



My Unexpected Life:
An International Memoir of Two Pandemics, HIV and COVID-19
by Martina Clark

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIV Meets COVID-19: An Ex-UN Staffer's 30 Year Personal and Professional Journey with HIV

The lives of long-term survivors with HIV bring unparalleled insight to the current COVID-19 pandemic and Martina Clark's experiences, professional and personal, are unexpectedly timely.

[Brooklyn, NY, USA, October 5, 2021]—Forty years after the first documented cases of HIV, pandemics are in the news again. In *My Unexpected Life*, readers gain insight to what living with HIV was like early on, what the United Nations did to mitigate HIV internally, and how COVID re-exposed the injustices faced by so many. Moreover, Clark's memoir highlights that each of us can make a difference by standing up—and speaking out—for what's right.

"I've read several HIV/AIDS-related memoirs over the years, but this is the first time I've ever seen an inside day-to-day account of an activist's work -- with the UN, no less! It's a terrific read."

— Hank Trout, Senior Editor, *A&U: America's AIDS Magazine*

Martina Clark was the first openly HIV-positive person hired to work for UNAIDS in 1996. She subsequently worked for the United Nations system for 20 years, advocating globally for the rights of people living with HIV. Her collaborative work also led to a mandatory HIV In the Workplace program internal to the United Nations system, facilitating platforms for freer dialogue and a more supportive environment for all personnel, including LGBTQ, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized populations. Clark holds a BA in International Relations and an MFA in Creative Writing and Literature.

In our chaotic world, stories of surviving against the odds can steady our resolve. Part memoir, part history of pandemic responses, and part travelogue, and with humor throughout, *My Unexpected Life* affords the reader a glimpse into the squishy underbelly of the UN, the reality of living with HIV, and even the splendour that is our shared human condition.

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