



# Love is the Cure: On Life, Loss, and the End of AIDS

*Elton John*

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**Love is the Cure: On Life, Loss, and the End of AIDS** Elton John

**A deeply personal account of Elton John's life during the era of AIDS and an inspiring call to action.**

In the 1980s, Elton John saw friend after friend, loved one after loved one, perish needlessly from AIDS. He befriended Ryan White, a young Indiana boy ostracized because of his HIV infection. Ryan's inspiring life and devastating death led Elton to two realizations: His own life was a mess. And he had to do something to help stop the AIDS crisis.

Since then, Elton has dedicated himself to overcoming the plague and the stigma of AIDS. The Elton John AIDS Foundation has raised and donated \$275 million to date to fighting the disease worldwide. *Love Is the Cure* includes stories of Elton's close friendships with Ryan White, Freddie Mercury, Princess Diana, Elizabeth Taylor, and others, and the story of the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

Sales of *Love Is the Cure* benefit the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

## Love is the Cure: On Life, Loss, and the End of AIDS Details

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# From Reader Review Love is the Cure: On Life, Loss, and the End of AIDS for online ebook

## Alex Curry says

A poignant, heartfelt view of The AIDS epidemic from a sociopolitical point of view. This work studies how the disease is worsened by the uncomfortable stigma that surrounds it. An argument that may seem far fetched by the title is explained through striking stories about how a societies actions and lack of compassion can actually spread and keep alive something so horrible. A beautiful book.

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## Dominique says

I read about this book at some library magazine or an online book review, don't remember exactly where. But, I was immediately determined to read it. I think what got my attention, while reading the book review, were the quotes from the book, that actually took me by surprise. I never knew Elton John was a bulimic and a drug addict. I mean, yes the majority of musicians, rock stars, celebrities have some connection to drugs or alcohol, but for some reason I never knew that about Elton John. Maybe the "celebrity gossip/life" sparked the initial interest in me. And that was the expectation I had for this book. I wanted to look inside Sir Elton John's life, the battle with drugs, alcohol and food.

The book is a super fast read. I finished this book within one day. It's easy and well-written and a page-turner, but not due to suspense, rather an expectation of "when will you talk more about your life in detail"...I learned quickly that this book focuses on EJAF (Elton John's Aids Foundation) and what inspired him to get out of his unhealthy lifestyle, who inspired him and many, many facts about AIDS. I learned few new things about AIDS, at times it was very emotional but still very factual. It also mentions all the celebrity supporters of AIDS foundations - it feels like a promotional book for EJAF. But hey....good for him! I mean it!

So, I gave it three stars because it flows well, some light insight of EJ life, the purpose and need for EJAF and I also learned a lot about Ryan White (boy who died on AIDS/inspiration for EJ) The reason I didn't give all five stars is, because it felt like a promotional book and the reviews and PR for this book were a bit misleading.

Would I recommend it? If you want to learn about the foundation and don't want to read necessarily about the details of EJ's life - go ahead. Just be aware there are a lot of stats, facts...

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## Amy says

I received the book for free through Goodreads First Reads and I am extremely glad that I did! It was truly inspirational to read. Elton John writes as if he is talking through the page and into your ear as if he was right next to you! It was very interesting with many facts about AIDS, the history, and about his life. He is open in this book about some personal aspects of his life and you definitely learn a lot reading it not only about him but about HIV/AIDS. I really enjoyed this book.

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**Tiffany McElmeel says**

This book was ok, but it felt like the author did a lot of bragging on himself.

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**Rachel says**

I enjoyed listening to Elton John, but after struggling through disc 1, I couldn't listen to the story anymore. Not my cup of tea, and sad to listen to while driving.

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**Justlesa Hall says**

The individual stories are what made this book.

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**Sheila DeChantal says**

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In the 1980's, in the heart of the outbreak of the AIDS epidemic, Elton John watched helplessly as friends too numerous to count, succumbed to this frightening illness. It wasn't until he was in a waiting room one day and read an article on Ryan White, the young boy born a hemophiliac, who contracted AIDS through blood transfusions and then was attacked by the school district and parents of students who did not want him to return to school and put (as they thought at the time) their own children at risk of contacting AIDS.

Elton John was furious about the treatment of Ryan White. While working on cleaning up his own addiction to drugs at the time he conquered this and befriended White and his family. This began Elton Johns campaign to help others move beyond the stigma of AIDS.

