

A Dan E. Weisburd Production
in association with
California Institute for Mental Health



When they were in combat we all supported our troops. Now that so many have returned, there appears to be a disconnect. As redeployed veterans do battle with haunting memories of trauma in the war zone, they deserve more than our thanks for their service. What they need is our help so they can adjust to living in peace, at home, with the rest of us in this country they were willing to die for.

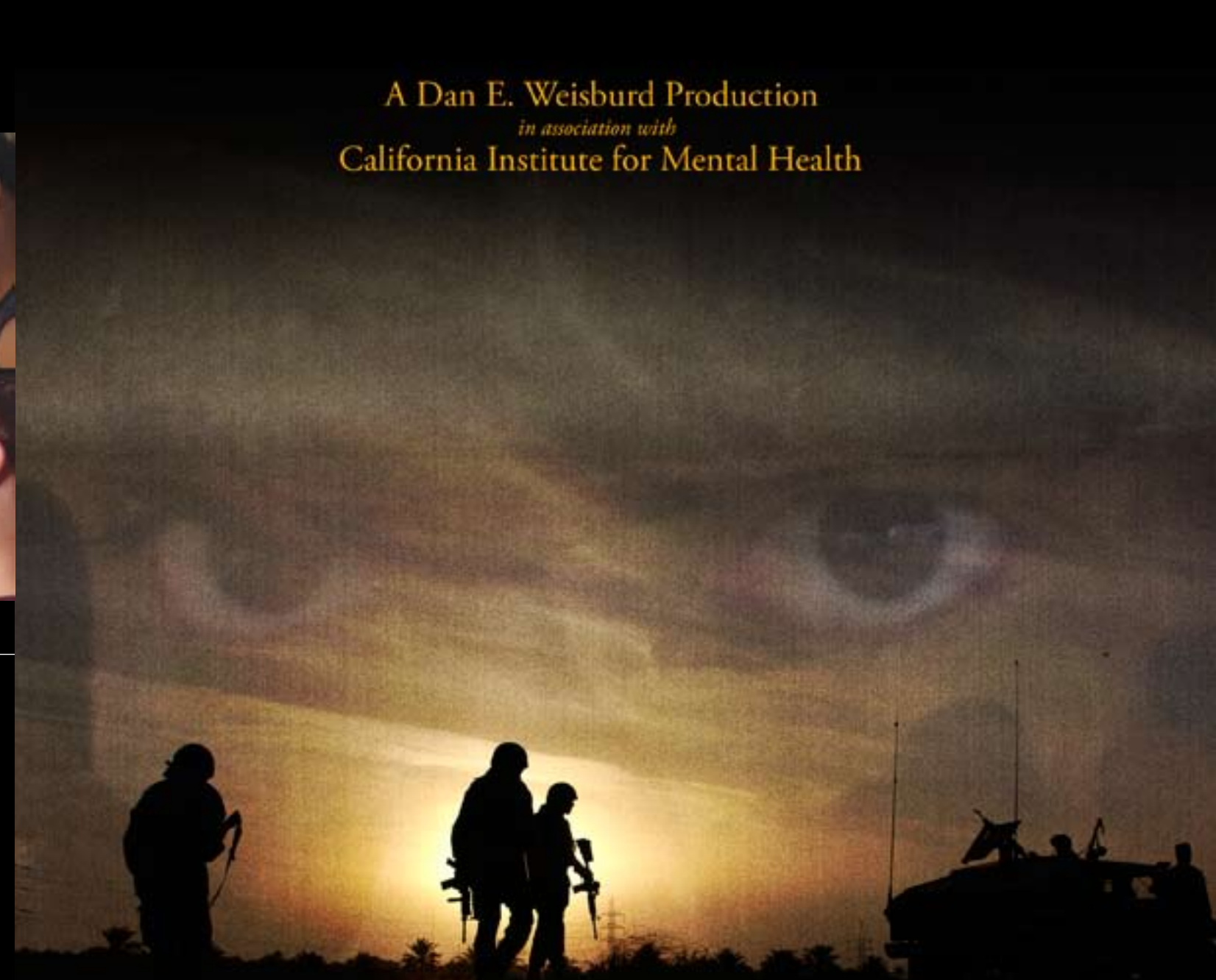
“Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.”

—Aldous Huxley

Family members and those professionals trained to assist emotionally damaged veterans returning to civilian life have found it necessary to develop enhanced tolerance, compassion, persistence, and especially courage as they attempt to fathom and deal with terrifying, mind altering images seared into memory and held in the darkest and least understood recesses of the brain.

The VA, law enforcement, homeless shelters, and hospital emergency rooms already involved are too frequently overwhelmed. Yet care postponed, delayed or deferred appears to insure the mounting and unnecessary tragedies one sees reported daily on TV and in newspapers. Statistics on veteran's homelessness, suicide, rape, substance abuse, and broken families say little about how to alter this growing dilemma.

ANOTHER KIND OF VALOR, a powerful new DVD/CD Learning System, is designed to address those needs. Through nine compelling docudramas it explores the behavioral manifestations of veterans with deep emotional wounds as they battle 'their invisible enemy within.' Using common tragic scenarios the series serves as a catalyst for spirited discussion and examination of the mind-altering experiences of our veterans and the therapies available to address those needs.



