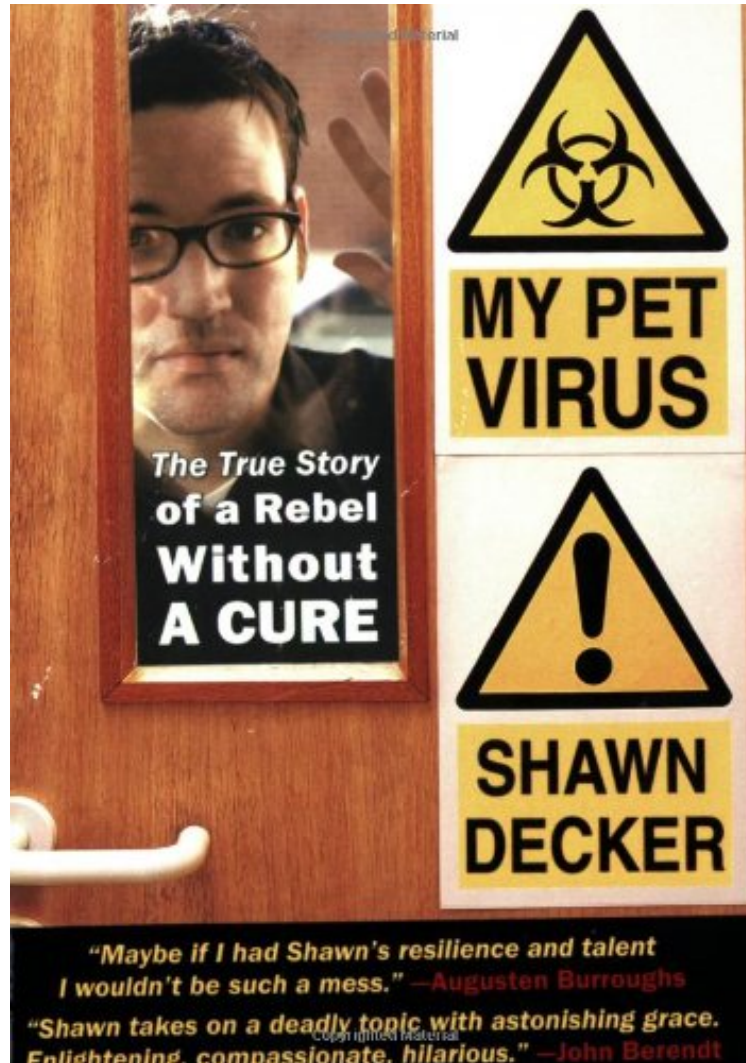


(Download) My Pet Virus: The True Story of a Rebel Without a Cure

My Pet Virus: The True Story of a Rebel Without a Cure

Shawn Decker

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Shawn Decker : My Pet Virus: The True Story of a Rebel Without a Cure before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Pet Virus: The True Story of a Rebel Without a Cure:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. How to make a fun book about living with HIV/AIDS By S. Mynttinen This is a great book about one of the most well-adjusted people in the world. Shawn has taken what was a death sentence at one time and overcome low expectations to shed some good light on the world. Thank you for having the guts to be a regular kid in a world that wanted to hide you away. Your sense of humor and take on life is a great way to address HIV/AIDS and safe sex to the next generation. Keep up the good work! 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Laugh, cry, and Learn By C. Brown Despite the hardships that he has faced throughout his

life Shawn Decker has shown that it is possible to be positive, happy, and accepting- even when those around him did not understand or accept him themselves. Through this book Shawn uses his humor and intelligence to teach not only about HIV but about how to be a better human. As someone who has suffered through hardships of their own I know what a difficult task this can be yet Shawn pulls it off effortlessly and with grace. This book so captured my mind and my heart I read it in one sitting. I laughed, I cried, and I learned. Everyone should read this book.0 of 15 people found the following review helpful. received in 3 weeksBy Guy H. GodinInteresting for me, but on a specific subject-matter that do not necessarily interest many people. The book was received in good conditions, but you can see that it has been read and consulted.

