



100,000 Hearts: A Surgeon's Memoir

By Denton A. Cooley

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Pioneering surgeon Dr. Denton Cooley performed his first human heart transplant in 1968 and astounded the world in 1969 when he was the first surgeon to successfully implant a totally artificial heart in a human being. Over the course of his career, Cooley and his associates have performed thousands of open heart operations and have been forerunners in implementing new surgical procedures. Of all his achievements, however, Cooley is most proud of the Texas Heart Institute, which he founded in 1962 with a mission to use education, research, and improved patient care to decrease the devastating effects of cardiovascular disease.

In his new memoir, *100,000 Hearts*, Cooley tells about his childhood in Houston and his experiences as a basketball scholarship recipient at the University of Texas. After medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and Johns Hopkins, Cooley served in the Army Medical Corps. While at Johns Hopkins, Cooley assisted in a groundbreaking operation to correct an infant's congenital heart defect, which inspired him to specialize in heart surgery.

Cooley's detailed descriptions of what it was like to be in the operating room at crucial points in medical history offer a fascinating perspective on how far medical science has progressed in just a few decades. Dr. Denton Cooley and the Texas Heart Institute are responsible for much of that progress.

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Editorial Review

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In this enthralling autobiography, a distinguished cardiac surgeon opens up his own heart to readers. Cooley is a pioneer in the treatment of cardiovascular disease: the implantation of the first totally artificial heart, new techniques for the repair of aneurysms, and the first heart-lung transplant in a baby. He founded the renowned Texas Heart Institute in 1962. By 2001, Cooley and his surgical team had already performed more than 100,000 heart operations. Cooley's memoir chronicles his medical training and professional accomplishments. Even more heart-tugging is the recounting of his personal highs and lows: growing up during the Great Depression; playing basketball; coping with family, including the divorce of his parents; serving in the military in Europe; filing for bankruptcy; grieving for the loss of a daughter; and loving his home in Texas. A 40-year rift between Cooley and another talented, ambitious cardiac surgeon, Michael DeBakey, illustrates how strong personalities can influence the trajectory of medical science. This memoir casts Cooley as a brilliant, prolific, and bold surgeon-researcher whose success is due in part to ego, endurance, and empathy. --Tony Miksanek

About the Author

Denton A. Cooley, M.D., is a world-renowned surgeon and founder of the Texas Heart Institute.

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