ANOTHER KIND OF VALOR

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ANOTHER KIND OF VALOR

Based on interviews given on condition of anonymity by veterans and their families, therapists and physicians then merged into fictitious characters and performed by actors as directed improvisations resulted in the creation of nine docudrama vignettes.

1. *POINT BLANK*

2. *LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET BACK HOME*

3. *EXTRACTION*

4. *A WORLD APART IN TIME OF WAR*

5. *BATTLE BUDDIES AND LOVERS*

6. *MORAL COURAGE*

7. *SURVIVOR GUILT*

8. *IDENTITY AND TRUST*

9. *A SHATTERED TRADITION*

There is a daunting challenge being faced by mental health professionals and returning veterans of the Afghanistan/Iraq wars who turn to them for assistance. It requires a different set of skills and courage to navigate a veritable minefield of the mind. A unique teamwork. Unending patience. Persistence. Vigilance. And even daring risk taking. How else does one reconnect shattered realities?

Families of those veterans must also try to come to grips with loved ones who have returned home changed in so many ways. How can they learn to

be supportive of behaviors they can't begin to understand? Does one confront and challenge sudden emotional outbursts? Or will that make things escalate and worsen? Do you interrupt a person who has retreated into a darkened room silently? What do you do when caring words are met with only stony silence or frightening bottomless desperation?

This ANOTHER KIND OF VALOR DVD/CD Learning System begins to share insights about the struggles that lie ahead for all involved.

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ANOTHER KIND OF VALOR

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POINT BLANK



A military couple, Lt. Colonel Ben Hamilton and his wife Captain Kate Hamilton, have been deployed separately to Iraq. Leading a convoy over IED laden roads Kate's HMMV is hit hard. Extricated from her destroyed vehicle and evacuated by helicopter to a combat support hospital where a surgeon deftly removes dozens of shrapnel fragments from her body, Kate is stabilized in a post-operative ward. Still dazed by anesthesia, she opens her eyes and finds her adoring Ben smiling down at her. He drove 100 miles from his location to be at her side. "Just some more freckles," she smiles, so deeply in love with him. He's relieved that Kate's alive, and intact. She senses he can't stay. He confirms that he must return immediately. His unit has found munitions and is interrogating four Arab women, and they both know how incendiary that can become.

They seek marital therapy. Ben rages at his profound sense of helplessness. He feels totally irrelevant and a burden. Kate is wasting her life and he wants to set her free. Overcome with sadness but not caving into his expressed desires, she is determined they will remain a couple.

During an individual session with a compassionate psychiatrist, Ben explores his feelings of hopelessness. He often wishes he would die. The psychiatrist, Dr. Chau, will begin treatment for Depression and PTSD and will prescribe medications and group meetings.

Suddenly one day Ben feels a tingling in his fingers and discovers he has regained limited use of his right hand. He and Kate are ecstatic and Ben shows a genuine rebirth of hope for a more independent lifestyle. Ben announces to Dr. Chau in their couple's session, that he will buy a motorized wheelchair with a joystick to increase his independence and freedom. Kate tells Dr. Chau that Ben had a wet dream and asks if that means pregnancy is possible. More than anything else she can think of she wants to pursue it. Chau expresses his support and will refer them for a consult with a geneticist. He also explains to them the importance of relapse prevention for Ben, and to learn to identify and deal with psychological triggers that lead to more PTSD symptoms.



Back in his own area of operations, Ben speaks through an interpreter to a large menacing crowd of angry villagers who have surrounded his beleaguered unit. Many carry guns and loudly demand immediate release of their women. Ben asks for patience as he reassures them that the women will not be harmed. But when Ben withdraws to his vehicle an insurgent shoots him point blank in the back. Evacuated immediately for emergency care Ben learns he has a severe spinal injury and may be paralyzed from the neck down.

Ambulating about the community in his motorized wheelchair opens a renewed optimism in Ben. He regains self-esteem, and gets a paying job as a docent at Discovery Center, a children's science museum. Ben's more positive attitude toward life is evident in the good-humored way he verbalizes ideas and hope to the children, and the responses he gets from them. Kate arrives at the museum to pick Ben up, and she surprises him by announcing she has been to her OBGYN and learned she is pregnant. Ben is deeply moved and happier than she thought he might be. Their readjustment as a family has had a promising beginning.

The stabilization and treatment needed for his grave medical condition requires that he be immediately flown from the war zone to Landstuhl Hospital in Germany for special attention.

Months later, back home, Kate works as a college instructor and is their sole financial support. Ben is a homebound husband, in deep depression and confined to a wheelchair. He is sinking deeper and deeper accepting his paralysis, and being totally dependent on a home aid worker and Kate, when her teaching day is over. Ben loathes feeling helpless, and wants to be placed in a long term VA care facility. Kate loves him, needs him and wants him to stay home.

In a physical therapy center, the therapist coaches Kate in how to conduct Ben's course of physical rehabilitation. At home, it's a physical as well as emotional strain doing Ben's daily therapy exercises. He's a big man and the physical toll is starting to show on Kate.

