Stripping Stigma

Marvelyn Brown, who graced our January 2006 cover, has written a startling new memoir about her life as a young, black woman fighting AIDS stigma.

October 1, 2008 By Steven Martinez

Diagnosed at age 19, Tennessee native Marvelyn Brown announced her HIV-positive status in her hometown newspaper. As a result, she was alienated by many friends and family members. She has since appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, BET's *106 & Park* and *America's Next Top Model*.

Brown, now 24, has written a book—*The Naked Truth*—that she hopes will convince a global audience to rethink its attitudes about HIV/AIDS. Here, the Emmy Award winner opens up to *POZ* about her new book.

What sparked you to write the book?
I felt like God inspired me to write the book. It wasn't something that I had planned to do.

What do you hope to achieve by sharing your story?
One of my goals is to educate people about the virus and shine light on what I go through every day.

What can we expect next from Marvelyn Brown?
My main goal is to reduce stigma, and that's what I'm hoping to accomplish with this book. I won't stop until that happens—that's when I'll be satisfied.

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http://beta.docker.poz.com/article/marvelyn-brown-hiv-15314-9561