The Invisible Front: Love and Loss in an Era of Endless War


This book is a challenging one that examines the difficult and painful subjects of suicide, mental illness, and traumatic stress in the military. The narrative is told from the perspective of a family that lost two sons, one to suicide and one to combat, and how the nature of those deaths caused the military to respond very differently to each of them. It examines the culture and values of the military, and in particular it looks closely at the way the military responds to those suffering from post-traumatic stress, mental illness, and traumatic brain injury. It tells a difficult story that can be difficult to read.

Because the topics discussed in this book are so sensitive, it requires a trigger warning. If you are, or believe you will be, susceptible to depression, if you have suffered, or are suffering, from Post-Traumatic Stress, or believe that you will be negatively affected in any way by this book or its discussion of these issues you should not read this book or any of the accompanying materials, including the focus questions. If you believe you are suffering from any symptoms of mental illness or have any concerns that you might suffer from these symptoms in the future you should immediately speak to someone and seek professional help. At Syracuse, you can receive help from:

A. Barnes Center at the Arch:
   i. 24-Hour Support Call 315.443.8000

Syracuse University students experiencing a mental health crisis, seeking support for sexual assault or relationship violence, or needing medical consultation can receive free confidential services 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 315.443.8000. Please note, routine consultations should hold until the next business day;

ii. Schedule an Appointment—Call 315.443.8000
B. Lawyer Assistance Program https://nysba.org/lawyer-assistance-program/

The Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP) of the New York State Bar Association was established in 1990 to assist attorneys, judges, and law school students who are affected by alcoholism, drug abuse, stress, depression, and other mental health issues. LAP also provides support services to families, law firms and others in the legal community who are concerned about mental health issues among attorneys.

This book was selected by Professor Elizabeth Kubala, the Executive Director of the Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic at the Syracuse University College of Law. Professor Kubala has a B.S. degree from the United States Military Academy, West Point, a J.D. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, and an L.L.M. from the Army Judge Advocate General's School. She served in the U.S. Army for 23 years of active service and retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

A list of focus questions designed to help you get the most out of “The Invisible Front” is available as a separate document.