CAST

Genevieve Anderson Captain Hamilton
 Jeff Hatch Lt. Colonel Hamilton
 Daniel Markarian Translator
 Clayton Chau, MD, PhD Psychiatrist
 Sherri Curl, RN, MA, MFT Therapist
 Lucy Doty, RN Combat Surgical Nurse
 Rob Kaplan, MD Combat Surgeon
 Sue Kaplan, MD Combat Surgeon
 Steve Ferdig, MPT, OCS Physical Therapist
 Betty Bogert, NP Fertility Counselor



LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET BACK HOME



An Army Ranger, Robert was raised in 18 different foster home placements as a youngster after his mother is taken away and his Grandma, with whom he lived for only eight months, dies. The foster placement system gave him a precarious upbringing with rape, neglect, berating and beatings from gang members and foster parents.

Robert became tough and streetwise, proficient in wrestling and basketball and supported only by a strong belief in God with whom he speaks constantly for guidance.

Medically evacuated to a combat support hospital for treatment Robert appears to be confused and disoriented. While in a post-operative ward, he casually takes pain medications given him by a badly burned soldier lying in the bed next to him.

On morale call, unlike other GIs who have family members to reach out to Robert phones a foster parent whose number he recalls, hoping to hear a caring voice, but the person who answers neither remembers Robert nor cares that he is soldiering in Iraq.

When the hospital comes under attack, the chaplain refuses a demand from a bullying Sgt Major to take up a weapon and join the common defense – not accepting the chaplain’s argument that he is a pledged non-combatant. The furious Sgt storms out after berating the chaplain, but Robert provides solace, walking in unison with the bible-toting clergyman into the heat of the battle singing “Onward Christian Soldiers” off key.

Back in the states, Robert is still in a fog from his head wound. He lives on skid row both homeless and alcoholic. From a DAV counselor he gets help filing for a wide range of veterans benefits he didn’t know about. From a perceptive psychologist he is helped to awareness that his past trauma and angry responses are the direct cause of his current stress. As Robert’s thought processes become more organized his confusion subsides. In therapy he is assisted to appreciate his talent for perseverance, his trust in God, and most importantly, his new found trust in himself. They will see him through.

On the streets of skid row through sobriety and a renewed sense of faith Robert studies to be a counselor. A rewarding new purpose in life as a Vet-to-Vet outreach worker is something his experience and passion eminently qualify him to do.

By-passed when the NBA chooses some of his friends, an “I’ll show them!” Robert visits an armed forces recruiting office where a savvy sergeant pitches him the idea of becoming an airborne ranger by appealing to his street smarts and athleticism. When God doesn’t appear to object Robert signs up.

On his first assignment as a ranger, Robert is thrown into a cauldron of fire. His squad is assigned to a highway checkpoint inspecting Iraqi vehicles for weapons and improvised explosive devices. His second assignment is as a sniper, where he finds himself shooting into a crowd where a chaotic insurgency is going on and neither Americans nor Iraqis understand each other’s language or anger.

Next he serves as a forward observer for an air strike intended to destroy a concrete building where terrorist munitions are stored. His job is to kill or pin down Iraqis guarding the building. Head strong, Robert ignores an officer’s admonition that he is too close and does not move back as ordered. Missiles USAF from fast attack aircraft decimate the building and chunks of concrete badly pummel Robert’s head.



CAST

- Robert HollidayArmy Airborne Ranger
- Carolyn Owens-HortonGrandma
- Elias BarnesYoung Robert
- Germaine HendersonTeenage Robert
- Goward Horton/Rose Denny/Jimmy HerveyFoster Parents
- Telegria BrownFoster Child
- Sgt. Rico ColemanArmy Recruiter
- Tommie MendezDAV Counselor
- James Scott Watson, PhD.....Therapist
- Hilly Hicks.....Chaplain
- David MartinezWounded HMMV Gunner
- Roy BrownMaster Sgt.
- Romy WalthallHead Nurse
- Danielle Arnold.....Combat Nurse
- Octavio Acevedo, EMT.....Combat Paramedic
- K. Anderson, A. Barnes, E. Moore, M. TiptonGang Members



EXTRACTION



A Special OPS Sgt. and his three man Ranger team are sent on a secret nighttime helicopter mission to extract a valued Iraqi informant, his wife and their daughter from the village where they live. Army intelligence had learned that the family is targeted for execution by insurgents for helping the Americans.

When the helicopter reaches the pickup point, the Rangers discover that the Iraqi informant has brought along a dozen young orphans whose families are all dead. They are alone in the world and dependent on the informer's family for food, clothing, shelter, and human kindness. The helicopter is ragged and may not be able to get airborne with additional weight. Incoming fire demands a snap decision. Orders call for only the informant his wife and daughter to be picked up. But what about the children?

Screaming in Arabic that he will not leave without the helpless children, the informant is ignored by the Sgt. who knows he must take charge or they could all be killed. He directs his team to off-load the orphans who have been crammed into the copter like so many sardines.

The children cry. The Iraqi's scream. The aircraft is riddled by insurgents bullets. And the children are left behind. As the helicopter flies off, the SGT clearly sees the dead bodies of the orphans sprawled on the ground below. He feels intense guilt for his decision and knows it will haunt him forever.

Redeployed back home the Sgt. experiences severe flashbacks and other re-adjustment problems. His wife and two daughters are frightened by his sullen disposition and his explosive temper. Wracked by guilt and remorse, blaming himself for making the decision to take the orphans off the chopper, he keeps reliving the experience. He cannot escape the intrusive thoughts of war, but also cannot not tell his wife about his combat experiences. Instead

he withdraws from his family, spending much of his time isolated, reliving his terror again and again. When he does interact with his family members, he is easily irritated, aggressive, controlling, and physically abusive.

