



2022

PTSD

Emma Patton

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Patton, Emma (2022) "PTSD," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 41: Iss. 1, Article 28.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol41/iss1/28>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.



Book Review

PTSD

Author

Guillaume Singelin

Reviewer

Emma Patton

Rating

Significant Shortcomings

Level

Young Adult

Pages

190

Year

2019

ISBN

9781626723184

Publisher

First Second

Jun is an outcast, in every sense of the word. She used to be a soldier and, now that she has returned home, her life will never be the same. She is homeless and terrified. Though she has a community of veterans who are in similarly desperate situations, she is too guarded to really connect to anyone. Her only companion is a stray dog, who is with her in her loneliest moments. Jun and her fellow vets struggle with addiction, and the search for her next supply of prescription drugs is what keeps her going most days. But then she meets Leona, a woman with a genuinely good heart who owns a ramen shop. She tries to feed as many of the hopeless vets as she can and takes Jun under her wing, offering Jun friendship and emotional safety—things she hasn't had since before the war. Jun is resistant to any kind of connection. Sometimes, it feels safer to just stay protected so she doesn't have to feel the pain that threatens to overwhelm her.

PTSD is a dark graphic novel that outlines the trauma and loneliness of being a war veteran, but in a fictional setting. This book could be very upsetting to those with any experience with war or PTSD. Jun lives a very heavy existence. She struggles with flashbacks, prescription drug addiction, and violent mood swings. Though these symptoms are often the reality for those coming back from war, the book is so depressing that it distracts from the real plot of the story. It is very difficult to follow Jun's story line because of the violence, language, and depravity that sometimes seems a bit gratuitous. The focus on the darkness in the novel also left little room for character development. One particular character, Leona, is not struggling from PTSD and seeks to aid those suffering, but even she is somewhat unoriginal and not especially relatable because of poor characterization. All in all, PTSD covers extremely important themes that are underrepresented in young adult literature. However, its mature content makes it suitable only to older readers.

*Contains severe language, severe violence, and moderate substance abuse