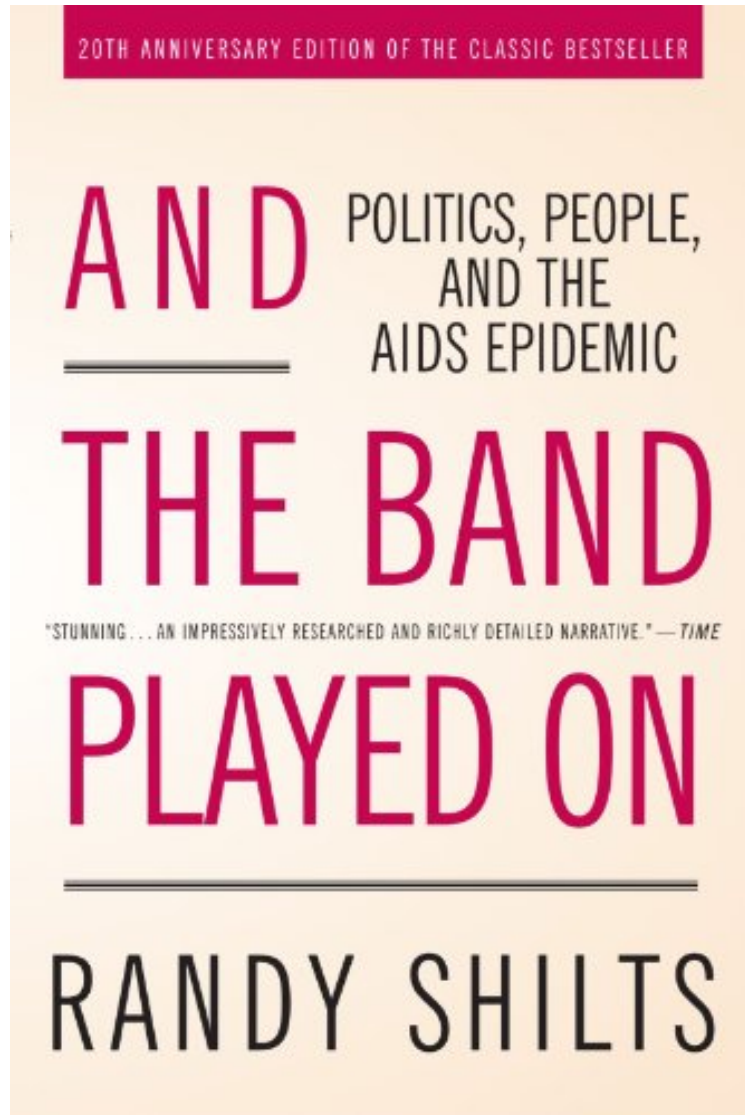


And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic, 20th-Anniversary Edition

Randy Shilts

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#41037 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: 77.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:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A 'Hear the Bullet Fly Past Your Ear' Sense of Immediacy By LibraryThingReviewer This is nothing less than a compulsively readable tour-de-force in modern medical journalism.

It's the history of a disease, a people, and an era all in one. I always knew I'd read this book eventually, but as with any long non-fiction tome there comes a risk that at some point your attention span might have to bow out. Not here: this book holds your interest on nearly every page (I skipped one or two of the more dense courtroom testimony pages, but often later went back to read them anyway). Randy Shilts does not ask for your time lightly - every chapter here is earned. It seems almost an omniscient narrative voice is involved, and with over 900 interviews and his own previous years of investigative work on AIDS, there's a reason for that. Before reading, I had foolishly assumed the word politics had been added to the title to sex it up a bit. Nope. The story of the various responses people, communities, and entire governments had to AIDS was all about politics. So often reading this book did I get the impression you could actually hear the bullet whiz past your ear. If you were born around or before 1980 in a first world country and ever had a blood transplant, this could have been your story too. While Mr. Shilts avoids sensationalism, the story is sensational enough in its barest facts for that point to be clear. I immediately looked up the author to learn more about what he had written only to discover he too died from AIDS in the 1990's. His book, already a tribute to a lost generation, is now an example of all the substantive contributions those men and women could've made if politics could have been shoved aside sooner. This book is a rare thing: it is both a great, historic work and a damn good read. Would that Randy Shilts had lived long enough to give us many more of its calibre. 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.