He and his family agree to counseling intervention from a therapist. His wife admits to the therapist that he has injured her during rough sex that both surprised and terrified her. The children express the sentiment that their father has changed and is always angry. As a result, his family moves away, taking refuge at his wife's sister's home after getting a restraining order that denies him any contact with them.

The Sgt. becomes increasingly hyper-vigilant. His sleep impaired, and his driving reckless and dangerous, he lands in jail. As guilt becomes more unbearable leading to ever more agitated depression he is placed in an inpatient psychiatric facility, where his uncontrolled rage causes him to be put into four-point restraints.

Eventually, he seeks individual therapy from Annita Jones, PsyD, who is trained in EMDR therapy. He has heard of her from other vets, who say that, "What she does works." He expresses his despair to her. Either she can help him, or he will commit suicide. His life, without his family, is simply not worth living. She agrees to see him.

During the counseling sessions, Dr. Jones provides him with exposure techniques to deal with the traumatic memories. With her help he learns to examine and rethink how he holds his memories. We witness the techniques he learns from Dr. Jones, and see how he gradually gains control over the flashbacks and intrusive memories. With his problem behavior no longer driving him into isolation, he and his therapist agree that he can begin to cautiously resume a normal family life with his wife and daughters.



CAST

Don HudallaArmy Airborne Ranger
 Kim Fill.....His wife
 Danika & Rowan Fill-HudallaTheir Daughters
 Deputies Broumley, Kim & McKenzieSheriff's Officers
 Lizette Rha, LCSWTherapist
 Annita Jones, PsyD.....EMDR Therapist
 Robert HollidayArmy Airborne Ranger
 Jeff JackArmy Airborne Ranger
 Daniel MarkarianIraqi Informant
 Anna & Lucy MarkarianHis wife and daughter
 Helen, Karen, Angel, Serphanie, Isaiah Ramos
 and Erick Herrera, and Jaimie & Jason FigueroaIraqi Orphan



A WORLD APART IN TIME OF WAR



Romy, a recently returned head nurse who served with a combat support hospital in Iraq speaks of suicide to a concerned therapist. Why? A history of depression, low self esteem, the sudden end of a promising adulterous affair in Iraq with a wealthy chief surgeon. Dr. Bruce might have provided her with everything she dreamed of but he was killed in combat. Now, back home, Romy must face her disintegrating family unit -a daughter Katie who is bulimic and expelled from school, Remy's alcoholic unemployed third husband, Joey, who constantly fondles his pubescent step daughter- wanting sex, and her Mother, Sue, who is super critical of how Romy conducts her life.

Dr. Bruce informs Romy there is a cover-up regarding the rape. The other nurses are worried for their own safety. Romy confers with the base commander. She will mandate that all the nurses carry their weapons to the port-a-potty at night if the CO won't do DNA tests of all male personnel. The CO will not pursue a search for the perpetrator for lack of available manpower. Romy, over his warning not to defy him, trains the nurses to accurately fire their pistols if an intruder fails to identify himself.



In flashback we see the hectic routine at the combat hospital, the daily attempt to save lives in an under equipped operating room-stressful for both doctors and nurses. Off duty away from the daily carnage, ping-pong, staff dances and piggyback races attempt to provide respite. Romances do, too.

An American soldier, Paul, causes widespread fear on the base when he brutally attempts to rape Capt. Trish Dunn, as she exits a port-a-potty one night. The concerned medical staff conducts a thorough rape exam. Sgt. Major Brown calls a meeting of enlisted men and launches a search of his own. A JAG officer interviews the victim at her bedside and begins a formal criminal investigation. The base CO orders the Sgt Major to back off, and threatens to unlawfully expose PTSD in his medical records.

Nurse Dunn, suddenly dies from dehydration. She stopped drinking water, took diuretics and literally dried up in 130-degree weather. The chaplain says an uninspired prayer. He hardly knew her. Spec. Paul, the perpetrator, stalks the chief nurse while she is showering. That night he attempts to rape her at her desk in the hospital only to be caught in the act by the armed and enraged Sgt. Major Brown, who humiliates him by marching him at gunpoint with his pants down around his ankles.

The chief surgeon tearfully admits to his wife by phone that he is seeing someone. That it is serious. Soon after, during one difficult surgery, his patient dies and even Romy cannot console him.

Romy's teenage daughter, Katie, fearfully informs her mother by phone, that Joey, Remy's husband is trying to have sex with her. Romy admits to her daughter that she, the daughter, is the child of a rape. Grandma Susan, wielding a baseball bat kicks the stepfather out of the trailer, once and for all.

Dr. Bruce is shot and killed during a surprise insurgent attack on the compound. Romy is in deep grief over her lover's body, as the chaplain caught up in the moment attempts to respectfully recite a mourner's Jewish prayer for the dead. It is touching though badly mispronounced.

Romy returns to the U.S and her trailer park home but instead of a warm hug, she receives a litany of problems that her mother and her daughter dump on her during her first few minutes with them.

