

A POWERFUL NOISE BACKGROUND:

SYNOPSIS

Hanh is an HIV-positive widow in Vietnam. Nada, a survivor of the Bosnian war. And Jacqueline works the slums of Bamako, Mali. Three very different lives. Three vastly different worlds. But they share something in common: Power. These women are each overcoming gender barriers to rise up and claim a voice in their societies. Through their empowerment and ability to empower others, Hanh, Nada and Jacqueline are sparking remarkable changes. Fighting AIDS. Rebuilding communities. Educating girls.

- Hanh learned that she had contracted HIV after her husband and daughter died from AIDS. Bouncing back from despair, she started a self-help group in Vietnam, called Immortal Flower, to give people living with HIV/AIDS a place for support, counseling and health care. Hanh provides prevention awareness to the public, as well as medical assistance to affected families. Her goal is to stop the burgeoning AIDS crisis and to prevent stigma and discrimination against survivors.
- Nada is a working mother of three children. As a refugee, she survived the Bosnian War. Her women's association, Maya Kravica, is helping ease hostilities between Serbs and Bosniaks (Muslims) in a region marred by war crimes and massive destruction. Nada is building an agricultural cooperative to offer employment opportunities for war widows, and fair trade markets for families to sell their crops and livestock.
- Jacqueline, better known as "Madame Urbain" fights forced labor practices in the slums of Bamako, Mali. Madame Urbain stands up for the rights of powerless girls who are often abused in the workplace or on the streets of the big city. Her organization, APAF, provides girls a basic education, teaches them vocational skills and places them in safe jobs. Madame Urbain's work has begun to change perceptions about the importance of education and the role of women in Malian society.

A Powerful Noise takes you inside the lives of these women to witness their daily challenges and their significant victories over poverty and oppression. Their stories are personal yet illustrate larger issues affecting millions of marginalized women worldwide. *A Powerful Noise* is a meditation on the inherent potential of women to change the world.