

Still the Monkey, What Happens to Warriors After War?

“A poignant and powerful novel, written out of the deepest respect and admiration for the men and women who put their lives on the line for the sake of their nation.” – Midwest Book Review

A work of historical fiction by Alivia C. Tagliaferri, *Still the Monkey* is a depiction of a mentor relationship between a Vietnam Veteran still battling with PTSD for nearly forty years and a wounded Iraq war veteran undergoing rehabilitation at Walter Reed Medical Center. Sharing stories of fighting for their country and their sanity, the warrior of old and the warrior of today begin a cathartic journey of transforming pain into healing while honoring their Marine code of conduct: *Never leave anyone behind.*

5 REASONS WHY “*STILL THE MONKEY*” SHOULD BE REQUIRED READING IN EVERY PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENTS’ CURRICULUM:

1. Learn what traits therapists should possess:

The U.S. Army recently announced an initiative to hire more mental health care experts to deal with Post Traumatic Stress. Read *Still the Monkey* to learn the two traits that one therapist possessed that changed a PTSD-plagued veteran’s life.

2. Understand history of classification and treatment of PTSD:

A recent Pentagon report criticized troops’ mental health care- *Still the Monkey* provides historically accurate evolution of mental health care for veterans including the history of PTSD’s classification by the APA, treatment methods and paths that were employed during the Vietnam generation.

3. How do veterans typically self-treat PTSD?

According to experts in the field of post-traumatic stress, a common method of self-treatment is isolation - Learn

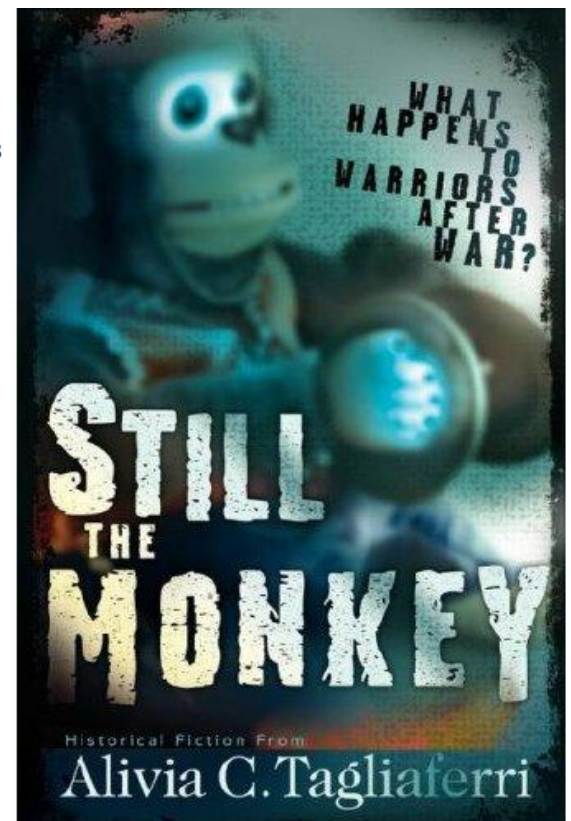
how the emotion-numbing isolation agent referred to as ‘The Body Bag Syndrome’ in *Still the Monkey* becomes a source of strength and weakness.

4. How pervasive Survivor’s Guilt is in post-combat life:

The National Institute of Mental Health released a study in June that reports male veterans are twice as likely to commit suicide, other studies link veterans with PTSD as more likely to experience heart disease – Read *Still the Monkey* to learn how years of living with Survivor’s Guilt manifests daily thoughts of just ending it all and eventual physical and cardiac problems for one veteran.

5. What should never be said to a veteran upon their return home?

Find out in *Still the Monkey* the one sentence uttered that forever damaged a mother’s relationship with her son.



A PTSD THERAPIST WRITES:

“This book is a must read for anyone who deals with veterans who have been in war. As a therapist who treats veterans with post traumatic stress disorder, I found that this book powerfully wields a new pathway for teaching others about combat trauma; it not only provides an interesting perspective but an astute understanding about the lasting symptoms of war. For those who seek knowledge and information about what really occurs in war and the changes that take place in a person, *Still the Monkey* cleverly takes one through the pathway of warriorship, the loss of innocence, the quest to find ones self again, and the journey of recovering from the wounds of war both physically and mentally. *Still the Monkey* is cathartic and poetic all at once.” - Jerome Beightol (PTSD Therapist, Martinsburg WV)