

[Library ebook] My Own Country: A Doctor's Story of a Town and Its People in the Age of Aids

My Own Country: A Doctor's Story of a Town and Its People in the Age of Aids

Abraham Verghese

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Abraham Verghese : My Own Country: A Doctor's Story of a Town and Its People in the Age of Aids before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Own Country: A Doctor's Story of a Town and Its People in the Age of Aids:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Rural Frontline of AIDS From The Doctor's PerspectiveBy TomAbraham Verghese's story perfectly illustrates a variety of aspects of society ranging from Tennessee suburban culture to medical hierarchy. The cover story is the spread of HIV and AIDS from the cities. He meets a diverse array of patients that help to highlight the different victims of the HIV and AIDS epidemic. First there was Gordon, a young gay man returning back home to Tennessee after catching HIV from one of his partners in the big city of Atlanta. Then there were Ed and Bobby, a gay couple that had previously tried to remain heterosexual. Next was Vickie and Clyde, a married couple that got HIV from the husband's homosexual activities. A perfect example of "innocent" victims, were Will and Bess. Will was a successful businessman that got HIV through blood transfusions. He spread the infection to his wife through sexual intercourse. Another unfortunate victim was Norman, a hemophiliac that got HIV through one of his factor VIII injections. The personal story of each of these individuals help to show the true tragedy of the HIV and AIDS epidemic.In the foreground of the HIV and AIDS story is Verghese's own battle against the medical establishment. The dire reality of the situation and lack of medical treatment brings up issues of euthanasia and DNR.

In addition, Verghese's position as an infectious disease specialist reimburses him at a lower rate than the other specialists in his field. His role as almost a primary care giver leaves him dealing with the most stressful aspects of patient care. My professor stated that this book could be viewed as a primary source document of the US HIV and AIDS epidemic. I agree 100%, Verghese's book with its colorful descriptions is a on-the-grounds narrative suited for the those looking into the HIV and AIDS fear years. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Heavy on geographical description By S. Pennington Enjoyed the book ... however so much of it is filled with geographical descriptions. Yes, it adds a visual scenery for reader, but it at times would go on so long that it felt like an indulgent filler to create more pages. I skimmed through those pages and really enjoyed the actual story one you got to it. Thank you for publishing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tour de force By jack goodman I truly loved this book. Dr Verghese helps you to understand medicine, aids victims and their families. He is a wonderful storyteller and physician. As a physician I would recommend this book to all physicians as well as to lay people. His incite into the VA community, small town USA is remarkable. Read this book, you won't be disappointed.

The first book by a doctor who works with AIDS victims daily offers a revealing look at the impact of AIDS on a small Tennessee town, as townspeople respond to the disease's presence in inspiring ways.

From Publishers Weekly When infectious-disease specialist Verghese, the Ethiopian-born son of Indian schoolteachers, emigrated to the U.S. and settled in Johnson City, Tenn., in the mid-1980s, he finally felt at peace "in my own country" at last. But his work at the Johnson City Medical Center soon led him into a shadow world of Bible-belt AIDS, often without the support of his colleagues. Verghese discovered a local gay community that was then untested for the HIV virus. If revealed, these people's closeted relationships would have, writes Verghese, made them stand out "like Martians." The author tells the stories of several patients, including the gay man who must reconcile with his father and the "innocent" man who has contracted AIDS through a contaminated blood transfusion but who, concerned about society's response to his plight, keeps his disease a secret even though he believes that "this thing, this virus, is from hell, from the devil himself." Verghese reveals his own confusions about homosexuality, immigrant identity and his wife's fears about his health. Writing with an outsider's empathy and insight, casting his chronicle in graceful prose, he offers a memorable tale that both captures and transcends time and place. Paperback rights to Vintage; author tour. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal In fall 1985 Verghese--who was born in Ethiopia of Indian parents--returned with his wife and newborn son to Johnson City, Tennessee, where he had done his internship and residence. As he watched AIDS infect the small town, he and the community learned many things from one another, including the power of compassion. An AIDS expert who initially had no patients, Verghese describes meeting gay men and then eventually others struggling with this new disease. Verghese's patients include a factory worker confronting her husband's AIDS, bisexuality, and her own HIV status and a religious couple infected via a blood transfusion attempting to keep their disease secret from their church and their children. This novelistic account, occasionally overly detailed, provides a heartfelt perspective on the American response to the spread of AIDS. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 1/94.- James E. Van Buskirk, San Francisco P . L . Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Infectious disease specialist Verghese is a Christian from subcontinental India who earned his M.D. in Ethiopia, and living in various cultures has helped him to be open-minded toward and supportive of his patients, who currently are the veterans and civilians living in and around Johnson City in east Tennessee. His book covers the five years in the latter 1980s when AIDS began to make itself felt in the area and during which he treated gays, victims of tainted transfusions, and infected spouses. Among the book's fascinating features are its portrayals of the gradually increasing impact of AIDS on the community, the changing relationships between Verghese and other health caregivers and the patients, and the frightening toll the disease took on families, friends, and society. Nor were Verghese himself, his wife, and even his children immune to those grinding forces. Few, if any, books written by someone without AIDS have offered such a perceptive and realistic perspective on this disease and its ramifications. William Beatty