



# The Scalpel and the Soul: Encounters with Surgery, the Supernatural, and the Healing Power of Hope

By Allan J. Hamilton M.D. FACS

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**A Harvard-educated neurosurgeon reveals his experiences—in and out of the operating room—with apparitions, angels, exorcism, after-death survival, and the miracle of hope. For the millions who have enjoyed *Proof of Heaven*, *Heaven is Real*, *To Heaven and Back*, and *Getting to Heaven*—an inspiring tale from where the veil between life and death is often at its thinnest.**

*The Scalpel and the Soul* explores how premonition, superstition, hope, and faith not only become factors in how patients feel but can change outcomes. It validates the spiritual manifestations physicians see every day and empowers patients to voice their spiritual needs when they seek medical help. Finally, it addresses the mysterious, attractive powers the soul exerts during life-threatening events.

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

Hamilton has led a remarkable life as a neurosurgeon. There are moments in this spiritual memoir when readers will wish he were their personal guide for the scariest of surgeries. In many ways, this is a story about real doctors as Hamilton understands them—people with exemplary bedside manners who not only make life-and-death decisions for the most vulnerable of the sick, but who have the vision (sometimes literally) to sit and listen as long as it takes, to take patients' hands, dealing with their questions and fears with the utmost gentleness and an eye toward the transcendent and supernatural. Readers will be moved by stories of former patients like Thomas, a child burn victim with such a gift of spirit that he could manage joy despite his tragic condition, and Donald, a brave man determined to live life to the fullest despite a vicious brain tumor. Hamilton's voice soars when he reflects directly on his experience as a brain surgeon, the bulk of which occurs (unfortunately) in the book's second half. In light of these high points, Hamilton's occasionally stumbling and awkward prose when straying from his patients' sides can seem jarring. (*Mar. 13*)

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### **Review**

"Funny, irreverent, earthy, big-hearted, honest, real."  
-*Family Circle* online "Books of the Month" Review

"Allan Hamilton is a natural storyteller. His real-life experiences remind us that patients and surgeons can share in a spiritual transformation during the course of battling disease."  
-Linda Klein, R.N., producer of *Grey's Anatomy* and *Nip/Tuck*

"His observations and insights push the limits of current scientific knowledge as he attempts to bring some rational thought to the unexplainable."  
-Richard Carmona, M.D., MPH, FACS, 17th Surgeon General of the United States

"A moving account of what can happen when a doctor opens his heart and his eyes to life's spiritual lessons and to the mystery that thrives amidst the terror and trauma of life-threatening illness."  
-Bernie Siegel, M.D., author of *Help Me to Heal* and *Prescriptions for Living*

### **About the Author**

After beginning his working life as a janitor, **Allan J. Hamilton, M.D., FACS**, went on to attend Harvard Medical School and to become the chief of neurosurgery and chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center. He is currently a professor of neurosurgery and a clinical professor in the departments of Radiation Oncology and Psychology at AHSC. Hamilton has been a guest on NPR, has appeared on the Discovery Channel, and *Anderson Cooper 360°*, and has worked as a consultant for *Grey's Anatomy*.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

**Genoveva Johnson:**

As people who live in often the modest era should be update about what going on or details even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era that is certainly always change and make progress. Some of you maybe may update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *The Scalpel and the Soul: Encounters with Surgery, the Supernatural, and the Healing Power of Hope* is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

**Leticia Cantrell:**

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