During therapy, Romy accepts blame for the disintegration of her family and admits her serious suicidal thoughts. She asks the therapist to focus on the family, but the family therapy session is a disaster. Romy is overwhelmed. Her relationship with her mother is dysfunctional, and her teenage daughter feels angry and abandoned because mom went off to war. The next morning a shot rings out. Then the daughter cries, "Why, Mama? Don't leave me again." Romy is dead by her own hand.

CAST

Romy WalthallHead Nurse
 Bruce BeckChief Surgeon
 Susan DempsayGrandmother
 Katie FosterDaughter
 David Cameron.....Husband #3
 Tricia Dunn.....Raped Nurse
 Kristin Sandker-TaylorOB-Gyn Tech
 Dylan Cox.....JAG Officer
 Paul HowardRapist
 Lt. Colonel Val ReyesCombat Therapist
 Brandon Dean.....Base Commanding Officer
 Roy BrownMaster Sgt.
 Justin Ruff.....Corporal
 Dontreal BaconAmputation Patient
 Hilly Hicks.....Chaplain
 Robert HollidayWounded Ranger
 Jason TowerPhoto Journalist
 Pietro DingilloTherapist



BATTLE BUDDIES AND LOVERS



Mathew is a depressed, Vietnamese American medic who serves in Iraq at a combat support hospital. After redeploying back in the states, he again serves as a youth counselor at a Boy Scout camp located in the High Sierras where he has helped abused and below the poverty line inner city youth since he was one himself. A former Eagle Scout, Matt relates well to the boys. Other counselors thank him for being such a good role model, but ask why Matt spends so much time staring into the forest. Matt says he struggles with the question why a woman with whom he fell in love in Iraq, disappeared without saying goodbye.

Flashback to Iraq, and we meet Jason, a super confident cocky embedded photo journalist who is assigned to shadow Matt's daily movements, to develop a story about him. Matt resists but higher ups have given approval and Matt has no say in the matter. He believes that Jason stalking brings him unwarranted attention, and could even get him killed. Jason promises that will never happen, and besides, it is not up to Matt. They are compelled to be together. Battle Buddies. Orders are orders.

Fear of Jason's interference comes true when Matt and another medic are moving a wounded soldier to the emergency room. Jason steps right into their path, taking pictures, and almost causes the patient to be dropped. Anything for a good picture. Promises be damned! Matt realizes Jason is trouble.

Driving his ambulance in a convoy, Mathew tells the ever-present Jason how upset he is with him, when their vehicle is suddenly blown apart from the impact of an IED. Matt is wounded and evacuated for emergency treatment. Jason miraculously escapes injury and credits Matt's quick action for saving him. He has come out of the horrific experience without a scratch. But it is in the combat hospital, that Mathew meets and is smitten by a beautiful nurse with amazing blue eyes, an Air Force Captain named Danielle Robaire who appears more than a little interested in him as well. Matt would later tell his psychologist that Danielle was his first and only real romantic relationship, ever.

The two lovers rapidly become intensely involved, openly enjoying off-duty recreational activities as a couple, dancing together, playfully making no secret of their simmering romance, with memorable intimate moments even in the women's officers tent. Rumors of their relationship quickly reach the chief nurse, whose duty it is to order Capt. Robaire to cease fraternizing with an NCO.

During individual therapy back in the States Matt confides to his psychologist, that he even has questions about his own sanity. Matt wistfully recalls the day he made Danielle a candlelight dinner in the back of a truck but that Danielle had to leave early. It would ultimately be their final moments together. Danielle's disappearance that day, without a trace, left him without closure to their deeply intimate but brief relationship. He felt it would grow. Now he wonders if it ever happened at all.

In therapy, Matt dwells on the sanity issue but the therapist reassures him. Mathew shows the therapist a provocative picture of himself and Danielle in a passionate embrace, taken of course by Jason without their knowledge or permission. The therapist suggests that he is suffering from PTSD and that it can be effectively treated. Mathew confides about suicidal thoughts and that he sees no other solution to his suffering. He is considering jumping off a bridge into traffic. But he accepts the psychologist's offer to process these painful feelings and his suicidal ideations in future sessions.

While sitting in a coffee shop one morning, Mathew is shocked and saddened to read in the paper the Pentagon's confirmation that Captain Robaire's decapitated and dismembered body was located and identified near Tikrit, Iraq. The CIA would neither confirm nor deny that she worked for them as an operative. But in the article her parents state that she had an adventurous spirit and often volunteered for secret missions, probably for the CIA. Sadly, Mathew now has closure. How could he have not known that?

As he scales the fence of a freeway overpass, he seems prepared to jump. He revisits the last words Danielle spoke to him, that she will miss him. He now has the resolve and the motive. Suddenly we are aware that he is no longer in view. Did he vanish into his dream, or did he jump... a suicide? Now it is we who are left in doubt.



CAST

Matthew Paul Chounlamontry.....Combat Medic
 Danielle Arnold.....Nurse
 Jason Tower.....Photo Journalist
 Romy Walthall.....Head Nurse
 Tricia Dunn.....Nurse
 James Scott Watson, PhD.....Therapist
 Boy Scouts of Camp O-ki-Hi

MORAL COURAGE



An African-American Christian pastor tells his congregation that he is leaving them to go to Iraq and serve as an Army Chaplain. He wants to minister to the emotional needs and moral struggles of young soldiers far from home and family.

