

A history and an inspiration

This is the tale of a devastating pandemic and of lives cut painfully short — as well as a love story

Derek, a distinguished designer, and J, a pioneering entrepreneur and creator of Heaven, the iconic gay nightclub, met and fell in love more than 40 years ago. In the early 1980s, their friends began to get sick and die — AIDS had arrived in their lives. When they got tested, J received what was then a death sentence: he was HIV positive. While the onset of AIDS strengthened stigma and fear globally, they confronted their crisis with courage, humour and an indomitable resolve to survive. J's battle lasted six long years.

Turning to spiritual reflection, yoga, nature — and always to love — Derek describes a transformation of the spirit, how compassion and empathy rose phoenix-like from the flames of sickness and death, and how he and J founded the charity Aids Ark, which has helped to save more than 1,000 HIV positive lives.

This is a story of joy and triumph, of facing universal challenges, of the great rewards that come from giving back. Derek speaks for a generation who lived through a global health crisis that many at the time refused even to acknowledge. His is an incredibly powerful story chronicling this extraordinary era.

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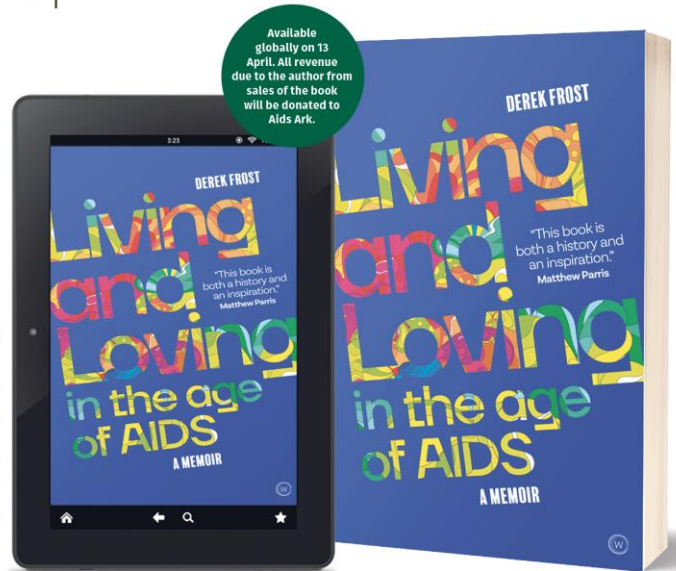
'Derek Frost writes with unsentimental honesty: a stark witness that has been largely absent from the literature. This book is both a history and an inspiration.' — Matthew Parris, political writer and broadcaster.

'This is a poignant and heart-touching memoir, which gives the 40-year global HIV pandemic a truly human face.' — Professor Linda-Gail Bekker, past president of the International AIDS Society.

'This memoir is incredibly vivid, moving, and compelling.' — Lord Chris Smith, Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge University.

'This book takes us on a journey into the very heart of darkness, and then, as importantly, out of it and beyond.' — Del Kolve, professor of English literature at UCLA.

Available globally on 13 April. All revenue due to the author from sales of the book will be donated to Aids Ark.



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Screenshot