CHAPTER 19
Looking Back

Engaging Prostate Cancer as a Gay Man at the Turn of
the Twenty-first Century

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CHAPTER SUMMARY
This chapter reflects my experience with prostate cancer as a gay man
seeking help in the painfully heterosexist environment of 2000. The
narrative looks back at my feelings, my reactions, my concerns, and my
revelations and awakenings as I struggled with my own confusing
search for help, compassion, and understanding in an environment
that was quite unfriendly to gay men. I write of my wrestling with
issues of helplessness, identity, anger, sex, shame, and loss, and how I
went from being a participant in a support group for gay men to facili-
tator of that group of courageous men, all of whom found themselves
in a similar situation.

KEY TERMS
gay men, heterosexism, HIV/AIDS, impotence, incontinence, prostate
cancer, radiation, sex, side effects, support groups

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