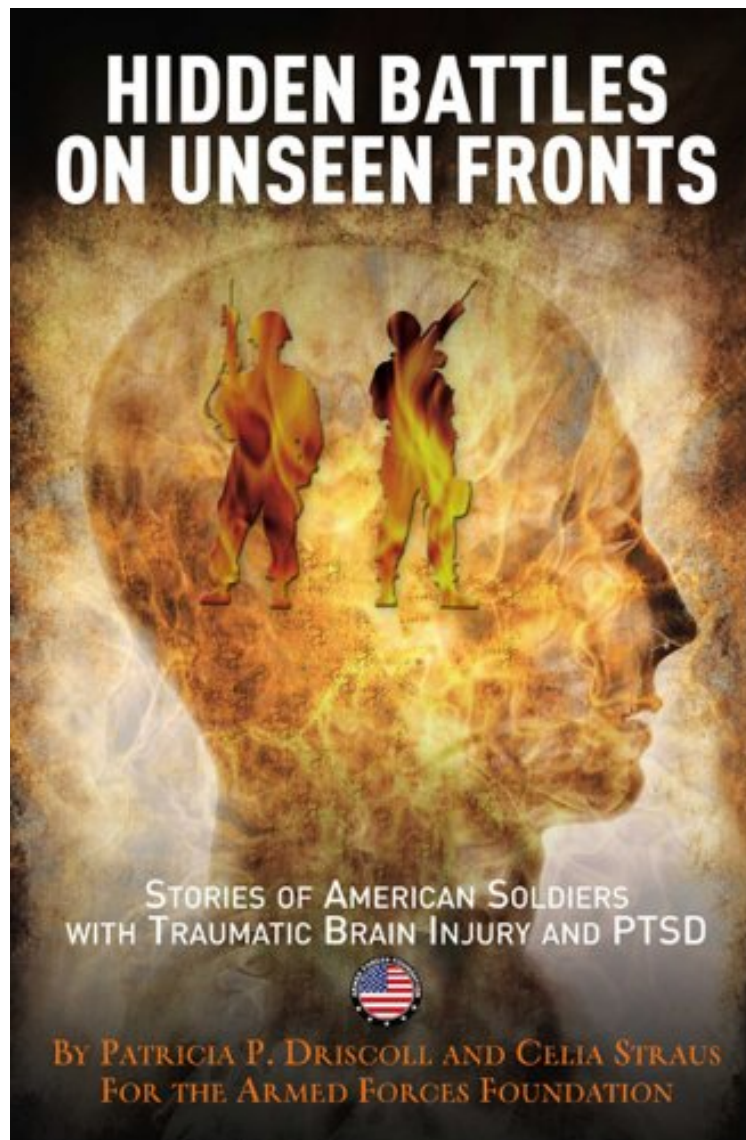


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## Hidden Battles on Unseen Fronts: Stories of American Soldiers with Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD

*Patricia Driscoll, Celia Straus*

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**Patricia Driscoll, Celia Straus : Hidden Battles on Unseen Fronts: Stories of American Soldiers with Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hidden Battles on Unseen Fronts: Stories of American Soldiers with Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Powerful true stories of our nation's most recent walking wounded and the valiant efforts of those who try to help them. By Cynthia Danute Cekauskas, LCSW This is a most important book, timely and accurate yet full of sincere concern and compassion for those numerous servicemembers who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan suffering from Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. As in the quote from Tracy Williams of the NEW ORLEANS PICAYUNE used in the Introduction "Every war has its signature wound. In World War I it was poison gas-damaged lungs. In World War II it was retaliation that caused cancer. In Vietnam it was Agent Orange that caused neurological damage and skin disorders, and for the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts it is TBI." Chapter by chapter this book describes the struggles of many servicemembers and their families who having endured the horrors of war now having to face the challenges of readjustment to civilian life. A Navy Hospital Corpsman veteran myself I did not, however, serve during a wartime period. Now, however, reading the stories of what our newest warriors have to endure can only give one a source of renewed commitment to trying to be supportive today. It is shocking that so many servicemembers still have to endure the insensitivity of a sensation driven media who on the one hand insists it supports our military but on the other, takes every opportunity it can to bash efforts taken for the military to "take care of their own." 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A MUST have for seriously TBI-disabled veterans, their counselors, family and therapists. By A Writer as a disabled veteran, and survivor of TBI with ptsd, I recommend this book to clinicians, doctors, my fellow brothers and sisters in arms, and their families. It opened my wife's eyes a bit wider, as to the bigger picture that my disabilities have a much larger impact not only on me, but our family as well. I enjoyed this book so much, that I bought a copy for my therapist and another counselor. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Brings attention to the real problem facing our recent war veterans. By Midwest Book Review The worst of the war for many soldiers does not come on the battle field, but at home. "Hidden Battles on Unseen Fronts: Stories of American Soldiers with Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD" is an examination of what many soldiers face in today's life of a veteran where the damage isn't immediately obvious by looking at straight physical health. Drawing from the 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.

This book is crafted around soldiers stories 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 concussions, increasingly present a difficult-to-detect kind of injury, no less debilitating than wounds from bullets or shrapnel. This book 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 developed from interviews with troops and their family members, and bridged with essays by mental health professionals, veterans advocates, and members of the VA and DoD, 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. All royalties from this work will go directly to the front line of support for wounded warriors with PTSD and TBI, and their families.

From Publishers Weekly In 2003, author and film producer Straus (Prayers on My Pillow) began interviewing troops in Iraq and Afghanistan for the non-profit Armed Forces Foundation; as they returned home, she found their psychological wounds going unaddressed by the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (DVA). In 42 harrowing, inspiring stories, Straus crafts a multi-faceted view of the neglect and bureaucratic nonsense faced by returning warriors and their families. Though neurologist Col. Christopher Williams denies that the DoD or DVA are "falling short" in caring for vets with "invisible wounds" like traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD), the stories of servicemen like Marine Corp Sergeant Christopher Horman speak for themselves: discharged with noted injuries, including PTSD, he secured treatment (with help from the AFF) only after he had lost his job, was forced to send away one of his sons, pawn his and his wife's wedding rings and move the family into a motel. With a thorough resource guide and input from caregivers and family members, often dealing with their own psychological hurdles, this is an invaluable volume for vets and their families, and another important cry for the proper treatment of the nation's defenders on the field and at home. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Twenty one short chapters tell the story of 21 veterans and offer further proof that not all wounds are only skin deep provides welcome transparency makes you want to listen to what the doctors say. (Army Times) These 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) ".,,heartrending accounts of wounded Soldiers and Marines make it a most worthwhile read." (PROCEEDINGS) ...a thorough resource guide an 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. (Publisher's Weekly)About the AuthorA native of El Paso Texas, Patricia Driscoll now heads a national charity, the Armed Forces Foundation, as well as a private security and surveillance company, Frontline Defense Systems, LLC., both based out of Washington, DC.