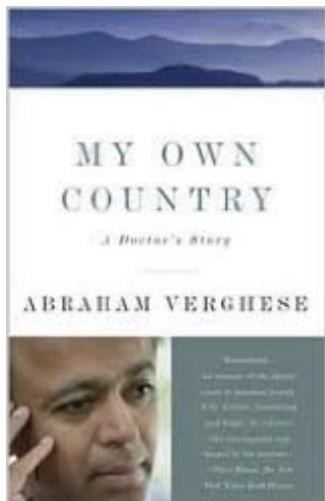


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# My Own Country: A Doctor's Story Of A Town And Its People In The Age Of Aids



## Synopsis

The first book by a doctor who works with AIDS victims daily offers a revealing look at the impact of AIDS on a small Tennessee town, as townspeople respond to the disease's presence in inspiring ways.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster (May 10, 1994)

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Product Dimensions: 1 x 6.5 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ  [See all reviewsÂ \(243 customer reviews\)](#)

Best Sellers Rank: #415,358 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 inÂ Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Internal Medicine > Pathology > Diseases > AIDS & HIV #115 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Gay & Lesbian Studies #241 inÂ Books > Medical Books > Administration & Medicine Economics > Medical History & Records

## Customer Reviews

As a physician who was just finishing training when AIDS burst on the scene in the 80's, the panic and fear among medical staff described in this book are actually tame to what I saw in my hospital. I am one of those "who would, " as Dr. Verghese categorized those who would or would not care for HIV infected patients, and this truly separated us from the vast majority of those at that time who let their fear rule over their intellect. Dr. Verghese tells this exciting story with great compassion for his patients and their families, and it is clear that his emotional connection to them, which is strongly discouraged in medical training, came at great personal cost. As someone who now lives and practices in East Tennessee, I feel he accurately described the people, the culture, and the region's great beauty. His yearning to fit in--to have a home--is poignantly obvious throughout the book even as he becomes more and more isolated from his family and his colleagues. Several of my colleagues trained under or worked with Dr. Verghese during this time, and they all attest to his brilliance as a diagnostician, his great empathy for his patients, his nonjudgemental approach to the gay lifestyle, and his decency and approachability as a person. This book, in their opinions, is an accurate portrayal of the AIDS story in the rural setting. I am drawn to medical writing, particularly when

written by physicians themselves, and Dr. Verghese is a master. This book moved me to tears as the deaths of all of these patients began to add up toward the end of the book, and one can't help but to feel the great waste of life that this virus causes. As a hospice medical director, I was also touched by Dr.

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