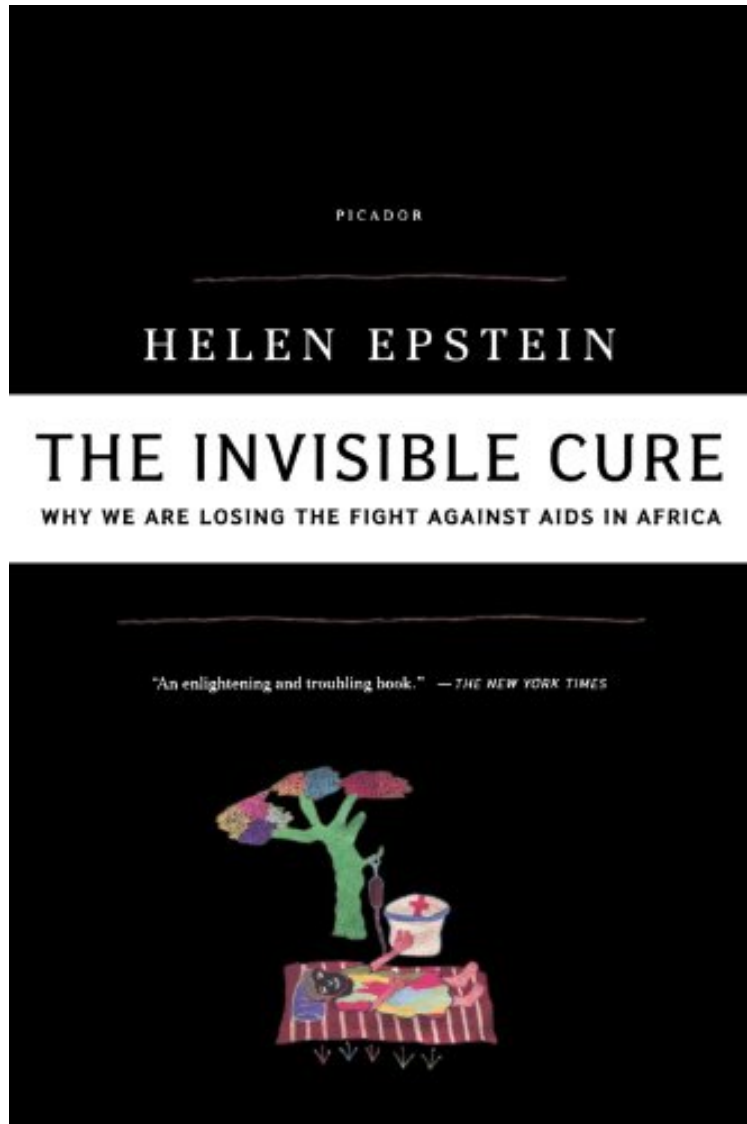


The Invisible Cure: Why We Are Losing the Fight Against AIDS in Africa

Helen Epstein

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#476463 in Books Helen Epstein 2008-05-27 2008-05-27 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .3 x 5.50l, .65 #File Name: 0312427727324 pages The Invisible Cure Why We Are Losing the Fight Against AIDS in Africa | File size: 63.Mb

Helen Epstein : The Invisible Cure: Why We Are Losing the Fight Against AIDS in Africa before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Invisible Cure: Why We Are Losing the Fight Against AIDS in Africa:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must read By Just Mike This is not the kind of book I would have

