



***The Other Pandemic* by Lynn Curlee**

Charlesbridge Teen, Charlesbridge, 2023

ISBN: 9781623543501 (Hardcover)

*Age Range: 12 and up (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 7 and up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A searing photo-illustrated historical memoir from the LGBTQIA+ frontlines of the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s and 1990s.

Before COVID-19 made *pandemic* a household word in 2020, there was the AIDS pandemic of the 1980s and 1990s. Author Lynn Curlee explores the parallels and the difference as he recounts living in New York and Los Angeles when the disease silently took hold of the gay community. As the disease became a full-blown public health crisis, Curlee watched in horror at the devastating progression of HIV/AIDS, the staggering losses endured, and the divisive politics and discrimination that cost many people their lives.

With honesty and heart, Curlee tells the stories of the many friends and loved ones that he lost to the disease, including his own life partner. LGBTQ+ rights and access to health care continues to be threatened today. *The Other Pandemic* is a stark and strong reminder of how history speaks to the present, and this window to the past is a valuable tool for understanding our current cultural landscape.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★“. . . Curlee uses personal photographs, powerful quotes, and his own memories to build a gripping, unforgettable account of the early years of the AIDS crisis. . . . The vulnerable, poignant memories make this historical review an especially memorable and crucial reading. . . .”—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, starred review

★“Curlee has written an important book, for, as he acknowledges, “AIDS still simmers in the United States,” and so, more good books about it are necessary—particularly those such as this that put a human face on it. It belongs in every library.”—*Booklist*, starred review

★“A poignant memoir that readers will not be able to put down. Keep tissues handy. Highly recommended.”—*School Library Journal*, starred review

“. . . Curlee’s memoir, illustrated with personal photographs, is intimate and resonant as it presents the thrill of coming out and living openly and the fear and pain that followed when so many people he loved were taken from him too soon. Compelling and important.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“. . . Curlee’s straightforward prose capably conveys the era’s worsening bias and fear. Most powerful of all, however, is the novel’s focus on Curlee’s inner circle and the people he lost to the crisis, including his partner, making for a thought-provoking history about what it was like to live during that time, and a good start for further exploration.”—*Publishers Weekly*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- *2023 Junior Library Guild Selection*
- *2024 CCBC Choices*

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [The Other Pandemic Discussion Guide | Charlesbridge](#)
- ["The Other Pandemic" Is Both a Reminder and an Educational Read | Out In Jersey](#)
- [When AIDS Crashed the Party: The Other Pandemic: An AIDS Memoir by Lynn Curlee | BlackRaven, Cannonball Read 16](#)
- [-Media Watch: "A Tale of Two Pandemics" | The Lancet, Infectious Diseases](#)
- [The Other Pandemic: An AIDS Memoir by Lynn Curlee | The Nonfiction Detectives](#)

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.