

AS IF DEATH SUMMONED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Powerful Story of One Man's Journey Through the AIDS Epidemic, and Finding the Courage to Bring Oneself Back from the Dead.

AS IF
DEATH
SUMMONED

ALAN E. ROSE

BOOK INFO

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MEDIA RELEASE

ANN ARBOR, MI—On the 40th anniversary of the AIDS epidemic, Bywater Books/Amble Press is proud to announce the release of *As If Death Summoned* by Alan E. Rose.

Hailed by *Foreword Reviews* for being “as heartwarming and hope-giving as it is heartbreaking,” the novel takes place in 1995, when more than 300,000 Americans had already died of AIDS, most of them gay men.

In a foreword, the author discusses the similarities and differences between that national health crisis and the current coronavirus pandemic.

ABOUT THE BOOK

In 1936, a man was caught in a blizzard on Australia’s Bogong High Plains. Found unconscious by a search party, he was taken to the nearest township where an old aborigine woman made the cryptic comment, “They brought back only his body.” He died soon after. In the decades since, there have been reports of a lone figure seen wandering the high plains; when approached, the man vanishes and no trace of him can be found.

Almost sixty years later, a young American returns from Australia, exhausted after ten years on the front lines of the AIDS epidemic and haunted by dreams of the Bogong High Plains. He, too, is lost in a kind of blizzard, struggling to remember a time when life was about more than death. Plunging back into the heart of the epidemic by working at an AIDS organization in Portland, Oregon, he eventually comes to understand the old woman’s words and his mystic connection to the Bogong High Plains: When he returned to the States, he brought back only his body.

With expected pathos and unexpected humor, *As If Death Summoned* testifies to the power of grief to erode a life, and—for those who can find a way through—the power to rebuild and renew it.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alan Rose worked with Cascade AIDS Project in Portland, Oregon, from 1993 to 1999, and prior to that was a volunteer with the Victorian AIDS Council (now Thorne Harbour Health) in Melbourne, Australia. He is the author of three previous novels, and coordinates the monthly WordFest events in southwest Washington state, hosts the KLTV program *Book Chat*, and reviews books for *The Columbia River Reader*.

ACCOMPANYING MEDIA KIT

- Full Media Release • First Reviews • Book Excerpt
- Author Interview: *Respecting the Ghosts*
- Author’s Note: *On Writing about the AIDS Epidemic in a Time of Covid-19*

Review copies available on request from amblepresspublishing@gmail.com

“Initially, I have to confess that I was not expecting to enjoy this novel. Haven’t we all read enough AIDS novels already? Do we really need another one? But once I started, I couldn’t put it down. Rose’s novel retells the early days of the AIDS pandemic in Australia and the States during the 80s and 90s, a time when being diagnosed with HIV meant one’s death was imminent...I can honestly say that I would not have missed reading his novel.”

~ Keith John Glaeske, *Out in Print*