When he arrives in the combat zone he is assigned to a combat support hospital, and is formally introduced to the troops as the new hospital chaplain. Imbued with a sense of religious zeal and enthusiasm he makes his rounds, giving encouragement to the young soldiers.

In a morale call to his wife back in the states he finds himself apologizing for not sharing with her or even hearing her feelings about his seemingly sudden decision to serve in the life threatening dangerous Iraq war zone. He tells her he feels it is his last chance to become an authentic person.

In the morning, a nurse is found dead from dehydration. She was raped a week ago when she had gone to use a port-a-potty alone in the middle of the night and became so traumatized that she stopped drinking water and started taking diuretics so she wouldn't have to pee at night. And that proved deadly in 130-degree weather. As he

eulogizes her, the chaplain tries to reassure the other nurses who are deeply shaken, but his efforts seem superficial at best.

On a patient visit to a seriously burned soldier in the hospital the chaplain exhibits his good intentions but he doesn't appear able to grasp soldier's feelings. The soldier had attempted to rescue a buddy from a burning vehicle, but had failed, and now experiences profound survivor guilt. Listening to the feelings of confusion, the chaplain lacks the insight to respond to this self-disclosure. Instead, he suggests that the soldier turn to God and prayer. When the soldier says his prayers go unanswered, the chaplain tells him he's a good man and other platitudes as he leaves.

When insurgents kill hospital surgeon, Colonel Beck, during a surprise attack on the compound, the chaplain inappropriately recites a Christian prayer over the body, until interrupted by a soldier stating, "Chaplain, he's a Jew." Feeling somewhat foolish the chaplain stops the Christian rite mid-sentence and switches to a Jewish mourners prayer, mispronouncing most of the words, but sincerely trying.

Slowly becoming aware of the many contradictions within himself, though he desires to raise the morale of the troops, instead he finds he is losing their respect. Nothing makes it more evident than when the hospital compound comes under attack and a Sgt. Major pleads with him to take a weapon and join the defense. The chaplain rightfully refuses, claiming that he has non-combatant status, and must help in other ways. To prove it, without a gun, he joins the troops in battle and reads biblical passages while bullets fly all around. Struck by the ridiculousness of his situation, internally he begins to wonder if he is merely a coward, or worse yet a hypocrite.

A married, distraught female warrant officer who works in the morgue meets with the chaplain and begs him to intercede on her behalf. An officer has demanded that she have sex with him or face consequences. The Chaplain assures her he will deal with this sexual harassment but fails to adequately do so, displaying a lack of morale courage to speak truth to power and once again he becomes engulfed in guilty feelings of inadequacy and cowardice. These are stressors that will tear at him until he deals with them in his subsequent therapy sessions once he is back home.

Upon redeployment to the states, he has lunch with his daughter who straightforwardly confronts him with the fact that his decision to go to Iraq, without truly consulting his wife - her mother - has both threatened their marriage and the entire family unit. She bluntly tells him that her mother felt abandoned, depressed and sure he wanted a divorce. This truthful revelation from his closest child hits him like a bolt of lightning and he promptly enters therapy.

Luckily for him the psychologist he must deal with identifies and unmask the defense mechanisms that have till now allowed the chaplain to think he can get by with a less than honest pattern of behavior. In insight-oriented therapy, and by wrestling with his demons in sermons from the pulpit he struggles to recapture the person he thought he was and the marriage he does not want to lose by honestly dealing with the flaws and lack of courage he knows he has desperately been hiding.



CAST

Hilly Hicks.....	Chaplain
Brett Hicks.....	His daughter
David Martinez.....	HMMV Gunner
Jenn Lewis.....	Mortuary Affairs Officer
Barika Croom.....	Mortuary Affairs Sgt.
Brandon Dean.....	Base Commanding Officer
Romy Walthall.....	Head Nurse
Danielle Arnold.....	Nurse
Trisha Dunn.....	Dead Nurse
Bruce Beck.....	Dead Chief Surgeon
Robert Holliday.....	Wounded Ranger
James Scott Watson, PhD.....	Therapist



SURVIVOR GUILT



David Martinez is a turret gunner aboard a HMMV heading down an Iraqi highway when it is upended by an IED. Knocked momentarily unconscious, sustaining possible traumatic brain injury, David desperately attempts to help his buddy from the burning vehicle but his buddy dies in the fire and David suffers serious burns on his face, arms and stomach. Evacuated to a combat support hospital his disorientation and confusion make it difficult for the doctors and nurses to treat his third degree burns.

A chaplain visits David at bedside and when David says that he feels guilty for not saving his buddy, the chaplain suggests that he turn to God. Martinez responds that he has prayed in the past but never gets his prayers answered. It is clear that the chaplain does not understand David's survivor guilt and he redirects the conversation into a religious pep talk, telling him that he is a good man.

In the post-operative ward, David still confused offers to share his pain pills with Robert, a wounded sniper lying in the next bed. Robert swallows two of David's pills without consulting anyone. Later in the day, still wearing his gown,

David removes his IV, dashes outside to a parked HMMV and tries a different approach he might have taken to saving his buddy. He celebrates his successful approach, shouting, "I did it, I did it." It takes five staff nurses to finally coax him down and back into bed.

Redeployed back to the states David sleeps in a sleeping bag on the floor in an uncles old fixer-upper house. Terrifying nightmares involving fire haunt his nights.

