Ghosts, Gods and Good Things

Autumn offers a stellar lineup of HIV-related reading. Find these suggested titles in the POZ Bookstore:

September 25, 2017 By Trent Straube

After Silence

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by Avram Finkelstein

Graphic design propelled AIDS activism into the global spotlight. Here, a creator of the iconic “Silence = Death” poster recounts the stories behind the slogans and the design decisions, assembling a tool box for future activists.

Ghosts of St. Vincent’s

by Tom Eubanks

More than a memorial to the hospital that was ground zero for AIDS in New York City, this expansive must-read memoir is dense with delightful (and horrific) details from the early epidemic. Ring a bell: AZT, CMV, Bactrim and boy bar?

Good Things Happen Slowly

by Fred Hersch

Famed jazz pianist, long-term survivor of AIDS (and a two-month-long coma), openly gay man and 2015 POZ cover subject Fred Hersch candidly and lyrically weaves together the remarkable elements of his creative and inspiring life.

The Life and Death of ACT UP/LA

by Benita Roth

The Los Angeles chapter of AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) is chronicled through the lens of feminism, politics and intersectionality (race and gender conflicts). Academic but accessible.

A Positive Superhero

by Desiree Thompson

Learning about and living with HIV are all in a day’s work for James, a boy who wants to be a

superhero when he grows up. Created by the mom of a son with HIV, this educational book gives children “powers” to prevail.

In the Province of the Gods

by Kenny Fries

In this mesmerizing memoir, as he researches the history of the disabled in Japan, a U.S. scholar learns he has HIV, a topic he mulls over along with Meiji Jingu irises, love hotels, Hiroshima survivors and a Ryoanji rock garden.

Sistah’s Speak

by Khafre Kujichagulia Abif

Women living with HIV speak up in this collection of fiction, essays, poetry and ruminations. The themes and emotions may vary—humor, sex, love, loss—but they’re all united in their fierce ability to inspire you to thrive.

Stonewall Strong

by John-Manuel Andriote

Why focus on our traumas instead of how we overcame them? In this look at recent gay male history—including AIDS activists Larry Kramer and Peter Staley—the reigning characteristic is resilience. It’s a life lesson for us all.

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