

# PROMOTIONAL INFORMATION

## Synopsis

Eye-opening, heartfelt and sometimes shocking, this is the story of one African-American man's roller coaster journey through life starting with the twists and turns of growing up in the Jim Crow south.

Unfair working conditions, substandard middle and secondary school education, negative stereotypes and limited financial opportunities all conspire against the young man. Despite the odds, he builds a successful career in real estate as well as a thriving legal practice, but then suffers a series of life-threatening cardiac events at age 43.

In his memoir, author Otis L. Lee, Jr. shares with us the critical events and circumstances that have shaped his life. He opens his family history to us and invites us to study his own sometimes-flawed behavior as he advances in life and achieves his goals.

Otis first came face to face with Jim Crow at age nine while traveling to Florida when his father had to beg a fast food clerk for service. Young Otis was angry and ashamed, but his father was able to feed his family on that long trip. It was a balancing act Otis would come to respect.

Though the societal challenges thrown at the youth were many, the positive constant in Otis Lee's life was his family – well-educated, hard-working, supportive parents who provided opportunity and expected the most from their son and from life.

This poignant story should be required reading for young black men and women embarking on professional careers and for white readers who simply want a better understanding of the obstacles faced by 38 million Americans.

## Sales Copy

What began as an homage to long-suffering ancestors and a memoir for his own grown children is now a must-read primer for young African-Americans as they embark on their own journey of education, business and life.

Author Otis L. Lee, Jr. talks candidly about his experiences as a child in the Jim Crow South, his coming of age during the turbulent Civil Rights era, and his struggles to fight stereotypes as first a young businessman and later as a thriving attorney.

Lee gives us a glimpse into his disappointments and failures as some of the roadblocks he encounters are at the hands of other successful black businessmen, attorneys and even a judge – none of whom are willing to mentor or even help the aspiring young lawyer.