Love is the Cure is about Elton's work through The Elton John AIDS Foundation that has raised over \$275 million dollars as of the date of this book to fight the disease worldwide. Impressively, Elton's campaign has done wonders in third world countries where AIDS is extremely high due to rape, and unprotected sex.

I have huge compassion for people with AIDS. I am a part of a local camp that raises money for AIDS awareness and have met wonderful people through this. People that I am proud to call my friends.

When I seen Elton's book I knew I had to listen to it to hear his thoughts on AIDS. For the most part, I liked what he said. It was interesting to listen to this audio, narrated (BRILLIANTLY) by him, as he talked about the early years of AIDS his lack of attentiveness, and to now all that is being done around the world and

what has yet to be done.

Elton had and has powerful connections to Presidents, Musicians, and Actors. I was impressed to hear all that Bill Clinton has done in the war against AIDS. I was also saddened as Elton John talked about some of the brilliant people who lost that war, Freddie Mercury (QUEEN), Rock Hudson, Liberace, Anthony Perkins, Issac Asimov, Robert Reed, just to name very few...

Elton's book is factual, and it is personal. I am always stunned by the numbers, 34 million people as of 2010 who has been reported as having AIDS, that number is in fact considerably greater as some states to this day do not report AIDS cases and many never seek treatment and go undiagnosed.

An eye-opening look at the battle that while not as talked about as it once was, is still being fought to this day.

For more of my reviews stop by: <http://bookjourney.wordpress.com/>

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### **Nan St.Michael says**

A good guy and a worthy cause, but I found the book a little repetitive with names and facts.

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### **Gina says**

Enlightening, and inspiring.

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### **Garrett says**

There are going to be a great many people disappointed expecting an autobiography on Elton John. This is, more or less, a 200 page essay on AIDS. Little more than a smattering about the great life and career of Sir Elton John is to be had.

That being said, the book was a quick and interesting read. I know a great deal more about the spread and prevention of HIV, about how far those fighting the disease have come and how much further there is to go.

The book is also interesting to read for those coming from a conservative or religious perspective. Elton is a flaming liberal, but you can feel him trying to meet those with whom his differences are many, halfway. His passion and honesty on the topic he cares about can't help but be contagious, and you'll forgive him his many self-righteous indulgences along the way.

Still, it is a 200 page essay on AIDS, so it can be damn boring as hell.

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## **Linda Cardott says**

Fantastic book. "Love is the Cure", Sir Elton is absolutely correct. A definite must read.

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## **Sarah\_loves\_books says**

Elton John and his partner David Furnish now join the list of people I have special respect for. Before reading this book I didn't know about the substantial work they both have done to fight HIV/AIDS. I only knew about Elton John performing in some concerts, but I knew nothing about this organisation he founded, EJAF, the Elton John AIDS Foundation. EJAF does great work in many places all over the world. Some of the projects introduced in the book that left an impression on me were in South Africa and Ukraine. In South Africa EJAF for example funds projects that provide services to survivors of rape. Rape is an all too common occurrence and an all too common way for HIV to spread in Africa. East Ukraine is now in chaos, and I'm worried for the great projects that EJAF funded there before the war started.

The main message of the book was that HIV/AIDS could already be eradicated from the world, if only governments wanted to do so. And that stigma is preventing the fight. That governments support and spread stigma is the single most harmful thing in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

*"But therein lies the great contradiction of government, and I'm not the first to point it out. The power to heal. The power to harm. Extraordinary power, and too often it is concentrated in the hands of those who don't understand the consequences of their deeds and words. And sometimes, the power is in the hands of truly evil people who just don't give a damn about human life."*

Please, support the work of EJAF. We must keep on fighting.

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## **Matthew says**

It has been over a year that I have wanted to read the book and I am excited that I finally finished it! Elton John's book introduces us to the story of one of the most important people that he ever encountered, Ryan White. I heard about this kid and knew his life story but not in details and this is a kid who truly helped remove the stigma on HIV/AIDS and promoted change, love, and hope for the future. Elton John had an extreme case of alcoholism, sex addiction, bulimic, and was addicted to Cocaine. Because of the death of Ryan White, it was a wake up call for him and he went to rehab and has been sober ever since.

It is remarkable to hear about this from him because I honestly did not know how bad his addiction was and I am surprised that he is still able to sing after all these years. This book evokes memories of Elizabeth Taylor, Princess Diana, and countless others who inspired Elton's life and helped manifest his foundation, Elton John's AIDS Foundation aka EJAF.

