

Witness To Aids

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Sarah Brophy David Bergman Kenneth S. Broun James H. Seckinger Congressional
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when edwin cameron announced to a stunned local and international media that he one of
south africa s most prominent citizens was himself living with the virus cutting swathes through
the population of the continent the impact was immediate in this memoir he grapples with the
meaning of hiv aids for him as he confronts the possibility of his own lingering death and for all
of us in facing up to one of the most desperate challenges of our time cameron blends
elements of his destitute childhood with his daily duties as a judge and human rights lawyer
while focusing on the epidemic s central issues stigma unjust discrimination and most vitally
the life and death question of access to treatment 2005

witnessing aids addresses testimonial literature produced in response to the aids pandemic
focusing on texts by four individuals filmmaker painter activist and writer derek jarman writer
jamaica kincaid anthropologist and media theorist eric michaelis and journalist amy hoffman
sarah brophy outlines the critical framework for interpreting the emphasis on unresolved grief in
the emerging body of work brophy challenges the tendency to treat aids testimonial literature

as a genre particular to gay men by examining Kincaid's and Hoffman's memoirs in conjunction with the diaries of Michaels and Jarman Brophy expands the territory of mourning beyond one group of people an exercise that Brophy feels is important as well as fundamental to understanding the depth of personal grief and the ways we respond to grief in literature in a clear and accessible style *Witnessing Aids* illustrates how memoirs and diaries are used as self-theorizing documents that approach personal testimony as an intervention in cultural memory the aim of Brophy's work is to develop a framework for reading one that begins to grasp the significance of unresolved grief in AIDS its effect upon testimonial writing and to engage rather than deflect visceral investment in the mundane intimacies of illness death and grief resituates a number of critical debates at new and provocative intersections as the strategy for understanding continues

the members of the literary circle known as the Violet Quill Andrew Holleran Felice Picano Edmund White Christopher Cox Michael Grumley Robert Ferro and George Whitmore collectively represent the aspirations and the achievement of gay writing during and after the gay liberation movement David Bergman's *Social History* shows how the works of these authors reflected advanced and criticized the values principles and prejudices of the culture of gay liberation in spinning many of the most important stories gay men told of themselves in the short period between the 1969 Stonewall riots and the devastation of the AIDS epidemic during the 1980s the Violet Quill exerted an enormous influence on gay culture the death toll of the AIDS epidemic including four of the Violet Quill's seven members has made putting such recent events into a historical context all the more important and difficult the work of the Violet Quill expresses the joy suffering grief hope activism and caregiving of their generation the *Violet Hour* meets the urgent need for a history of the men who bore witness not only to the birth but also to the decimation of a culture

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portraits of presence excavating traumatic identity in contemporary Catalan testimonies Camila Loew Sound Image and the corporeal implication of witnessing in Derek Jarman's *Blue* Roger

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