



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

By Randy Shilts



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Upon it's 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.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

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.

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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

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jimmy Martinez:

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Maurice Lamothe:

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