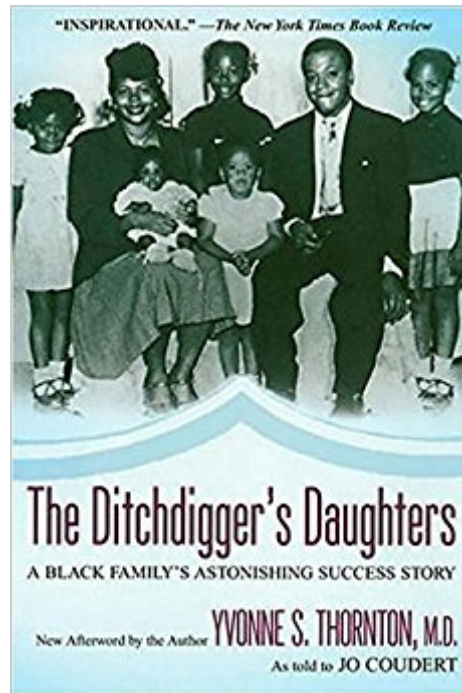




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# The Ditchdigger's Daughters



## Synopsis

From the tenements of East Harlem to the halls of an Ivy League medical school, this is the true story of an all-girl black family that transcends race, colour and gender to rekindle our belief in the human will to succeed despite adversity.

## Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Dafina; Reprint edition (March 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0758225881

ISBN-13: 978-0758225887

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 105 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #453,895 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #270 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Educators #507 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Reference #984 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Medical

## Customer Reviews

The remarkable power of family values as articulated by an uneducated black man and his wife is played out in this loving memoir. Thornton is one of five daughters born to a laborer in a New Jersey shore town who was almost obsessed with the importance of education for his children and the nurturance of their talents. He strictly monitored their musical training, scrimping and wheedling where necessary to pay for their lessons. Eventually the Thornton Sisters Band was formed? a family enterprise whose financial success became the source of the daughters' college tuition. Although only two of the girls fulfilled their father's dream that they become doctors, all of them have successful careers. This picture by Thornton and Coudert (Advice from a Failure) of a black man's single-minded devotion to his family is a tribute to an extraordinary father who transcended racial prejudice to raise appreciative daughters to be independent women. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This memoir describes how, with seemingly unfailing energy and determination, Donald Thornton, working two jobs, saw each of his six daughters obtain an education and become established in a

successful career. Using their musical talent, the Thornton girls gave performances for a number of years to help finance their schooling. Donald and his wife, Asker, gave their children the strength to achieve their goals in the face of hardships, not the least of which were racial and gender discrimination. Reader Fran Washington injects a great deal of feeling into the authors' words, bringing out a whole range of emotions, from joy to anguish. This is a warm-hearted, affectionate memoir that emphasizes the importance of family ties. Highly recommended. ?Catherine Swenson, Norwich Univ. Lib., Northfield, Vt. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The Ditchdigger's Daughters is an excellent memoir that is easy to follow. The story is pretty much told chronologically and focuses on Yvonne Thornton, the middle daughter. I enjoyed reading the story of her struggles and success and how her parents inspired and aided her and her sisters to be the best they could be. The story is uplifting and makes you smile in many places. The lives of the other sisters aren't as fleshed out as I would have liked, but this is Yvonne's story. She included details of the lives of her sisters as she saw and interpreted them, and I appreciated it. I would love to read accounts from all of the sisters to piece the story together as a whole. New voices add new details and different slants on events. Overall, a nice, quick read that gives readers, especially women, something to think about.

I saw the movie made for TV twice and based on the movie purchased the book. I gave my book away to a nurse, who has a daughter, and purchased three more (one for myself and two to give away to two teachers, including my sister.) I wish one of the chapters did not contain profanity. I also wish there had been some discussion of the influence if any christianity had on the family. However, the book gave an honest presentation of the author, her father and her sisters. The story is inspirational in that it shows what a person, regardless of race, social status or financial means can accomplish to meet his/her potential. Parents and their junior or senior high children would benefit by reading this book. Teachers of any grade would greatly benefit their students by even more appreciating their students and challenging them to reach for and strive to meet his/her potential.

This book is heartwarming, inspiring, and worth the time to read. It is a testament to the importance of parental love, guidance, and persistence despite the odds. Anyone can read this book and be inspired to go for their dreams despite any late in life adjustment to finally realize them...like Jeanette in the book. :-) I wish I had this kind of foundation earlier in life...I can only imagine where

I'd be now. Nevertheless, dreams are still possible if one is willing to work hard for them; Mr. Thornton made that quite clear. Stories like these are great encouraging reminders that anything is possible. Yvonne, thank you for writing this book for your Mom. In writing it for her, you were writing it for all of us.

I've seen the movie thousands of times and if and when it comes on again, I will look at it again. The movie moved me so much, I decided to see if there was a book to go along with it and yes there was and I purchased it immediately. My mom loved the movie as well and I told her there is a book also. But the kicker for me is, that its a true story. When I read the book, I was blown away. Its so encouraging and for the time period these events took place, yes that was hard, hard work. It just goes to show you no matter who you are, your circumstances, your financial status, you just have to want it whatever "IT" is for you, you can achieved. And today, there so many more opportunities than during those times. Its a GREAT READ for anyone any family. So, I've passed the book to my mother and thus far, shes enjoying the book too. When she finishes, my boyfriend wants to read it and then I will read it again. Its totally inspiring. This family prove there are NO excuses, none. AFTER reading it, they have inspired me to return back to school to further my education. I'm an LVN/LPN and I'm going back to get my RN with a BSN and soon to be 48. Thank you Thornton Family. I wish I could meet you. READ the book and you will see what I'm talking about.

Dr. Yvonne Thornton's account of her parent's ambition for their daughters and what they went through to achieve their family goals is gripping, humorous and educational. Her parents--and especially her father--were strict and exacting by today's standards. But between his practical philosophy, common-sense and hard work and her firm belief in the importance of education, all of Donald Thornton's "splits" overcame the hardships faced by African-Americans during that time period and became successful--two doctors, a dentist, a nurse, a court stenographer and a head of a science department. This chronicle is more than a story about a black family, however. Her parents' views speak to people of all races & social levels and offer good advice and goals for all parents. It is a book that I have read several times over the years and, as a librarian, I have recommended it to many people who are in search of good biographies and family chronicles with strong family values. This Kindle edition of "The Ditchdigger's Daughters" is beautifully formatted and contains all the photos present in the hard copy edition.

Wow. So inspiring. I am a non-traditional pre-med (soon to be entering medical school) with a story

NOTHING like this. She is a real inspiration. Despite facing racism, poverty, and juggling a musical career, she still made it to medical school. No excuse, all you pre-meds!! Just kidding, but really.

Yes, I enjoyed reading the Ditchdigger's Daughters. It captivated my attention right from the start. The dialogue helps the reader to visualize each individual character portrayed in the story. It is motivating and inspiring all in one. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who is looking for something good to read. This book is well written and can help many who are struggling to overcome some obstacles in life. By displaying that hard work can pay off, the father in this family plays a very important role in the raising of his daughters. I would say this book deserves more than five stars. This family overcame their circumstances and prevailed in the end. Read Ditchdigger's Daughters you won't regret it, you will definitely be moved by the tone of the story line.

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