I have to warn you, I fell into this trap that this book was going to be purely on memoirs and it's NOT! For about 90 pages, he talks about his friends and loved ones but for most of the book he talks about the history of HIV/AIDS, the destructive past that surrounded this plague, and talks about current events, and things that have become a milestone thanks to his foundation. Elton John uses references to articles in magazines and newspapers to inform where he is getting his information.

I believe this book is crucial and insightful and open my eyes to the chaos that is surrounding this planet and how we as individuals need to step up and start curing the world of diseases with love and dignity. He and countless others are truly passionate towards ending the world of AIDS through the help of government, pharmaceutical companies, foundations and charities and religious institutions. We need to remove the stigma when it comes to HIV/AIDS and fight for a better today, tomorrow, and future generations.

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### **Callie says**

I learned a lot, I laughed a little, got a little misty, got angry (though not at Elton)... Simply put, this book is a must-read.

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### **Carolyn Martinez says**

Eye-opening statistics and a heartfelt plea to change the way we view HIV/AIDS. This is not an autobiography of Elton John the musician, but it is a personal account of his journey from drug/alcohol addiction to becoming a leader in the fight for AIDS treatment, education, and research. It all begins with his friendship with Ryan White, who transforms Elton in a deep and meaningful way. It is not well-written in the literary sense but is straightforward and written with conviction and love. (less)

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### **Carey says**

I first chose to read this book just because it was written by Elton John (a fav musician in my younger years), and I wanted to hear what he had to say. I'm glad I read this informative, eye-opening account of his work with HIV/AIDS. He doesn't call himself an authority on the subject; however, I would.

The book begins with John's account of the Ryan White story, which I remembered from the early 80's. Ryan was a hemophiliac who at age 13 was diagnosed with AIDS caused from a blood transfusion. Ryan died as a teenager, but not before he was ostracised from his school and community. Ignorance, lack of love, and contempt caused Ryan's short life on this earth to be a difficult one; however, we was a Christian filled with faith and love.

Reading about the history of HIV/AIDS, the stigma that accompanies it, responses of governments around the world to the disease, and why humanity hasn't taken the necessary steps to end this dreadful disease has made me more aware and compassionate towards this plight.

AIDS isn't like any other disease. There's no complete cure for heart disease, cancer, or diabetes, but there is for AIDS. AIDS could be wiped out by the year 2020 if the money was allocated...and he's not talking about a ton of money. With \$5-\$7 billion per year through the year 2020, AIDS could end. This sounds like a ton of money; however, consider that "Americans alone spent \$16.9 billion on chocolate and \$18.7 billion on pet food in 2010 alone".

I encourage you to read "Love is the Cure".

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## Martin says

The book talks about stigma and discrimination faced by certain group of people — like gays, drug users, rape victims. John enumerates with many personal poignant stories how for these people, being HIV-positive leads to double discrimination. He looks at HIV/AIDS work in many parts of the world, including USA, UK, Thailand, Haiti, South Africa, Ukraine and other countries; especially where his foundation works with local networks and partners. While the initial chapters portray a grim and hopeless picture, the closing chapter present the wonderful progress made in HIV/AIDS research and the positive possibilities they offer, including the discovery in 2011 that people living with HIV who receive treatment are upto 96 per cent less likely to pass on the virus to a sexual partner. This means that current treatments are so effective they reduce the presence of virus in an infected person's body to almost nil. Thus the chance of infecting others diminishes greatly, meaning 'treatment is also prevention'. John says, "By giving medication to every single person living with HIV/AIDS in the world today — or even most everyone — we can prevent tens of millions of future infections."

Elton John has set an example and led the way. The only thing that perhaps takes you away from the book is the fact that it talks primarily about the work undertaken by Elton John AIDS Foundation in different parts of the world; everything is seen through the perspective of this work and every story is told in connection with the Foundation. Though it could possibly be seen as inspirational for many HIV/AIDS activists working on similar issues across the world, it often reads like a propagandist book. However Elton John does redeem it by juxtaposing it with his own personal story. This makes it interesting and gripping.

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## Camilla says

Three stars is almost unfair. I would have enjoyed this book a lot more had it not been for a few tiny things that annoyed me throughout the book. Before I talk more about it, I'd like to say I am completely behind Elton John on everything in this book. The missing two stars does not represent the facts or the proposed solutions in this book--they are all spot on. With that settled...

