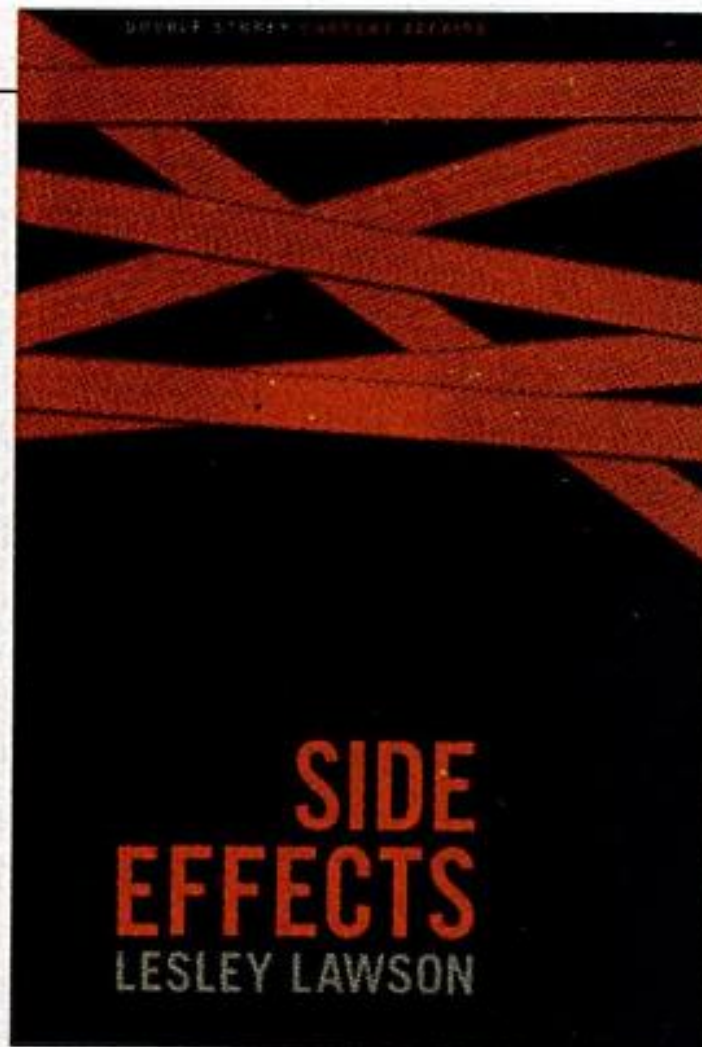


SIDE EFFECTS (DOUBLE STORY)

AUTHOR: LESLEY LAWSON

In a country that has one the highest HIV infection rates in the world, the question this books asks – why has the Aids pandemic found such fertile ground to grow in South Africa, breaking one of the richest countries in Africa – is a pertinent one.

Author Lesley Lawson does a more-than-able job of looking at the myriad reasons why this is indeed so. From the issue of migrant labour (and its damaging effects on not only the nation's psyche, but also on the family unit), corporate greed, denialist presidents (looking, for the first time, at the courtship between Thabo Mbeki and Aids denialsists, which has, of course, set our fight against this opportunistic virus back many years), through to the end of apartheid (and how, for the first time in our history, we are now truly a part of the rest of Africa – welcoming those from high-density HIV areas), nothing escapes Lawson's extensive re-



search.

Lawson, who eshews the boring academic style favoured by so many who delve into this subject, writes in a fresh, journalistic style that makes *Side Effects* hard to put down. She has also interviewd key figures in our fight against HIV/Aids, such as renowned activist Peter Busse, along with real-life stories of ordinary folk who have had to fight the stigma

attached to living with this disease.

For anyone interested in the history of this virus in South Africa, this is a must-read. In fact, because it is so enlightening, it would be a shame for anyone not to read this well-researched and necessary look at one of the biggest challenges facing all South Africans today.

Carl Collison