

SATURDAY IS FOR FUNERALS BY UNITY DOW, MAX ESSEX

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From Publishers Weekly

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Review

This is a remarkable account of the human effect of a pandemic, written by two people with an intimate

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This extraordinary book brings to life the utterly unique stories of people in Botswana; yet the fact is that struggle, suffering and redemption are also universal stories with which we can all identify. The partnership of Dow and Essex, storyteller and scientist, results in a precious alchemy: a book that is engrossing, transforming and an important addition to the canon of the literature of HIV. (Abraham Verghese, author of *Cutting for Stone* and *My Own Country*)

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The epidemic of HIV and AIDS marching across Africa is threatening to crush entire countries under its weight. Saturday Is for Funerals tells the story of how one country, Botswana, is stemming the epidemic with bold political leadership, a strategic and scientific approach, and more than a little grit. (Priya Shetty New Scientist 2010-06-19)

The book is compelling because it tells us the real stories of people living with HIV/Aids and the devastating effects it has on families. There are stories of deadly sexual betrayal and bitterness, but also resilience, caring and kindness...This hook is then used to engage the reader and explain the science behind the disease in a generally accessible way. It is a work of both literature and science and works brilliantly. (Pádraig Carmody Irish Times 2010-07-02)

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Unity Dow and Max Essex tell the true story of lives ravaged by AIDS—of orphans, bereaved parents, and widows; of families who devote most Saturdays to the burial of relatives and friends. We witness the actions of community leaders, medical professionals, research scientists, and educators of all types to see how an unprecedented epidemic of death and destruction is being stopped in its tracks.

This book describes how a country responded in a time of crisis. In the true-life stories of loss and quiet heroism, activism and scientific initiatives, we learn of new techniques that dramatically reduce rates of transmission from mother to child, new therapies that can save lives of many infected with AIDS, and intricate knowledge about the spread of HIV, as well as issues of confidentiality, distributive justice, and human rights. The experiences of Botswana offer practical lessons along with the critical element of hope.

- Sales Rank: #1996960 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Harvard University Press
- Published on: 2010-05-03
- Released on: 2010-06-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .88" h x 5.14" w x 9.10" l, .85 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 240 pages

Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

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An interesting glimpse of the AIDS epidemic in Southern Africa

By simplexion

I read this book soon after it was released, and I appreciated learning about the AIDS epidemic from both a medical and a sociological point-of-view. The impact of HIV/AIDS, particularly in countries like Botswana, is all-encompassing. Max Essex is a forerunner in AIDS research, particularly in Botswana where the infection rates are somewhere close to 30%. The style of this book is written in two voices - Max Essex's and Unity Dow's. Max provides the scientific understanding of the disease, while Unity illustrates the consequences of the HIV/AIDS infection with faces and names. My favorite genre of books to read that of biographies/autobiographies. I like the way that Unity's human-interest stories alternate with Max's explanation of the research that has been done. At first I had some difficulty identifying who was 'speaking' and when - but the book becomes more fluid with each chapter. It is interesting how culture comes up against research and how, given the incessant deaths from the disease, Botswana culture has had to accommodate these new challenges and adapt accordingly. I work as an administrator in this field, and I found that this book greatly helped my understanding of my work. I was interested enough to read this book in a day or two, and the images still remain in my mind. It is not often that you encounter a book that appeals on so many levels - and imparts complex information without being condescending or pedantic. I have read some of Unity Dow's other work as well, and she has a fine, narrative voice. She captures the spirit of her culture so well that it is difficult not to pay attention. I would highly recommend this book for anyone interested in learning more about the AIDS epidemic in Africa.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Beautiful portray of the burden of HIV/AIDS both in a narrative and factual manner

By Amazon Customer

The pairing of the experiences of both Dow and Essex concerning HIV/AIDS makes for a powerful illustration of the burden and suffering created by the disease. Not only informative, but heart-wrenching. Beautifully done. Not just a great read for those interested in Africa and global/public health, but can be easily read by the average audience as well.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Great Book!

By BaylorGirl15

These authors have so much knowledge about this. The style of the book is perfect in helping the reader not only learn about the illness but also helping to relate to those with the disease and understand how HIV/AIDS affects more than just the body and those infected with it. A great read where you will learn much.

