**Journalist:**

Hello and thank you for downloading Witness from the BBC World service. And it was on December the 3rd 1967 that the 1st heart transplant operation took place in a hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. In 2009 Claire Bose spoke to Surgeon Marius Barnard who worked alongside his brother Christian Barnard to carry out the operation.

**Claire Bose:**

It’s 1967, 2 brothers who don’t get on find themselves working in the same hospital.

**Marius:**

I never wanted to be a cardiac surgeon and I never wanted to work with Chris I’ll be honest with you.

**Claire Bose:**

Marius Barnard was 5 years younger than his brother Christian.

**Marius:**

To put it mildly he wasn’t a very easy man to work with and to put it mildly the two of us never got on together even as children. So there was a sibling kind of problem between the two of us but he offered me a job and I needed it because I had a wife with three children at school and I needed the money and that’s how I stepped into cardiac surgery. We basically were in the same unit but we didn’t work together. I had my own operating room and he had his own operating room and then what made it even easier, Chris was away most of the time and it was while he's away my unit and I ran my unit the way I wanted.

**Claire Bose:**

Despite their differences, the 2 were preparing for a world first. Christian Barnard many trips away from the hospital in South Africa went to America to learn more about cardiac surgery in preparation of his attempt to the very first human to human heart transplant.