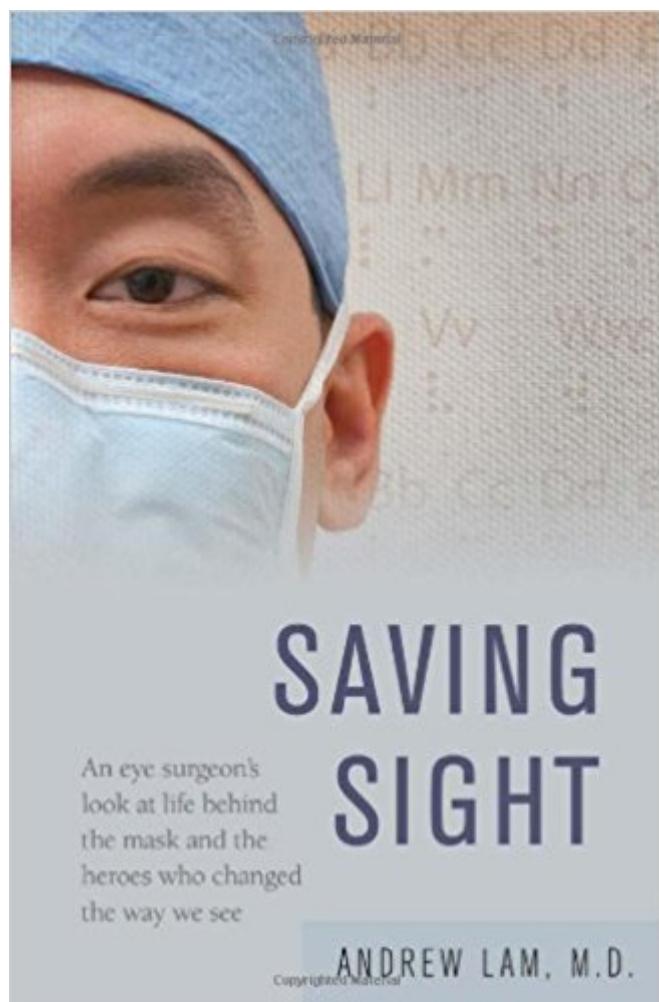


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# **Saving Sight: An Eye Surgeon's Look At Life Behind The Mask And The Heroes Who Changed The Way We See**



## Synopsis

In Saving Sight, Dr. Andrew Lam explains the intricacies of human sight and shines a light on the heroes who fought to save it, while also revealing the personal side of life as an eye surgeon - the stress and joy of a man who, on his best days, can turn darkness into light. The author brings readers into the operating room to share the constant risks, high expectations, and occasional triumphs that accompany him there, providing an unflinching, gritty look at a surgeon's approach to eye trauma, cataracts, LASIK, retinal detachments, macular degeneration and more. Dr. Lam blends his illuminating personal narrative with the uplifting stories of men like Louis Braille, Judah Folkman, Harold Ridley, Charles Kelman and many others whose inventions have enabled us to see in all kinds of unimaginable ways.

Editorial Awards  
Honorable Mention - 2013 London Book Festival  
Honorable Mention - 2013 New England Book Festival  
Finalist - 2014 Next Generation Indie Book Awards

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Dr. Andrew Lam, a distinguished retinal surgeon, has written a wonderfully readable book about the sometimes heroic lives of the great inventors in his field. The layman will be carried away by Dr. Lam's clear, colloquial story-telling, and he will also gain, as I did, a far clearer knowledge of the human eye." - Richard Wilbur, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner "In Saving Sight, Dr. Lam has beautifully captured the atom-smashing accomplishments and dramatic stories of men who transformed the world of vision. This book is a real page-turner!" - Dr. William Tasman, former

president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology

Andrew Lam, M.D., was born in Philadelphia and raised in central Illinois. He graduated from Yale University with a degree in history, then attended medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. He subsequently completed specialty training in ophthalmology and retina surgery at the prestigious Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia. Dr. Lam has authored numerous scientific articles and is currently an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Tufts University School of Medicine.Â He resides in western Massachusetts with his wife and four children.Â His first novel,Â Two Sons of China,Â an historical novel of WWII set in China, was released by Bondfire Books in December 2013.Â Learn more at his website - [www.AndrewLamMD.com](http://www.AndrewLamMD.com)

What a fascinating discussion of the pioneers of eye care! I am a nurse, but I never realized how the vision saving techniques we take for granted were developed. Dr Lam presented an interesting discussion of the trials and ridicule faced by these brilliant researchers who have saved the vision of countless numbers of people. The author also included the human side of ophthalmology by giving readers a glimpse into the heart of people facing vision loss. You do not have to be a health care provider to enjoy this book. It is an easy read and will give readers an appreciation for those who have worked hard to allow us to clearly read this book!

