Just Remember This

October 8, 2013 By Sean Strub

Carrie E. Foote, Ph.D, an Associate Professor in Sociology at Indiana University-Purdue University, compiled information on as many HIV/AIDS-related memoirs as she could find and it is fascinating. Since the late 1980s, with Paul Monette's ***Borrowed Time***, Michael Callen's ***Surviving AIDS***, and others, I've enjoyed, learned from and been inspired by reading first-hand experiences about the lives we've lived in struggle and survival.

Click here to see a checkerboard she created to show the covers of more than 100 HIV memoirs; link on any of them to get more information.

For an author of a forthcoming memoir, like me, Dr. Foote's comprehensive compilation is also a bit daunting. Mine is titled ***Body Counts: A Memoir of Politics, Sex, AIDS and Survival***. The publication date is January 14, but if all goes well there might be some copies in bookstores by the end of the year. And it can already be pre-ordered on Amazon. That's me and Michael Misove, my partner who died in 1988, on the cover.

When POZ was launched, nearly 20 years ago, there was a distinct memoir aspect to our pages because we provided an opportunity for David Feinberg, Kiki Mason, Shawn Decker, River Houston and so many others to document what they--and we--were going through. (David ***Eighty-Sixed*** and Shawn's ***My Pet Virus*** are both, of course, included on Dr. Foote's roster). POZ.com's many bloggers provide that today to an even greater degree.

I'll be traveling a lot in the early part of the year; if you're interested in having me stop by your city to speak about ***Body Counts***, criminalization and stigma, or the people with HIV empowerment movement, drop me a note at SeanS@poz.com and let me know. Thanks.

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http://beta.docker.poz.com/blog/body-counts-memoir-sean-strub