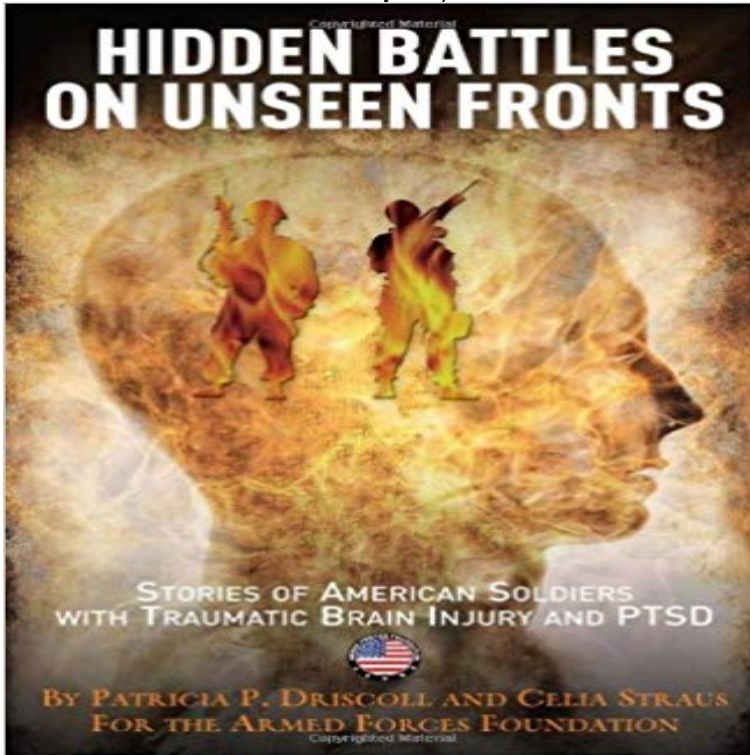


Hidden Battles on Unseen Fronts: Stories of American Soldiers with Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD



When the war comes home . . . This book is crafted around soldiers personal descriptions of their war experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan that culminate in life-altering injuries to the brain and psyche, along with the equally dramatic story of their recoveries. An irony of Americas 21st century wars has been that while our combat medical and medevac capabilities have grown enormously (from a rough average of 4:1 wounded to dead in WWII to 8:1 today), the nature of many of our soldiers wounds has undergone a subtle change. Men and women who survive the thick of combat, including repeated concussion blasts, increasingly present a difficult-to-detect kind of injury, no less debilitating then wounds from bullets or shrapnel. Hidden Battles on Unseen Fronts documents the ever-increasing cases of physical or mental brain trauma among our vets that has risen as a direct result of more soldiers surviving their flesh wounds on the battlefield. The chapters are crafted from interviews with troops and their family members, and bridged with essays by internationally known mental health professionals, veterans advocates, and members of the Veterans Administration and Department of Defense, all of whom are working in the front lines of what is quickly developing into a national crisis of unfathomable cost in both lives and money. From combat Army soldiers and Marines, even amputees, who eventually discover that their greatest disability is in their head, to support personnel such as Devore Barlowe, who returns from Iraq having witnessed atrocities that leave her with severe PTSD, but perseveres juggling her job and the single mothering of two young children, the voices of these warriors reinforce the books over-arching theme of resilience and courage. Thankfully the U.S. militarys battlefield support has vastly improved since prior wars. However, the signature wound of 21st

century warfare?Traumatic Brain Injury, as well as PTSD?may lie beyond the current reach of standard medical procedures, and is more evidenced by the postwar stories of the soldiers themselves. In this book we get a thorough look at the travails of our veterans who may currently be undiagnosed and without help, but whom we are all committed to support.Celia Straus is author of the national bestseller, Prayers On My Pillow, and an award-winning film writer/producer who has been writing about the war-related experiences of service members and their families since 2003. The Armed Forces Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the men and women of Americas military. All royalties from this work will go directly to the front line of support for wounded warriors with PTSD and TBI, and their families .REVIEWS ...a thorough resource guidean invaluable volume for vets and their families, and yet another important cry for the proper treatment of the nations defenders on the field and at home.Publishers Weekly, 03/2009,,heartrending accounts of wounded Soldiers and Marines make it a most worthwhile read. Proceedings, 04/2009These inspirational stories demonstrate the successful use of resources by motivated families and individuals. However, they also highlight the difficulties that soldiers and their families face in gaining access to resources against seemingly insurmountable odds, and the economic hardships that characterize life with TBI and PTSD. . . . Recommended.?CHOICE, 12/2009Twenty one short chapters tell the story of 21 veterans and offer further proof that not all wounds are only skin deep provides welcome transparencymakes you want to listen to what the doctors say. Army Times, 12/2010Drawing from reflections of soldiers as well as much psychological and medical insight, HIDDEN BATTLES ON UNSEEN FRONTS brings attention to the real problem facing our recent war veterans. The Midwest Book Review, 01/2011

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