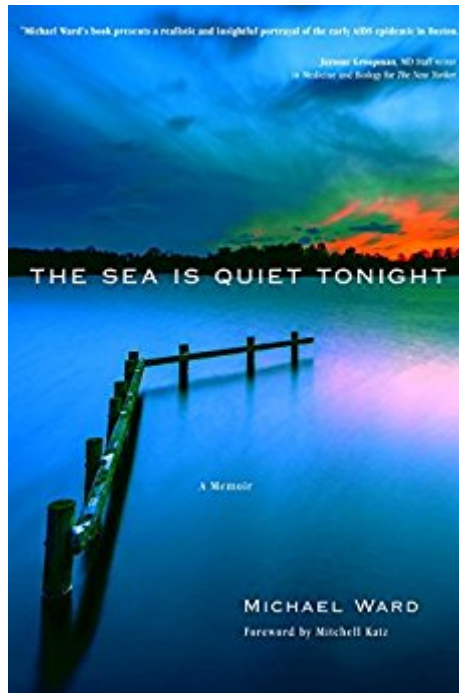




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# The Sea Is Quiet Tonight



## Synopsis

In this insightful and inspirational memoir, Michael Ward returns to the early years of the AIDS epidemic, when so little was known and so few who were diagnosed survived. He chronicles in candid detail his partner Mark's decline and eventual death. By looking back on these devastating events, the author not only honors a generation lost to the illness but also opens a vital window onto the past, before medication helped save lives and when HIV/AIDS was usually a death sentence. About the Author Michael is a retired psychotherapist. He was instrumental in the development of *The Shared Heart* (William Morrow, 1997), which presents the portraits and coming-out stories of forty gay and lesbian teenagers. *The Shared Heart* won the American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Award in the nonfiction category in 1998. It was also on ALA's Best Books for Young Adults list in 1999. Happily married, Michael lives on Cape Cod with his husband, Moe, and cat, Jack. Visit Michael online at [theseaisquiet.com](http://theseaisquiet.com)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Thank you, Mike Ward, for opening your heart and sharing your intimate story of love and loss

during the AIDS epidemic. I had just graduated college in the 80s when news of the epidemic went widespread. I knew that some of the freedom of life, dating, and exploration had permanently constricted, however I had no personal connection to why or to the suffering and fear that went along with that change. After reading *The Sea Is Quiet Tonight*, I have a new understanding and am inspired by the resiliency of the gay community. The subtle delivery of *The Sea Is Quiet Tonight* in no way diminished the powerful impact of this memoir. In fact, Mike Ward's brilliant writing and storytelling kept me invested as he and Mark fell in love and faced love's worst nightmare. There are many layers to *The Sea Is Quiet Tonight* that can capture any reader. However, most important to me is the deep reminder that love is love, loyalty is loyalty, and loss in the face of an epidemic changes us all. While reading this memoir I fell in love with Mike, felt inspired by Mark's optimism especially in the end. Make sure you have tissues in hand for this powerful and important story.

I was around 10 years old when the first AIDS cases were being diagnosed. It was a confusing and scary time because it was all part of the unknown. As a child I knew about the crisis, but felt disconnected from it. This book brings to life those early years and gives us all a front row seat to experience how the crisis turned love and life into inexplicable (and often swift) loss. The book is beautifully written. I found myself getting so immersed in the heartfelt storytelling I couldn't put it down. I felt I was right there, experiencing the ups and downs alongside them. AIDS is now worldwide, but this book allows us to circle back to the very beginning and to settle there for a moment to remember...and never forget.

Review for .com for *The Sea Is Quiet Tonight* by Mike Ward  
With great skill and courage, Mike Ward transports us viscerally into the era of the early 1980s when an unknown plague descended on the community of gay men in the US. The author's willingness to share his intimate love affair with Mark as they rode the waves of falling in love, battling the devastating illness of AIDS and ultimately confronting death is a huge gift to each reader. This is a must read for students of modern American history as well as for those who are ignorant and/or vulnerable to the crushing impact of AIDS. For those drawn to the genre of memoir writing, this title belongs on the short list.

This is intensely written, as a record of a deep love and its joys, the uncertainties of the two partners, and the real world they inhabited. They struggled emotionally to stay together, and may have overdone their constant re-interpretations of how they were feeling. At the same time, this is a

story of great detail, told in a very realistic manner, and in a way all educated younger males can believe in. AIDS was the hard part of growing up or coming out for gay men in the 1980s. This is a clear, specific record of one case of AIDS.

Beautifully written and emotionally honest. *The Sea is Quiet Tonight* is a celebration of a life and a relentlessly honest depiction of a relationship, that also offers an in-the-trenches account of the early days of AIDS. It's a love story in a sense although the author admits in the epilogue that he doesn't know if the relationship would have lasted had Mark Halberstadt lived that through its intimate account of one relationship provides a poignant glimpse of what was happening all across the country as so many lives like Mark's were cut short. Mike Ward is a wise storyteller. He never tries to portray Mark as a saint nor goes for cheap sentiment. Instead he honestly chronicles both the highs and lows in the relationship and the ways in which both men contributed to them. That honesty allows the reader to become fully invested, heightening the emotional impact when what we see the them working imperfectly toward is suddenly stolen from them. The second half of the book provides a valuable look at the men and women who first mobilized in the face of the AIDS epidemic, on both institutional and grass roots levels. A very powerful story.

Great book. Powerful, emotional. Mr. Ward writes with a passion. He gives a historical perspective on the aids crisis in the early 80's. His memories of his beloved partner are so heartfelt you can't help but be drawn into his journey.

Michael Ward gave us a first hand glimpse into an epidemic fought with love, sensitivity, laughter, humanity and reality in the onset of AIDS and the plague. As I read the history of what many gay men went through I was able to only imagine what it was like. Today, with the help of Mike Ward and the many soldiers who created support groups for those inflicted with this devastating disease I am grateful that I am a soldier in this fight.

Wonderfully written, this memoir reminds us of a catastrophic time for gay men when Aids was a terminal diagnosis and yet men like Mark and Mike dealt with the profound crisis and loss they experienced with great dignity, love, and humanity. For younger readers who can't imagine what that time was like, Mike's memoir brings it home; and for older readers, it reminds us of a time we

can't forget. Terry S

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