In the office of a DAV counselor, David calmly explains that he hates himself and wants to die because he didn't save his buddy. She responds with lots of helpful ideas including a referral for counseling, and financial assistance for his daily living needs, and social worker and medical follow-up appointments.

In therapy, David reveals his nightmares, hallucinations and flashbacks always involving fire. When the concerned therapist suggests an inpatient psychiatric hospital stay David refuses, but he does agree to attend outpatient counseling twice a week.

At home, even while shaving, David continues experiencing the auditory hallucinations, as armed with an old '45' pistol, he searches the entire perimeter of the house looking for a ghostly garbed Al Queda man calling out "Allah Akbar." Neighbors observe him carrying a gun, and debate whether or not to call police.

In desperation, trying to find something that works, David turns to a Curandera, a faith healer, who says she can help him if he believes that what she does works. She tells him that she can sense a curse was put on him as a child and revolved around playing with fire. If he believes in her powers to remove the curse, she can help him.

Back in the therapist' office, David is given a recommendation to join a veterans treatment groups, but he refuses saying he'll undergo a healing ceremony with a Curandera. Because it involves his religious faith, he knows it will work. All the Therapist's arguments about scientific treatments and meds fall on deaf ears.

On a bed surrounded by candles, David experiences the Curandera's healing ceremony. She rubs an egg on his body, recites prayers, and then breaks the raw egg into a glass of water, which she places underneath the bed he rests on. In a follow-up session, he tells her that he no longer has bad dreams and all the pain is gone.

A week later, David goes looking for employment, but is unsuccessful. He phones his therapist twice leaving desperate voice messages, anxious for a new consultation. Isolated in his uncle's house, he deteriorates rapidly. Preoccupied with the thought that he is cursed. His flashbacks are fixated on fires.

A television newscast reports that a decorated war hero, 32-year old veteran David Martinez has died in a residential house fire, perhaps a victim of suicide.



CAST

David Martinez	Wounded HMMV Gunner
Hilly Hicks.....	Chaplain
Robert Holliday	Wounded Army Airborne Ranger
Romy Walthall	Head Nurse
Danielle Arnold.....	Nurse
Octavio Acevedo	Combat Paramedic
Barika Croom.....	Mortuary Affairs Sgt.
Tommie Mendez	DAV Counselor
John Brekke	Therapist
Lourdes Galian.....	Curandera
Ray Kirkham.....	Pain Store Clerk
Alfred Cervantes.....	Upholsterer
David Weisburd	A Fellow Vet

IDENTITY AND TRUST



Sgt. Kim Phillips is a married, African American, female reservist who had been previously deployed to Iraq as a Mortuary Affairs Specialist. The year after her first deployment she calls the best year of her life. She married Michael- a police detective, gave birth to young son, obtained a good-paying job filleting fish for a seafood company, and matriculated back to college to upgrade her nursing degree and to develop proficiency in DNA lab work; fully paid for by the reserves.

She had grown so accustomed to enjoying her role as a new mother that she did not want quality time with her son to end. In the back of her mind, she had an obligation to pay back her college education and specialized training with another deployment to the war zone.

Kim feels guilty when coworker Jenn is wounded by an IED explosion during a body recovery mission that was actually to have been Kim's assigned turn on the rotation.

During a morale call home, Kim becomes emotionally distraught when her husband Michael accuses her of sleeping with an ex-boyfriend who is Puerto Rican. He thinks that their light skinned son is a product of that affair. Desperately Kim seeks assistance from the same chaplain, that Jenn had confided in and he advises her to get approval for emergency leave from her commanding officer. He also suggests that Kim make Michael aware that a dark skinned African American couple can give birth to a light-skinned child and he uses his own wife as an example.

After obtaining permission for emergency leave from Major Bennett, the chief nurse, Kim catches a quick hop home. Arriving at their apartment, she confronts Michael about his unwillingness to believe that their son is a product of their relationship and not another. He smiles and informs her that he has obtained a DNA test proving he is in fact their child's father. Kim explodes. Needing to prove is a sign that he doesn't trust her. Bad news for the marriage.

They enter couples counseling with Scott, a psychologist, who encourages them to talk out their feelings. There is no trust between them. Michael feels insecure in his role as a single father with many questions about child rearing. Kim is stressed out that she cannot share with her husband the nature of her work in the morgue. She hates her job and the gruesome aspects of it, but knows that it has high value for the grieving families of dead warriors. The therapist skillfully identifies their marital issues about reestablishing trust, her need to ventilate her feelings about her mortuary work and his insecurities about childrearing. He suggests that they address these issues and begin to more openly communicate their feelings in additional sessions.

As Michael and Kim begin to dialogue, it becomes apparent that they can restore their loving relationship and also enjoy quality family time with their son before she returns to Iraq.

The stress of thinking about the eventuality of leaving her son for another deployment caused her to begin experiencing flashbacks and nightmares. Her delayed stress symptoms significantly disrupted her occupational life when she started having flashbacks about her wartime work in the morgue while filleting fish at the seafood company.

She seeks relief from a psychologist who diagnoses her with PTSD symptoms and reassures her that she is not going crazy. He recommends some solutions such as deep breathing techniques, EMDR, sleep medications and group therapies. Before she has time to start her course of therapy, she is ordered back to Active Duty in Iraq for one year in the morgue and is given a heartfelt send off by her coworkers at the seafood company.