ever thought to just pick up for myself. I live - literally - half a world away from the people and places described in this book; and my career life has been focused on alleviating a very different kind of suffering - that of families caught up in the public child welfare system. I had a chance meeting with the author, she asked for my cooperation in researching a story on child welfare, and I thought I'd read her book just to gain some insight into her thinking and worldview. *The Invisible Cure* is gripping, compulsively readable, and resonated deeply with me in ways I did not expect. For anyone who has felt the frustration of challenging the prevailing orthodoxy in their own line of work, for anyone who has struggled to understand how politics and greed can infect and corrupt even the most honorably motivated humanitarian projects, and for anyone who believes in the power and potential of grassroots community organizing as the most effective solution to community problems, this book is informative, affirming, and ultimately inspiring and uplifting, despite the grim subject matter. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dynamic and thought provoking glimpse into the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in East Southern Africa By Kristen Glauser Epstein does a great job intertwining her own story into the history of the epidemic in the late 80s-present day. There is a lot of technical and personal information presented throughout which allows the reader to learn and empathize. This book is for public health junkies, people interested in the HIV/AIDS and also people who are interested in learning more about controversial topics. A very good read, my only complaint and the reason for 4 stars is that the flow of the book can feel choppy at points. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An in-depth read by a great writer By In Progress For anyone interested in HIV/AIDS in Africa, this is a must-read. Although formally trained as a molecular biologist, Helen Epstein is an excellent writer and paints an accurate picture of the history of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa, with a specific focus on Uganda, East Africa, and Southern Africa. A very moving book that helps us realize the ways in which we will end this horrible disease have little to do with big pharma and a western-centered solution.

A New York Times Notable Book of 2007 *The Invisible Cure* is an account of Africa's AIDS epidemic from the inside--a revelatory dispatch from the intersection of village life, government intervention, and international aid. Helen Epstein left her job in the US in 1993 to move to Uganda, where she began work on a test vaccine for HIV. Once there, she met patients, doctors, politicians, and aid workers, and began exploring the problem of AIDS in Africa through the lenses of medicine, politics, economics, and sociology. Amid the catastrophic failure to reverse the epidemic, she discovered a village-based solution that could prove more effective than any network of government intervention and international aid, an intuitive response that calls into question many of the fundamental assumptions about the AIDS in Africa. Written with conviction, knowledge, and insight, *The Invisible Cure* will change how we think about the worst health crisis of the past century--and indeed about every issue of global public health.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Epstein, a public health specialist and molecular biologist who has worked on AIDS vaccine research, overturns many of our received notions about why AIDS is rampant in Africa and what to do about it. She charges that Western governments and philanthropists, though well-meaning, have been wholly misguided, and that Africans themselves, who understand their own cultures, often know best how to address HIV in their communities. Most significant is Epstein's discussion of concurrent sexual relations in Africa. Africans often engage in two or three long-term concurrent relationships which proves more conducive to the spread of AIDS than Western-style promiscuity. Persuade Africans to forgo concurrency for monogamy, and the infection rate plummets, as it did in Uganda in the mid-1990s. On the other hand, ad campaigns focused on condom use helped imply falsely that only prostitutes and truck drivers get AIDS. In addition, Epstein examines what she calls the "African earthquake": social and economic upheaval that have also eased the spread of HIV. Epstein is a lucid writer, translating abstruse scientific concepts into language nonspecialists can easily grasp. Provocative, passionate and incisive, this may be the most important book on AIDS published this year indeed, it may even save lives. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Some countries in Africa report that approximately one-third of their adult populations are infected with HIV. Epstein wondered how such a state of affairs came about. Seeking answers, she contracted with a biotechnical company to go to Africa and work toward discovering an AIDS vaccine. What she subsequently learned exploded some preconceived and widely shared notions about AIDS, about how African culture all but ensures its spread, and about what might be a deceptively simple answer to the complex question of how to stem that spread. Her absorbing report reveals governmental inefficiencies and medical bureaucracies and social structures that have done nothing to slow the epidemic's pace and may be accelerating it. Besides the epidemic's social and medical aspects, she discusses the business of AIDS, and she examines the mystery of how the HIV infection rate dropped some 70 percent between 1992 and 1997 in Uganda and the Kagera region of Tanzania; she believes that the invisible cure involved in that plunge provides clues to resolving the issue of AIDS in Africa generally. Chavez, Donna Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved An enlightening and troubling book. The New York Times Helen Epstein is one of a rare species: the scientist turned storyteller. . . . [A] blunt, informed critique. Salon.com The UN and President Bush should not just read Epstein's book, they should distribute it around Africa. The Sunday Times (London) Elegant prose, a scientific background, and a journalist's

searching anecdotal eye. Nature Sometimes a bolt of clarity shoots out of the blue . . . as it will for readers of this book who yearn for insights on how a deadly virus now infects an estimated 25 million Africans and has killed untold millions more. The New York Times Book Epstein has a compelling thesis, and she explains it in lucid, sometimes extraordinary prose. The Nation