



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From School Library Journal

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Trust in God, a relentless belief in his own capabilities, and sheer determination catapulted Ben from failing grades to the top of his class--and beyond to a Yale scholarship . . . the University of Michigan Medical School . . . and finally, at age 33, the directorship of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Today, Dr. Ben Carson holds twenty honorary doctorates and is the possessor of a long string of honors and awards, including the Horatio Alger Award, induction into the "Great Blacks in Wax" Museum in Baltimore, Maryland, and an invitation as Keynote Speaker at the 1997 President's National Prayer Breakfast.

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Gifted Hands by and about Ben Carson, M.D., is the inspiring story of an inner-city kid with poor grades and little motivation, who, at age thirty-three, became director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University Hospital. Gifted Hands will transplace you into the operating room to witness surgeries that made headlines around the world, and into the private mind of a compassionate, God-fearing physician who lives to help others. In 1987, Dr. Carson gained worldwide recognition for his part in the first successful separation of Siamese twins joined at the back of the head -- an extremely complex and delicate operation that was five months of planning and twenty-two hours of actual surgery, involving a surgical plan that Carson helped initiate. Gifted Hands reveals a man with humility, decency, compassion, courage, and sensitivity who serves as a role model for young people (and everyone else) in need of encouragement to attempt the seemingly impossible and to excel in whatever they attempt. Dr. Carson also describes the key role that his highly intelligent though relatively uneducated mother played in his metamorphosis from an unmotivated ghetto youngster into one of the most respected neurosurgeons in the world.

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- Released on: 1992-01-28
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- 240 pages

### Features

- Gifted Hands The Ben Carson Story

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From the Author

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Inspired and Satisfied.

By Woodley Lamousnery

"Gifted Hands" sets the the standards straight, which is that through hard work, determination, and sheer persistence --the American dream, the good life is attainable. Inequality didn't stop him from unveiling his potential. Ben Carson makes it apparent that with the right mind, spirit, and purpose an odyssey from the inner-city of Detroit to renowned neurosurgeon can not be explained by a mere fluke. Gifted Hand is not just an autobiography, it is motivational, inspirational, and can be viewed as an archetype to guild many who can relate. The book Is an inspiration to those searching for a way out, but unaware on where to begin. It is a motivation in continuing forward in spite of the roadblocks and challenges that lie in the way. And finally, a fine example to the many young people with backgrounds similar to Ben Carson's who can see his path as an embodiment to success.

Many components make this book a page turner: Ben Carson faced set backs and hurdles on the road to become a neurosurgeon. However, with hurdles comes resilience. His character comes with humility and kindness. He displays spiritual faith, which pulled him through tough setbacks as a neurosurgeon. Those, of course, are few of the many reasons why I enjoyed reading this book. Carson also adds some wonderful words of wisdom; my favorite, which is derived from the bible, is that "no knowledge gained is ever wasted." In fact, it was his willingness to learn about classical music that was conducive to his acceptance at

John Hopkins University.

The lesson that I took away from this book is to never give-up. What Ben Carson had to go through required, by all means, strength, compassion, and an unrelenting pursuit of knowledge and compassion. The real truth is to remain loyal to whatever is your purpose in life and make every effort in moving forward towards it. That is what is most important to me.

Great and inspirational book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Wow!

By Starfish

A friend recommended this book and I'm glad I took her advice. Great story of someone who, with the guidance of his amazing, tough-love mother, rose to levels of success that even he probably did not expect. His common sense, innate talent, and admirable work ethic, coupled with a stalwart faith in God, make him a role model for all.

I especially liked the way he declined the limelight after doing a groundbreaking surgery. He could have ridden that wave to fame and fortune, but chose instead to continue to work diligently on behalf of his patients.

I also appreciate the way he prioritizes his time. This is a guy who could go in any direction, but has figured out that keeping family and God foremost is the most important thing he can do. At the same time, doing that has enabled him to achieve as much as he has.

I hope he runs for President! He has my vote. Our nation desperately needs someone with his incisive intelligence and alliance with God.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Gripping

By Pat Goltz

I bought an earlier edition of this book, which is no longer readily available.

Ben Carson was a young black kid in an inner city neighborhood, going to a less than desirable school. His father left his life while he was still fairly young, and his mother raised him and his brother alone. She was a very inspirational person, and motivated both of them to become achievers. Through a series of incidents, which I would attribute to the providence of God, Ben was able to receive a fine education in medical school. His story is winsomely told, and I couldn't put the book down. I kept thinking, I have to stop reading and go to bed, but then I'd think, well, I'll read just a little bit more. I finished at 4 am.

After Ben got his education, he began, over time, to do some very challenging forms of brain surgery. One in which he is particularly adept is known as hemispherectomy. This is done when a child receives a brain injury that causes the child to have seizures at increasing frequency. These children will die without intervention. The surgery itself is very risky, and there is no guarantee a person will survive the surgery. In addition, bleeding is generally profuse. The surgeon removes the half of the brain that has the injury. In young children, the brains are still able to adapt so that most children will eventually become normal, though it takes time. Most surgeons won't attempt this surgery, and it has fallen out of favor several times because of the risks involved. However, it is the only chance for survival these children have. Dr. Carson has lost a couple of patients, but has been able to save most.

The book ends with an account of a surgery Dr. Carson performed on conjoined twins. It is described in some detail.

Ben credits God with his talents, and it is obvious from reading the book that he put in a lot of hard work to gain the skills he has. Ben is a Seventh-day Adventist. This is a denomination I have studied in depth. My heartfelt desire is that he will learn to regard Jesus as his sabbath rest, and recognize that keeping the sabbath is not the path to salvation; God's unmerited grace in Jesus is.

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