

A New York Times Best Seller

We BEAT THE STREET

HOW A FRIENDSHIP PACT LED TO SUCCESS

SAM



GEORGE



RAMECK



**BY
THE THREE
DOCTORS**

**DRS. SAMPSON DAVIS,
GEORGE JENKINS,
AND RAMECK HUNT
WITH SHARON M. DRAPER**

INTRODUCTION

THIS IS A TRUE STORY. We are real people. We started out as kids in the toughest neighborhoods of Newark, New Jersey, and today we are doctors. We had to fight drugs and crime and hopelessness. We had to overcome obstacles like poverty and apathy and violence in our community. Individually we probably would not have succeeded, but together, we were able to make it through high school, college, and medical school.

We are Dr. Rameck Hunt, Dr. Sampson Davis, and Dr. George Jenkins. We call ourselves The Three Doctors. We now work in the same community where we grew up, trying to help the people in our neighborhoods.

We never thought our story was anything special. It wasn't until after we finished medical school that the public showed

us what a remarkable journey we had made. In retrospect, it's probably best that it happened that way. If we had thought about how daunting the task was that we were undertaking, we probably never would have even tried.

In these pages we want to show the power of friendship and of positive peer pressure. We also want to show the necessity for strong role models in the lives of young people. The three of us suffered because we didn't have many, and we hope to offer young people today three strong, positive role models they can depend on.

Don't get us wrong—we made lots of mistakes. We often made foolish decisions, sometimes got involved in dangerous situations, and frequently suffered the consequences of impulsive behavior. But we weren't bad kids—just kids in need of focus and direction.

We want to show that obstacles can be overcome and how struggles can lead to success. We hope that by reading our story, young people can avoid some of the mistakes we made and perhaps can be inspired to reach for dreams of their own.

Many of the names of the real people who lived and died in our neighborhoods have been changed in this book to protect their privacy. But their stories are important and need to be shared.

We hope that our story will add a beacon of hope to young people in particular and to society in general. Anyone with a dream can succeed and with that success return to where it all started and make the world just a little better.

CHAPTER ONE

**"YOU DON'T HAVE TO
CUT MY FOOT OFF, DO YOU?"**

SAMPSON, AGE 6 "I'm going with you," six-year-old Sampson Davis boldly told his big brother, Andre. Sampson, with honey-gold skin; large eyes with long lashes; and dark, curly hair, stood with his feet spread apart and his arms folded across his chest, daring his brother to challenge him. He had learned early to look and act tough, especially with the older boys his brother hung around with.

"No, man. You too little. You be crampin' my style," Andre replied.

"I don't care. I'm goin' anyway. Besides, Moms said you gotta watch me today," Sampson said, knowing that when their mother said something, she meant business. Both boys knew better than to disobey their mother. She did her best to

"I THINK WE COULD ALL DO THIS—THE THREE OF US TOGETHER!"

For Drs. Sampson Davis, Rameck Hunt, and George Jenkins, growing up in street-tough Newark, New Jersey, was not an easy experience. They were all smart, and they all had loving families, but every day they had to struggle against peer pressure, gang violence, rampant drug use, and the challenges of being young and black.

Then one day—while trying to skip class to shoot hoops—the boys found themselves listening to a special presentation about the Seton Hall University Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Plus program. For the first time ever, the three friends believed that they might really have an opportunity to make their dreams come true. Then and there, they made a pact to apply to the program, and if they were accepted, to attend—and graduate—together. And that's just what they did.

Uplifting and inspiring, this true story about how three friends came together and encouraged one another to achieve great success will speak to young readers everywhere.



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"All readers will be riveted by the profoundly inspirational stories and personal, intimate voices that discuss big mistakes and complicated emotions, including 'survivor guilt' for choosing a different path from friends and family." —*Booklist*

"Readers searching for role models should find much to cheer and emulate here." —*Publishers Weekly*

"The writing here, whether Draper's or the doctors', is simple and accessible and there is plenty of action for reluctant readers." —*School Library Journal*