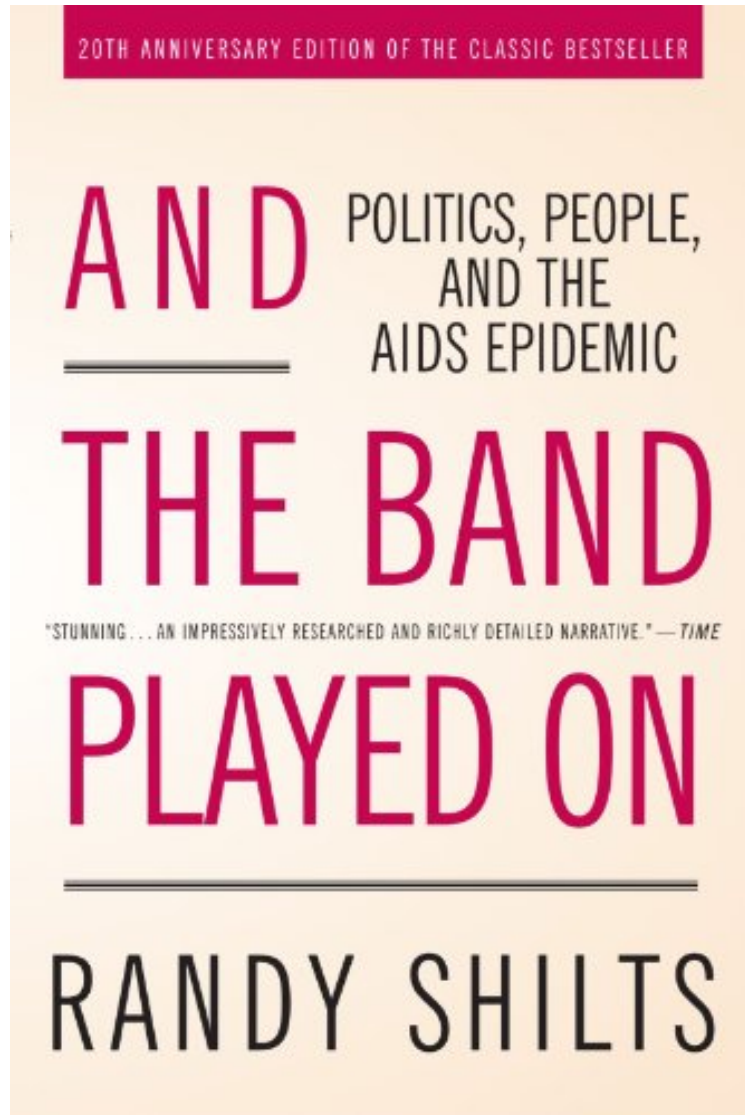


(Free pdf) And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic, 20th-Anniversary Edition

And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic, 20th-Anniversary Edition

Randy Shilts

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#39727 in Books Shilts, Randy 2007-11-27 2007-11-27 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.22 x 42.67 x 5.461, 1.30 #File Name: 0312374631656 pages Griffin | File size: 68.Mb

Randy Shilts : And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic, 20th-Anniversary Edition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic, 20th-Anniversary Edition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Education in Hubris By Randy Ehrler This is a fantastic book about a horrible disease. It is, in many ways, a journalistic masterpiece. Randy Shilts plays no favorites in his telling of

