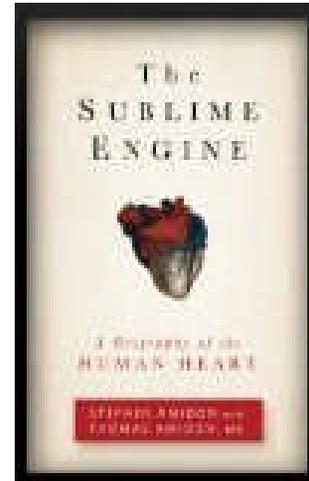


A Review of  
***The Sublime Engine: A Biography of the Human Heart (2011)***

Authors: Stephen Amidon and Thomas Amidon, MD

Reviewed by Jim Gleason, heart recipient



The brothers Amidon (one a cardiologist, the other a gifted novelist, have put together an interesting and educational book about the human heart. Half medical science of the heart, the other offers an historical travelogue of how the heart was viewed by many different cultures and peoples over the centuries including poets and writers among others. The stories over history that are sprinkled throughout the book would make for reading even if it didn't go far beyond that. I confess that the philosophical and "heart in literature" content didn't hold my interest as much as the stories of early researchers and more recent insights into modern heart history and science.

Moving beyond stories over the ages (ancient heart, sacred heart and Renaissance heart as some examples) and the "current heart" (a chapter title), they venture to offers a glimpse into the future with their final chapter, "Future Heart." But in the "future" view, we get only 24 pages dated 2021, so don't expect too much extreme detail, just enough to give hope in looking forward.

All in all, *The Sublime Engine* is a fascinating journey into what the authors refer to as "a biography of the heart." Given that textbooks of huge volume barely cover the subject of the heart anatomy, it is surprising how much ground they cover in this book's 229 pages, especially considering the wide range of heart history captured in those pages.

Despite being only six chapters, they are meaty ones not easily glossed over, but rather to be carefully digested and enjoyed by anyone that shares the fascination with the heart that I and so many in the world do, even though it is commonly referred to as "just a pump" by some in the technical field. The human heart is so much more and these authors provide a thoughtful summary of that fascination over the centuries. Maybe it is best summed up in the jacket's headline that reads: "**The story of how the heart has inspired poets, saints and scientists since the dawn of Western Civilization.**"

**The Sublime Engine** is available in hard cover from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). You can learn more from their website at

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**Brief bio:**

Jim Gleason, receiving his own heart transplant Oct. '94, retired after 37 years with Unisys Corporation in 2005, is a volunteer with The Gift of Life Donor Program, NKF and UNOS as well as a nationally recognized speaker and author. His own book, **A Gift from the Heart**, is offered free in thanks to his donor family and can be obtained by contacting him at [GLEASONJIM@AOL.COM](mailto:GLEASONJIM@AOL.COM).