I was destined for a life of medical drama from day one," begins this comic memoir with a mission. "I was born in the month of July, and my horoscope sign is a disease (Cancer). The symbol for Cancer? A crab (the sexually transmitted critter). Not only that, my parents named me Shawn Timothy Decker, which makes my initials S.T.D. Shawn Decker isn't quite the All-American boy. Sure, he gets caught shoplifting copies of Penthouse; is crazy about pro wrestling, especially "The Nature Boy" Ric Flair; and never has a problem getting dates. But he's also a hemophiliac who discovers, at age eleven, that he has contracted HIV from tainted blood products. Instead of becoming self-pitying and dying (as first predicted), Shawn develops a twisted sense of humor, meets Depeche Mode through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and writes on blogs and in Poz magazine about what it's like being hetero and HIV-positive in rural Virginia. He also turns to gay men for advice on dating women and, almost twenty years after getting HIV, marries Gwenn Barringer, who is HIV-negative and a former competitor for the title of Miss Virginia. Together Shawn and Gwenn travel the country, speaking to high school and college kids about how to live and love with HIV (and how to avoid getting it).

From Publishers Weekly Growing up in the small town of Waynesboro, Va., Decker was diagnosed with hemophilia at 18 months, and then in 1987, while in sixth grade, he found out that one of his many blood transfusions had infected him with HIV; the diagnosis of full-blown AIDS came 12 years later. His drug regimens and general ill-health made him unfit for an eight-hour workday, and finding a woman who was comfortable enough with his HIV status was less than easy. For the purposes of Decker's book, he's not interested in pity, preferring instead to take the offensive—usually with purposefully bad humor, referring to himself as either a "thinblood" (for hemophiliac) or "postoid" (for his positive status). It's a refreshing tactic, for Decker focuses more on what he's doing to move ahead in life than on how he's suffering. Decker's bravery is inarguably admirable, but it distances him; by book's end—when he has married a beauty queen, with whom he tours the country speaking about sex and HIV—we respect him but hardly feel as though we know him. (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Decker, a hemophiliac, learned at age 11 that he was HIV-positive. In his candid, raucous memoir, he recounts what it meant to grow up with his "pet virus" in the 1980s and 1990s. There's plenty of self-deprecation and no self-pity as he describes his first girlfriends and sexual encounters; the experience of meeting his favorite band, Depeche Mode, through the Make-a-Wish Foundation; and the process of gaining the confidence to "come out" and talk about his disease publicly, ultimately finding a career as a writer and speaker. Throughout, he's clear about his family's unwavering support and tough love ("Don't complain. The person a few rooms over may be taking a dirt nap tonight," his mother, who shares his dark humor, calmly remarks in the hospital); and his growing relationship with Gwen, the HIV-negative young woman who becomes his wife, is particularly poignant. There are too few memoirs about living with AIDS, and this hilarious, outspoken, and vibrant story will instruct and inspire its readers. Gillian Engberg Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Shawn Decker's life was shaped by medical adversity from day one. Despite being born with mild hemophilia, he enjoyed a pretty normal childhood that included baseball and neighborhood games of football with friends. Infected with HIV through the use of tainted blood products, Shawn was expelled from public school just after his HIV diagnosis at age 11. (He was eventually readmitted.) For the next ten years, Shawn kept his HIV status to himself, barely talking to his parents or doctors and never mentioning his pet virus by name. In 1996, at age 20, a change of heart led to the creation of "My Pet Virus", a web site devoted to Shawn's favorite pastimes as well as a sounding board for his feeling about living with HIV. His humorous and informative take on life with HIV caught the eye of POZ Magazine, and Shawn was featured on the cover of the January 97 issue before being invited to write a column for the magazine. At age 23, he met a fellow HIV educator, Gwenn Barringer- who is HIV negative. After they fell in love, friends encouraged them to speak together as a couple, and in 2000 they joined CAMPUSPEAK, a speaker's bureau specializing in health issues. Since 2000, Shawn and Gwenn have spoken to over 50,000 students on colleges campuses, traveling nationally to share how they keep Gwenn HIV negative in their program, "A Boy, A Girl, A Virus The Relationship That Happened Anyway." In 2004, Shawn and Gwenn were married. Together they've been featured on MTV, the BBC, CNN.com and have appeared in an HBO documentary as well as in Cosmopolitan. My Pet Virus is Shawn's first book.