the origins, rapid spread and search for a treatment for H.I.V. / AIDS in the early 1980's. Everyone is held accountable for his or her part in this epidemic. Ultimately, this is a story about unchecked appetites. AIDS grew out of a lifestyle of sexual promiscuity. This is not a condemnation of gays. It is a condemnation of the belief that we can do whatever we want, wherever we want, with whomever we want as often as we want. So many of the challenges in modern life are outgrowths of this thinking. Diabetes, obesity, cancer, and bankruptcy - I could go on - are modern maladies that result from our behaviors - our choices and our failure to live within the "margins." As a society, we consume too much, do too much, and allow too much of everything - food, sex, media, sugar, alcohol, etc. Unchecked appetites. Our bodies are not designed for this level of consumption. They cannot process the sheer volume of "stuff" we ingest and expose them to on a daily basis. The logical outgrowth is disease. I admire Shilts for his honest portrayal of everyone involved in the story. As a gay man who later died of AIDS, he did not let his own community off the hook for their behavior. Or the media and general public who reacted with fear rather than sympathetic and open hearts. Nor did he go easy on the medical establishment and governmental agencies that managed this disease with ego, greed and hubris rather than compassion and love. Another element this story so beautifully portrays is how the human ego can so horribly muck things up. Like many of the "diseases" of modern living - there was a great deal of money to be made - and egos to be stroked - in the treatment of AIDS. So many people serve themselves - often contributing to the spread and extended life of a malady because their pride is fed by, and they profit greatly from, their role in it. I look at the drug companies, the medical industry, disease associations (American Cancer Society, et al.) and other supporting characters - millions are made off of every disease - so much that you wonder if a cure is truly desired. What would we do with these giant hospitals and bottles of blue pills if people were actually healthy and free of disease? And the *Band Played On* reads like great fiction. It is a tremendous learning experience - about the gay culture of San Francisco in the 70's, about how the medical establishment works, and about how greed and hubris get in the way of progress - and real solutions. This is important to consider as we ask the government to take on an ever-increasing load of responsibilities for our care as individuals. Do we really want a government hack in Washington to decide our fate? Will he/she decide in your best interest or in his/her own? After reading this book, I think I know the answer. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. THE book to read about the early history of the AIDS epidemic By Tokira I read this originally right after it was first published, and regretfully gave away my copy. This 20th Anniversary publication, in paperback, is of course easier to hold, but I really missed the photos from the original. It is THE book to read about the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, and reading it again was especially poignant knowing the the author had subsequently joined the ranks of whom he had written so eloquently. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I must have been part of the band. By Jaki I remember hearing of a "homosexual disease" in early summer 1981, which was surprisingly early, especially for an Ohioan. But then not much more, and nothing meaningful for a long time. It's disturbing to find out how profoundly and painfully inadequate our response was to HIV/AIDS. And it feels as if it could happen again. Remember Zika? Drug-resistant bacteria? Lack of concern for public health makes us a type of third world nation. Read this book. It could happen again sooner than you think.

Upon its first publication twenty years ago, *And The Band Played On* was quickly recognized as a masterpiece of investigative reporting. An international bestseller, a nominee for the National Book Critics Circle Award, and made into a critically acclaimed movie, Shilts' expose revealed why AIDS was allowed to spread unchecked during the early 80's while the most trusted institutions ignored or denied the threat. One of the few true modern classics, it changed and framed how AIDS was discussed in the following years. Now republished in a special 20th Anniversary edition, *And the Band Played On* remains one of the essential books of our time.

.com In the first major book on AIDS, San Francisco Chronicle reporter Randy Shilts examines the making of an epidemic. Shilts researched and reported the book exhaustively, chronicling almost day-by-day the first five years of AIDS. His work is critical of the medical and scientific communities' initial response and particularly harsh on the Reagan Administration, who he claims cut funding, ignored calls for action and deliberately misled Congress. Shilts doesn't stop there, wondering why more people in the gay community, the mass media and the country at large didn't stand up in anger more quickly. The AIDS pandemic is one of the most striking developments of the late 20th century and this is the definitive story of its beginnings. From Publishers Weekly "An exhaustive account of the early years of the AIDS crisis, this outlines the medical, social and political forces behind the epidemic's origin and rapid spread," reported PW. "The book stands as a definitive reminder of the shameful injustice inflicted on this nation by the institutions in which we put our trust . . . a landmark work." 200,000 first printing; author tour. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal YA Investigative journalist Shilts employs a case study approach to expose the alarms, disregard, and misinformation about AIDS that has been promoted by the government, gay and straight organizations, news agencies, and medical researchers. He indicts the political agendas of government officials, ego-driven scientists, and profit-conscious blood bank executives, all of whom impeded early AIDS research. In addition, he gives a fascinating account of the detective work needed in discovering new diseases. Although focusing his reports on San Francisco and New York's gay communities and research centers in Atlanta and

the Washington, D.C. area, Shilts dramatically explores the international problem of AIDS. Students will use the index for assigned papers, but it is the volume of information and the vignettes about real individuals that make compelling cover-to-cover reading. Alice Conlon, University of Houston Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.