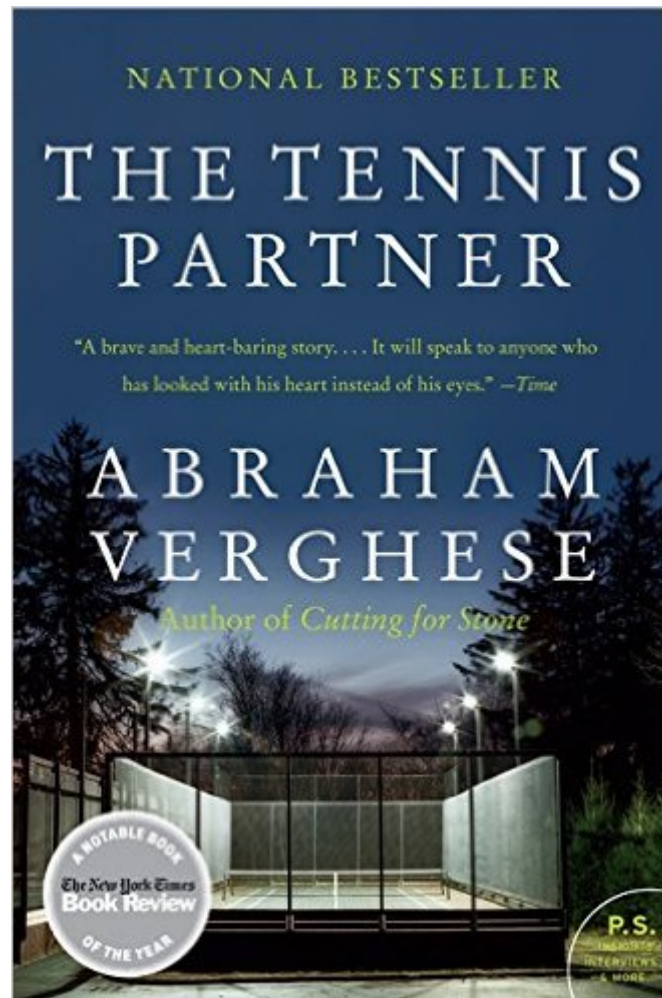


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# The Tennis Partner



## Synopsis

An unforgettable, illuminating story of how men live and how they survive, from the acclaimed New York Times bestselling author of *Cutting for Stone*. When Abraham Verghese, a physician whose marriage is unraveling, relocates to El Paso, Texas, he hopes to make a fresh start as a staff member at the county hospital. There he meets David Smith, a medical student recovering from drug addiction, and the two men begin a tennis ritual that allows them to shed their inhibitions and find security in the sport they love and with each other. This friendship between doctor and intern grows increasingly rich and complex, more intimate than two men usually allow. Just when it seems nothing can go wrong, the dark beast from David's past emerges once again—and almost everything Verghese has come to trust and believe in is threatened as David spirals out of control.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (215 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #24,611 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > South](#) #88 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Medical](#) #1167 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Memoirs](#)

## Customer Reviews

Abraham Verghese's second book, "The Tennis Partner," is far different from his first, "My Own Country," in which he chronicles his work in a rural area in Tennessee as the physician in a "one doctor town." An inordinate number of AIDS cases begin to come his way and he tells the story of his learning quickly how to deal with this challenging disease in an area with extremely limited resources. (An outstanding read available through .)"The Tennis Partner" begins with Verghese's arrival in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife and two sons where he has taken a new position as a Professor of Medicine in a teaching hospital, a prestigious advance in his medical career. Soon into the story, we learn that Verghese finds himself fairly humanly bankrupt as he finally realizes the reality that his marriage is in ruins and now ending due to his own neglect of his wife in the amount

of attention he has given to his career. He learns that he is extremely rootless: a foreign born physician, in a new town, with no friendships or personal support systems. Verghese, after assisting his wife establish a new home and create a sense of stability for his sons, begins to look for an apartment near his wife's home so that he can be near his sons and complete the actual separation from his wife that they have been essentially living for quite some time by this point. Verghese begins a friendship with David, an intern in his final year (actually, we later learn, that David is repeating his internship, due to drug addiction having interrupted his earlier, nearly completed internship.) There is a similarity to Verghese's rootless and David's own.

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