The Library Is Open

Check out these HIV-related reads, ranging from memoirs and essays to a children's book.

August 14, 2023 By POZ Staff

Army of Lovers

K.M. Soehnlein

The only fiction entry here—it's based on the author's lived experiences—this novel chronicles a group of friends coming of age and fighting for their lives as AIDS activists in 1980s and '90s New York City.

Boy With the Bullhorn: A Memoir and History of ACT UP New York

Ron Goldberg

As much detailed history as memoir, Bullhorn recounts the lives, loves, friendships, fights and political strategies of the AIDS activist group ACT UP New York.

“Boy With the Bullhorn: A Memoir and History of ACT UP New York” by Ron Goldberg

Hope for Ryan White

By Dano Moreno; Illustrated by Hannah Abbo

This children’s book educates a new generation about the 1980s teenager who contracted HIV via a blood transfusion and became an influential AIDS activist.

“Hope for Ryan White” By Dano Moreno; Illustrated by Hannah Abbo

A Pill for Promiscuity: Gay Sex in an Age of Pharmaceuticals

Edited by Andrew Spieldenner and Jeffrey Escoffier

How has gay sex changed in the age of PrEP to prevent HIV? This collection includes essays on the topic by novelist Andrew Holleran and trans scholar Lore/tta LeMaster.

Still Positive: A Memoir

Julie Lewis with Jenny Koenig

A suburban mother of three when she learned she had HIV in 1990, Julie Lewis became a health educator before founding the 30/30 Project in 2014 to build 30 health centers around the world. She’s also the mom of Ryan Lewis, half of the Grammy Award–winning hip-hop duo Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, and her tale offers rare insight into parenting with HIV in the early years of the epidemic.

This Time for Me: A Memoir

Alexandra Billings

Recognized from her roles on stage (Broadway’s Wicked) and screen (TV’s The Peripheral and The Conners), trans actress Alexandra Billings, who is HIV positive, recounts her astonishing life and lessons learned (AIDS icon Larry Kramer makes a significant cameo) in this unflinching page-turner of a memoir.

Unsafe Words: Queering Consent in the #MeToo Era

Edited by Shantel Gabrieal Buggs and Trevor Hoppe

Artists, academics, sex workers and activists (including Mark S. King) contribute 13 essays that unpack the heteronormative assumptions and racial privilege of the #MeToo movement while envisioning ethical queer sex.

“Unsafe Words: Queering Consent in the #MeToo Era” Edited by Shantel Gabrieal Buggs and Trevor Hoppe

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