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White Nights And Ascending Shadows: A History Of The San Francisco AIDS Epidemic (AIDS Awareness)



Synopsis

Across the world, people have created a movement to fight AIDS. San Francisco's contribution to this fight grew out of the Gay Liberation Movement. The San Francisco AIDS story is a tale of how gay rights became human rights.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

History not only moves quickly--it is, in essence, what happened yesterday--but it is also quickly forgotten. This is especially true when many of the people who made it are gone or dying. Benjamin Heim Shepard's beautifully composed, and wonderfully moving *White Nights and Ascending Shadows: An Oral History of the San Francisco AIDS Epidemic* is a fine and telling history of how one city faced--and still faces--the endless effects of AIDS. Based in interviews and oral histories with 30 people with AIDS, Benjamin Shepard manages to piece together more than three decades (1968-1998) of gay male life and culture. The interviews here chart not only the progress of AIDS in the gay community, but document the many manifestations of gay culture that occurred before and in response to the epidemic. Alternatively brave, fragile, furious, and mournful the men interviewed here speak their minds and force their visions and politics upon us in unforgettable ways. As a cultural, political, and medical history, *White Nights and Ascending Shadows* is an important book, and the men who speak throughout it are determined that we remember who they were and what they did to preserve their lives, their families, and their culture. --Michael Bronski

This book is a good read, even though it can occasionally be dry. The book uses commentary from various individuals to cover the many aspects of AIDS, from the beginning to about 1995 in one city, San Francisco. Every group is represented, not just gay men. Overall, a valuable addition to your library.

I found the book very moving and interesting. My brother is actually one of the men quoted and profiled in the book. It is a keepsake for me and my family as well as educational for the next generation. It is eye opening for those who didn't live through the time.

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