Back for her second Iraq tour, she is assigned to a morgue nicknamed "Hell's Kitchen." She and another female team member, Warrant Officer Jenn Lewis sift, sort and identify body parts of war's victims on a daily basis. The work is grueling and macabre, and both women often feel stressed. They cope by using gallows humor and give each other emotional support.

Both are stressed during off-duty hours. Jenn, who is also married, is harassed by a male superior officer and is told she must have sex with him or suffer the consequences. Jenn sees the chaplain and hopes that he will pursue the subject with the officer in question, but she never hears anything more from the chaplain though unwanted looks and touches continue from the Major in question.



CAST

Barika Croom.....Mortuary Affairs Sgt.
 Wallace Demarria.....Her Husband
 DaveonTheir Son
 Eric & Gina Crespel.....Sea Food Company Owners
 Nenita BalagtasSea Food Company Worker
 Hilly Hicks.....Chaplain
 James Scott Watson, PhD.....Therapist
 Jenn Lewis.....Mortuary Affairs Officer
 Romy WalthallHead Nurse
 Bruce BeckChief Surgeon



A SHATTERED TRADITION



Captain, Jessica Marie Andrews is a recent graduate of West Point, her father's alma mater and his father's before him. She is the only child in her family. Her father has lovingly called her his "boy" referring to her outstanding record at "The Point."

On active duty serving in Afghanistan, she leads some soldiers in search of weapon stashes hidden in caves. Going cave to cave they come upon a cache of AK47s. Booby traps are to be expected, and sure enough someone discovers a trip wire, but before Jessica can order them to take cover, a powerful blasts kills her men and causes her life threatening injuries.

When she awakens from surgery she learns that her female reproductive system and much of her intestines had to be removed. Her surgeon compliments her for being a fighter. It's a miracle she survived. She says she walked down the Kubler-Ross tunnel, and thought she was in her mother's arms, but her mother's not dead. How could that be? She must have been hallucinating. The doctor tells her that all of her men were killed and that she herself may be permanently disfigured due to nerve damage that has left her unable to smile. He praises her as a fighter whom he would not let die.

After post-operative recovery, Jessica is sent home. Her military career seemingly over, she is looking forward to seeing her parents but her homecoming is met with tragic news that her parents and a cousin who lived with them were all killed in a highway accident that occurred shortly after her parents were visited by Army officers with a regrets letter from Army HQ misinforming them that Jessica, their only child, was killed in action. Then, adding insult to injury, Jessica has a run-in with a county surveyor who tells her that a highway will soon be built right through her property. Informed that she won't sell, the surveyor tells her they'll take it via eminent domain. Announcing she will fight that, she kicks him off her property slapping him verbally by saying "That's a helluva thanks for serving our country!"

Grappling with the tragically unexpected and devastating loss of her parents and family, the end of her military career, the frozen mask of her face, and a permanently altered identity Jessica finds herself

frequently thinking of ending her life. Tormented with self-hatred, sadness and depression, as well as survivor guilt she is hostile to a county social worker who visits her at the ranch and is a vet herself. Jessica finds it difficult to be civil, and she rejects the social worker's open-ended offer of help.

But a few weeks later she does begin to see a distinguished looking psychiatrist at a major university and, although he is nearly her father's age they don't seem to be on the same wave length at all, and she starts to feel that she is carrying the sessions while he drifts into a kind of dotage which she resents.

The rage she expresses in her bathroom mirror, as she confronts the ugliness of her image begins to give way as she challenges herself with yoga, and running and horseback riding.

While slowly adjusting to her new circumstances and still deciding if she wants to go on living, Jessica begins giving horseback riding lessons to two young sisters in the area, Chloe age 10 and Alex age 11, who are also coping with painful family issues due to their parent's divorce, and a father who wants nothing to do with them or their mother any more. She develops a healthy relationship with these two small agents of recovery while giving them riding lessons, and begins to draw strength and hope from their mutual caring and respect. The girls notice a small but significant smile has returned to Jessica's face, and with it she starts to show a new outlook on life.

The girls and their mother find dozens of other youngsters interested in paying for riding lessons, and when they sincerely express their love for Jessica and their wish that the ranch could be their home too. Jessica ponders it and gives a very open ended answer... "Maybe."

Confiding to her newly awakened therapist that she is in love, and getting a "Wow" from him, Jessica responds that she loves "herself." And it shows. There is also an inkling that she also loves Alex and Chloe, too, and maybe even their mother, Karen... though "Don't ask/Don't tell" still commands her attention.



CAST

Jessica Graham Captain
 Dick and Peggy Zisch..... Her Parents
 Dontreal Bacon A Sgt.
 Jeff Jack Driver
 Kevin Smith County Surveyor
 Sherri Curl, RN, MA, MFT Social Worker
 Eric Espensen, DPM Surgeon
 Thomas A. Hicklin, MD Psychiatrist
 Karin Gault A Friend
 Chloe & Alex Her Daughters

The QRF – The Quick Reacton Force defends the Combat Hospital

and consists of: Master Sergeant Roy Brown and Dontreal Bacon, Aaron Clem, Daniel Cox, Dylan Cox, Jeff Jack, Christopher Michael and Justin Ruff.

