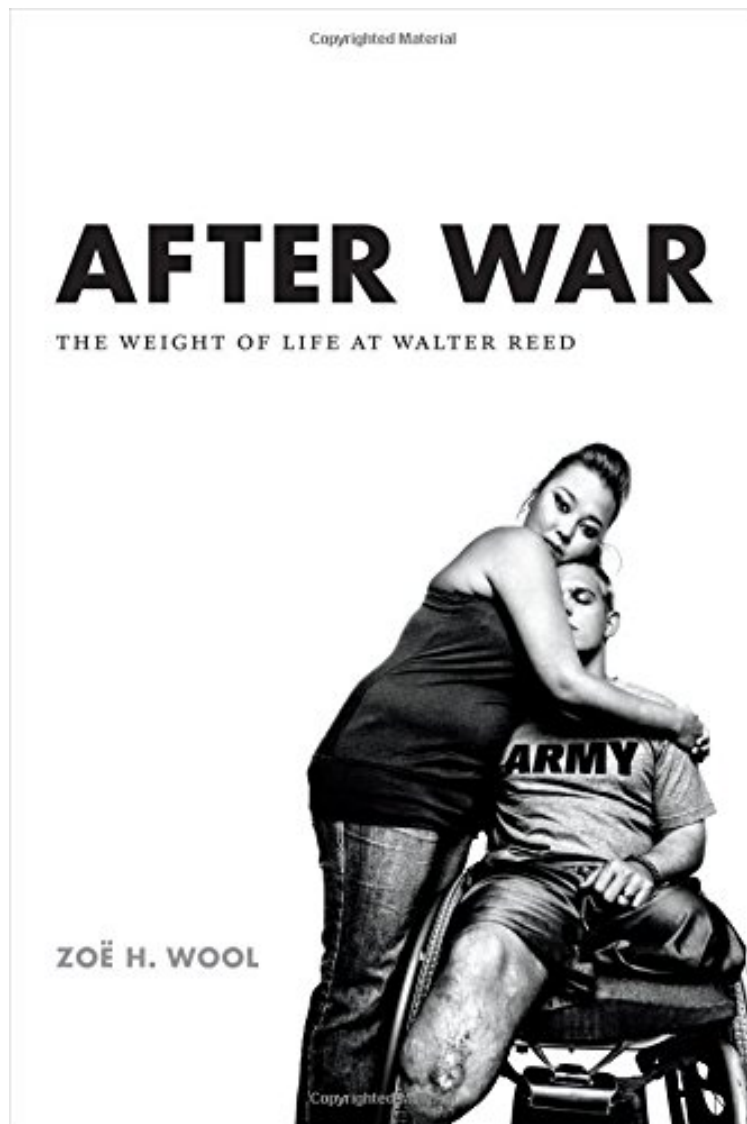


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After War: The Weight of Life at Walter Reed (Critical Global Health: Evidence, Efficacy, Ethnography)

Zoeuml; H. Wool

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Zoeuml; H. Wool : After War: The Weight of Life at Walter Reed (Critical Global Health: Evidence, Efficacy, Ethnography) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised After War: The Weight of Life at Walter Reed (Critical Global Health: Evidence, Efficacy, Ethnography):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. After WarBy CustomerBefore I read Dr. Woolrsquo;s, After War, I

was stuck in a stereotype of wounded soldiers, which many of us have accepted as gospel. From my narrow perspective these men had served their country, paid an enormous price for their work and now returned to face an over bureaucratized system, uncaring citizens and a bleak future. I have often found myself watching men in uniform at airports where they are frequently given priority seating and moved to the head of the line. It leaves me wondering whether this small token is enough or even necessary. I remember passing soldiers, minus a limb or two. I would mumble something like, thank you for your service. Was I being trite? All that changed after reading *After War*. Dr. Wool's anthropological study of the culture of wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Hospital opened my eyes. Words like ordinary, boring, motion and honor have a new reality for me. These soldiers, who are ordinary men and women, have chosen a career where violence is the norm. When they return they are changed, sometimes physically often psychologically, forever. The road to reentry is paved with potholes that some have learned to work through or maneuver around better than others. Dr. Wool's, *After War*, is an engaging read that everyone, not just academics, should read. Each vignette comes to life. Each story is haunting. Once I began reading *After War*, it was impossible to put down. Barry Siskind Author Bumblebees Can't Fly

In *After War* Zoeuml; H. Wool explores how the American soldiers most severely injured in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars struggle to build some kind of ordinary life while recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center from grievous injuries like lost limbs and traumatic brain injury. Between 2007 and 2008, Wool spent time with many of these mostly male soldiers and their families and loved ones in an effort to understand what it's like to be blown up and then pulled toward an ideal and ordinary civilian life in a place where the possibilities of such a life are called into question. Contextualizing these soldiers within a broader political and moral framework, Wool considers the soldier body as a historically, politically, and morally laden national icon of normative masculinity. She shows how injury, disability, and the reality of soldiers' experiences and lives unsettle this icon and disrupt the all-too-common narrative of the heroic wounded veteran as the embodiment of patriotic self-sacrifice. For these soldiers, the uncanny ordinariness of seemingly extraordinary everyday circumstances and practices at Walter Reed create a reality that will never be normal.

"Hollywood films and literary memoirs tend to transform wounded veterans into tragic heroes or cybernetic supercrips. Zoeuml; H. Wool knows better. In her beautifully written and deeply empathic study of veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan at Walter Reed, Wool shows us the long slow burn of convalescence and how the ordinary textures of domestic life unfold in real time. An important and timely intervention."