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A decade ago, the AIDS epidemic in the southern African country had gotten so bad that leaders feared its people were in danger of extinction; the World Health Organization estimated that 85 percent of 15 year olds would eventually die of the disease. Today, Botswana is the pride of Africa. The country's remarkable journey is detailed in *Saturday Is for Funerals*, a new book by renowned AIDS activist Unity Dow and researcher Max Essex. Weaving together personal anecdotes and medical history, the authors reveal how a combination of proactive government intervention, education, research, and foreign aid have achieved the near impossible...Bringing *Saturday Is for Funerals* to life--and distinguishing it from other books about AIDS in Africa--are its first-hand, often heart-wrenching stories of the epidemic's victims...[Dow] shares

evocative stories of marriages torn apart by the disease, and saved through drug therapy, of tribal leaders encouraging circumcision to reduce infection, and of AIDS orphans. (Danielle Friedman Daily Beast 2010-06-04)

Unity Dow, a judge of the Interim Independent Constitutional Dispute Resolution Court of Kenya, and Max Essex, a Harvard professor of health sciences, have worked at the Botswana-Harvard Partnership to control, contain, and curtail the HIV/AIDS epidemic that has devastated Botswana. In this informative book, they present the many difficulties they face--medical, cultural, psychological, and financial. (Barbara Fisher Boston Globe 2010-06-06)

The epidemic of HIV and AIDS marching across Africa is threatening to crush entire countries under its weight. *Saturday Is for Funerals* tells the story of how one country, Botswana, is stemming the epidemic with bold political leadership, a strategic and scientific approach, and more than a little grit. (Priya Shetty New Scientist 2010-06-19)

The book is compelling because it tells us the real stories of people living with HIV/Aids and the devastating effects it has on families. There are stories of deadly sexual betrayal and bitterness, but also resilience, caring and kindness...This hook is then used to engage the reader and explain the science behind the disease in a generally accessible way. It is a work of both literature and science and works brilliantly. (Pádraig Carmody Irish Times 2010-07-02)

A compelling look at the toll of AIDS in Africa and some hopeful developments. (Vanessa Bush Booklist 2010-05-01)

Tragic and heartwrenching stories of victims, coupled with scientific explanations, are effectively woven into chapters on mother-to-child transmission, fear of diagnosis, AIDS in children, highly active antiretroviral therapy, drug resistance and toxicities, stigma, and orphans. The book comes at a critical time as news of HIV/AIDS "donor fatigue" makes headlines, and funding to battle AIDS in Africa is shrinking. This is very important reading for politicians, educators, students, and those seeking an education on humankind's greatest plague. (P. Wermager Choice 2010-10-01)

Dow and Essex bring their distinct and complementary knowledge of HIV infection in southern Africa into a book that effectively depicts both the personal and the scientific facets of the Botswana AIDS epidemic...The science is competently explained in terms that a lay person could understand, and the combination works well, making this book a good introduction to the key facts about HIV/AIDS as well as a moving depiction of the individual tragedies this disease can inflict...This book would be worthwhile reading for people who want to learn more about the HIV epidemic but would never pick up a textbook or scientific article...In my view, this book should be compulsory reading for policy makers and leaders throughout Africa, who often appear to be unaccountably remote from the suffering of ordinary people in their countries. (Sarah Rowland-Jones Nature Medicine 2010-12-01)

Unity Dow and Max Essex illuminate the AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa by reporting on its consequences for the lives of those living in a single country, Botswana. Dow is a human rights lawyer and judge. Essex is an AIDS scientist at Harvard University. They have deployed their complementary experiences to examine multiple aspects of AIDS, dividing each chapter in half. Dow describes the personal stories of those affected by AIDS. She creates play scripts of conversation to situate the issue at hand--AIDS among children, access to medicines, fear and stigma, diagnosis--in a context that illustrates the intimacy and tragedy of the epidemic. Essex follows up with a scientific explanation of the preceding drama, together with his own reflections about what is being done to prevent such an episode from happening again. It is an

effective strategy, drawing the reader into the particular culture of AIDS in Botswana, while showing what the global medical research enterprise into HIV can deliver for people who live in often excruciating poverty. (Richard Horton Times Literary Supplement 2011-01-07)

Outstanding **Saturday Is For Funerals By Unity Dow, Max Essex** book is constantly being the most effective pal for spending little time in your workplace, night time, bus, and also almost everywhere. It will certainly be a great way to merely look, open, and review the book Saturday Is For Funerals By Unity Dow, Max Essex while in that time. As recognized, experience and skill don't constantly had the much money to acquire them. Reading this book with the title Saturday Is For Funerals By Unity Dow, Max Essex will certainly allow you recognize much more things.