*Love is the Cure* is part memoir, but mostly an essay on the history and current state of AIDS. The memoir bits are actually related to the essay bits, so it does not come across as an egotistical celebrity talking about himself instead of the issues at hand. For instance, the hands on treatment Elton John was given in rehab, and the compassionate way he was treated made him believe this was the best way to help anyone. The entire book is extremely personal--indeed that's the point of the book: to go beyond the statistics of HIV/AIDS and give real stories of real suffering. The effect is as intended--I was moved to tears, and was occasionally angered reading these individuals' stories. It really makes you feel connected.

Elton John is not a writer. I realize this. But the repetition in his writing really kept me from enjoying this book. "My dear friend," "dignity they deserve," "compassion," "As early as." The list goes on. "My dear friend" was almost always followed by a celebrity, and while I don't doubt he really is friends with many



celebrities it seemed a bit name-droppy. "As early as" to me should imply that the following is the earliest date at which something could have happened. Elton John uses it obsessively to mean, "Wow, guys! Can you believe it happened this early?" The date is usually exact.

One small thing I really admired was that Elton John gives credit where credit is due. He admires the actions of men he really disagrees with on nearly every score--Republican Senators, corrupt foreign Presidents, U.S. President George W. Bush. He acknowledges their huge contributions to the fight against AIDS. Even pointing out the flaws of certain programs, like President Bush's abstinence only education, he appreciates the things that work.

I learnt a lot from this book. I thought I was fairly knowledgeable about AIDS--I wasn't. And even if you are, reading what is essentially a compilation of deeply personal, real stories of people living with HIV/AIDS will make you want to leap to action. I feel so much more connected to this cause than I did before, and I'm grateful for it. The HIV/AIDS pandemic is, as John explains, curable as long as we are willing to show kindness, love, and ignore the stigmatization of marginalized groups. Elton John is clearly very proud of his foundation, as he well should be. They're fighting to save lives, and that's a beautiful thing.

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## Jessica says

*Love is the Cure* is very well written and Elton John seems to have done his research. A huge focus of this book is on the fact that HIV/AIDS has such a huge stigma attached to it that those with the disease often don't get any treatment. Most of the people who contract the disease are on the fringes of society - meaning they are not always regarded as equal (i.e. gays, prostitutes, injection drug users). In many places because of this social standing, these people are considered to be deserving of their illness. Elton John's point of view is that if everyone stops being so hateful and instead treats everyone with the same respect, AIDS will come to an end. Everyone will get access to the same necessary treatments and preventative measures and will no longer be forced to hide in shame. He proposes that through love the pandemic can end.

I actually learned an extensive amount about the disease while reading this. He's right. HIV/AIDS is something that is basically shoved into the closet and not talked about. I honestly didn't know half of the statistics, including the fact that one of the worst city-wide epidemics in the western hemisphere is in Washington, D.C. The only sort of formal education I've received in school regarding HIV/AIDS was in the 10th grade health class at my school. We had a section on STDs and had to have parental consent to attend those weeks of class due to the fact that HIV/AIDS is primarily associated with gay men. Unfortunately, due to this kind of thinking people like Ryan White have had to (and still do) suffer through the stigma of having the illness.

I am very impressed with the amount of effort Elton John put into this book. He's obviously done his research, which is critical for gaining all of the support he has for his organization EJAF. Citations are provided for each fact to prove that he's not making anything up. Usually, in my opinion, memoirs of celebrities written by those celebrities are trivial and inconsequential. They might be fun and allow a peek inside the hidden lives of the stars but they're not usually intellectual or life changing. This is. *Love is the*

*Cure* is one of the best nonfiction pieces I've read in a long time. Elton John has just blown my mind away.

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## **Jessica says**

I received this book for free from a First Reads giveaway.

During my time training to be a medical librarian, I tried to stay current with popular medical information. I find this book to be a very approachable look at the AIDS epidemic. I completely agree with Sir Elton John's conclusion that HIV/AIDS is a unique disease in the world. After all, with proper treatment, and more importantly, education and prevention, HIV/AIDS could be completely wiped out among humanity.

While it did have its share of name-dropping (not entirely surprising in a celebrity-authored book), Sir Elton John has put forth a very informative and eye-opening view of this epidemic. I very much enjoyed it, and would recommend it to anyone I know who is interested in public health or LGBTQ rights issues.

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