



From A Burning House: The Aids Project Los Angeles Writers Workshop Collection (Silhouette Special Edition)

By Irene Borger

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As the AIDS epidemic continues unabated, people living with AIDS are in danger of being overshadowed by AIDS "the issue"-- a topic for movies, political wrangling, and opinion polls. This powerful collection gives voice to the people-- those with HIV, as well as their caregivers-- who do battle at the front line of the epidemic. It is an intense celebration of life led at the precipice. The themes explored in *From a Burning House* are simple and universal: love, fear, friendship, loss. But these works possess a unique quality, as they describe a world on fire, a world where lives are quickened by the reality of AIDS. For the writers in the workshop, the creative process can be healing. For the reader, the result is profoundly moving; a tapestry of writings that is at once witty, wise and a painfully vibrant connection to the way we live now. A portion of the editor's and writers' proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to AIDS Project Los Angeles.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This anthology of writing by people with AIDS has the sad distinction of having the most wrenching Contributors' Notes imaginable. Since the workshop began in 1990, 44 members have died. The writing here ranges from the extremely professional to short fragments that carry very little weight, but most of it settles in the middle, with specific and personal autobiography. There is a sense, however, that showing off skills is not the point. Alan Erenberg recalls how his father arranged a "secret signal" (humming loudly) to warn his young son when the boy was engaging in what his father saw as girlish behavior. Frank Wang recalls sending home the body parts of a lover and fellow soldier from Vietnam. Much of the value here lies in the insiders' view of daily life with HIV and AIDS. "I want to rest/No/I want to eat/No/I want a Cola," is the opening of Dave Knight's edgy poem. Doug Bender describes how he insists on wearing a Hickman catheter (through which medications are infused) to the gym, even in the shower. In one of several stories about friends arranging their own deaths, Steve Smith details the painful complications of carrying out such a pact. John D'Amico provides a dry list of the things a friend has left behind, followed by footnotes that reveal the personal history of even the smallest object. Tony Kushner contributes a thoughtful introduction, and Borger both tracks the history of the group and provides instructions for starting other workshops.

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From Library Journal

Recently, the Los Angeles AIDS project had the courage to apply for and receive grants to employ a coordinator, editor Borger, to facilitate the writings of a diverse group of men with AIDS. The results, collected here, show that with AIDS in its second decade, those with the disease are conscious as never before of their ability to shape the world. Empowerment is the underlying motive behind this collection. Not all of it is great literature, but none of it is sentimental tripe either. There is a raw, honest feeling to the writing that will make it a necessary addition to serious collections of modern American literature. With the proliferation of courses in AIDS and literature, it is to be hoped that this work will be used as a text to supplement the more usual elite voices heard on the topic. David S. Azzolina, Univ. of Pennsylvania Libs., Philadelphia

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From the Publisher

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Regina Rodgers:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or read a book called From A Burning House: The Aids Project Los Angeles Writers Workshop Collection (Silhouette Special Edition)? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have various other opinion?

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Belinda Kirwin:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition info. Even you love From A Burning House: The Aids Project Los Angeles Writers Workshop Collection (Silhouette Special Edition), it is possible to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Dolores Albert:

From A Burning House: The Aids Project Los Angeles Writers Workshop Collection (Silhouette Special Edition) can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to set every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing From A Burning House: The Aids Project Los Angeles Writers Workshop Collection (Silhouette Special Edition) yet doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource details that maybe you can be among it. This great information may drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial thinking.

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