Saving Sight is a phenomenal book on so many levels, easily the most interesting book I have read this year!An unexpected page-turner, given the subject matter. It reads like a novel and is full of great historical narrative.The stories are a reminder that truth is stranger - and more fascinating - than fiction.This book is unlike anything else I have read in that it intertwines historical accounts with modern applications and experiences along with social commentary with particular regard to medicine and healthcare today, and does so seamlessly!A great blend of history and science, biography and autobiography. Why hadn't anyone thought of writing this before?Dr. Lam's background in both history and medicine likely contribute.The writing style, research, and subject matter combine to produce an amazing book that really does do justice to those who can truly be called heroes.Lest anyone think that the writing is too technical, I have seen firsthand that a wide reading audience will love this book. I am a physician, but not an ophthalmologist, and I bought it for my ophthalmologist colleagues, and my non-physician wife enjoyed it immensely as well. Everyone remarked on how fast of a read and insightful it was. This should be required reading for anyone interested in medicine and especially ophthalmology, but also for children who need to SEE what it

truly means to be a hero.

Dr. Lam's book is a fascinating medical history intertwined with enthralling tales plucked from the author's own medical practice. In the historical narrative, we are treated to the remarkable stories of the brave men who changed the history of ophthalmology by persisting against all odds with an idea that would change the world. These men endured scorn and ridicule by their friends and colleagues. But their perseverance eventually resulted in the advances that have benefited those of us with eye problems and the physicians who treat us today. Putting the historical figures in modern context, Dr. Lam also gives us a thrilling glimpse into his own practice where the advancements made possible by these heroes are used. Who knew that a medical book could be a page turner? One haunting tale recounts a young Asian girl who comes with her father to see Dr. Lam. The author finds a severely detached retina which he strongly suspects has been caused by trauma. However, no one will own up and Dr. Lam does his best to fix the problem. Later, when the girl returns with the remaining eye injured, the surprising source of the injury is revealed. Dr. Lam also briefly shares with us the challenges of the practice of medicine in today's world of HMOs, Medicare etc. Despite these challenges, the author conveys the passion he feels for the practice of medicine and helping others. Dr. Lam is a great story teller and this book would be enjoyed by anyone, especially those with a connection to the field of ophthalmology.

Comments made by many reviewers such as engaging interesting story, compelling an inspirational all apply to my review. As an active practicing retina specialist, I found Dr Lam writing, absorbing, easy to read like a novel; for me it was the admiration of a skilled writer able to transfer in a book the emotion, concerns and sensitivity of a surgeon to patient and family in difficult moments, so often experienced myself during my lengthy career. Dr Charles Schepens, one of the leaders feature in the Book during an oral interview conducted in 1985, UMKC Eye Dept in Kansas City, Mo and following a question. What is the purpose of your Life? Reply "I am most satisfied that this type of work is not dying with me, thanks to the training program and the people who continue the tradition. It is wonderful to be proud of people who are younger than you and will survive you and know you had something to do with the fact that they are so successful and the knowledge has been passed on." Dr Schepens, an immigrant, in Boston against tremendous odds created the new field of retina and fellowships. Dr Tassman a mentor to Dr Lamb and a leader in our field and I, trained with him in 1960. So, Dr Lamb represents the best of 3rd generation of Retina surgeons. Dr Lam writing in a colloquial manner easily readable attracted the general public; adding tangential comments about

the state of Medicine is a service to Society in our search for quality care .Knowledge is Power , is important as we search for good medical care for our families, and patients that we participate in the current important issues of healthcare in our country." If I have seen a little further it is by standing on the shoulder of Giants" Isaac Newton (1676)Thank you Andrew for reminding us!

A can't put it down book. Several separate documentary essays on different folks (often mavericks, often with difficulty) making major shifts in eye treatments that have saved the sight of millions of people. I didn't know that lens replacement for cataracts is the most performed ... and one of the most safe and successful.. surgeries in the world. To top it off, Andrew Lam is not only writing from the perspective of someone in the profession (he's an eye surgeon), but I find his writing style easy to digest, and takes me right into the scenes he's describing as if I'm right there. Rare combination of someone who knows his material AND can communicate it very effectively.

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