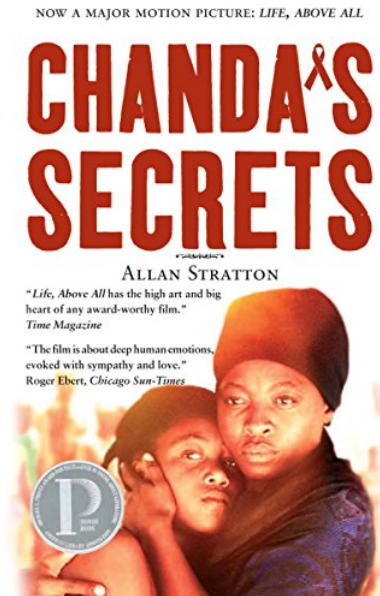


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A girl's struggle amid the African AIDS pandemic.

"As soon as I get back from the shabeen, I go next door to see Mrs. Tafa. I have to ask to use her phone to let our relatives know about Sara. I'm nervous. Mrs. Tafa would like to run the world. Since she can't run the world she's decided to run our neighborhood."

So speaks sixteen-year-old Chanda, an astonishingly perceptive girl living in the small city of Bonang, a fictional city in Southern Africa. While Mrs. Tafa's hijinks are often amusing, the fact is that Chanda's world is profoundly difficult. When her youngest sister dies, the first hint of HIV/AIDS emerges.

In this sensitive, swiftly paced story, listeners will find echoes of *To Kill a Mockingbird* as Chanda must confront undercurrents of shame and stigma. Not afraid to explore the horrific realities of AIDS, *Chanda's Secrets* also captures the enduring strength of loyalty, friendship, and family ties. Above all, it is a story about the corrosive nature of secrets and the healing power of truth.

Through the artful style of acclaimed author Stratton, the determination and resilience Chanda embodies will live on in listeners' minds.

- Sales Rank: #53470 in Audible
- Published on: 2011-01-10
- Format: Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Running time: 369 minutes

Most helpful customer reviews

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

"Don't Ever Let Them See You Crying"

By Jon Linden

In a touching and heart rending story, Mr. Stratton has captured one of the anomalies of life on this planet at this point in time. "Chanda's Secret" deals with the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa. While AIDS is significant enough in the United States it is truly an epidemic in parts of Africa, where up to 3 out of every 4 people have AIDS. Stratton's book deals with the subject most artistically.

The biggest anomaly about the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa is that even though it is hugely prevalent, it is a huge stigma to have the disease. It is not only a stigma for the patient, but for the patient's entire family. Many would rather go off and die or commit suicide to spare their families from living with the shame of knowing they were an "AIDS Family."

In this book, the reality of the disease is portrayed through the eyes of a young girl in Africa. She has to deal with most difficult life conditions, but then on top of all that, AIDS strikes at her house. The story tells most

tenderly and appropriately about the trials and tribulations of her dilemma and what could be done if only people were willing to face things straight on, rather than hiding from the reality.

The book is extraordinarily well written. It is recommended for all readers between 12 and 112 for a close look at the HIV/AIDS dilemma in Africa. Stratton shows true tenderness and care when he describes the reality, yet manages to get that reality across in rather stark imagery. It is well worth the time to read.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

"Misery loves company"

By Steve A.

Chanda's Secret is about a 16-year-old girl named Chanda Kabelo who is growing up in Africa. She loves school and is very smart. She would like to win a scholarship one day, but as most of us know one of the biggest problems in Africa is how to deal with aids. Many people in Africa have aids and so do the many people around Chanda, not only friends but family too.

Allan Stratton captures the meaning of a young girl growing up in Africa trying to help her family in the best way she knows how. She tries to make her family proud and at the same time help her mother out as much as she can. She fights to be the best she can be and lives each day with more questions and answers.

I would recommend this meaningful book to anyone going into high school or older. This book is a very good example of what a young teenager does to help everyone before herself, no matter what rumors are going around.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Stop The World I Want To Get Off

By Amazon Customer

Wednesday, March 07, 2012

CHANDA'S SECRETS by ALLAN STRATTON

After reading CHANDA'S SECRETS by ALLAN STRATTON, I know a little bit about what it's like to walk in the mocassins of someone who suffers with AIDS. After meeting Chanda's family and friends and community, I know it's not a life without tears and fear. The YA novel takes place in Bonang, Africa. Chanda sees her life torn apart by disease. People are afraid of people who have gotten the disease. The people with AIDS are thrown away literally. Believe me Chanda's mother's story is unforgettable. I have heard people say our greatness shows itself during tragedy. This is what happens to Chanda. She becomes stronger willing to care for those whom she loves no matter what other people say and no matter what will happen to herself. I pray that one day a cure will be found for this horrible disease. It's a disease that strikes not only the body but our inner character, our ability to love one another.

"Mama said I should save my anger to fight injustice. Well, I know what's unjust. The ignorance about AIDS. The shame. The stigma. The silence. The secrets that keep us hiding behind the curtain."globalissuesaids-in-africa, teenreadsmichael-l-printz-award-2012,allanstratton

"There, perched on the wheelbarrow, was my stork. It craned its neck toward us. ...The stork raised its right foot as if giving us a blessing. Then it arched its back and began to fly, circling the yard three times before disappearing into the night."

See all 26 customer reviews...

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