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Human Library: Book Descriptions

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Book Descriptions

Working to Differentiate Myself at My Most Vulnerable

Imagine that you're out driving and a DUI slams into you. The horrific accident leaves unable to speak for yourself but you clearly hear assailant's vile words to the ER staff. Imagine, your fear as the first person to address you is the chaplain. Realize that you-victim-look just like them-assailants. Want to set yourself apart. Want quality care. Want to live. What do you do??

I'm Not Done Yet

Please don't count me out, anything is possible. Our minds are like parachutes -- they only work when they are open. As my caregiver, I need you to explain my options, both good and bad. Give me your thoughts and be honest, then allow me to choose which road I will travel. Don't decide for me.

A Veteran Serving Veterans

I am a disabled Iraq war veteran that struggled with PTSD and border-line alcohol abuse. I turned a 180 and now run 3 service offices and manage multiple employees. I am dedicated to helping this nation's disabled veteran population.

Cancer in Aisle Six

Fighting metastatic breast cancer since 2011. The first time I noticed any prejudice or ignorance was when I had the un-canny ability to clear the aisles in the grocery store. Funny, the powers we possess when swimming against society's expectations of how things should be. Interesting how fear replaces knowledge with ignorance. Anytime, in the grocery store, in the ladies room, anywhere public with my cane, it is parting of the seas, the aisle clears, I get a stare and a very careful way to bypass me so as not to make any contact. Good times!

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Out of My Control

Misdiagnosed in adolescence, I learned to hide when I felt an "episode" coming on. I was overwhelmed with feelings of guilt and shame, that I should be able to control it. When a doctor finally said the word epilepsy, I was scared but also relieved. I thought there might be hope. Unfortunately, I was not prepared for the complex emotional and social issues that would accompany it, nor was I prepared for the barriers I would encounter: transportation, employment, insurance coverage, cost of prescriptions, finding good medical care, etc.

Queer Transman

He/she/it. Is that a boy or a girl?

Human yet Colorful

Referred to as "Gay" in a derogatory manner by an MD and had another MD say to me: "You People know what's it's like to be discriminated against." In another incident, I was told by my pediatrician that I "may want to think about how I was going to raise [my then] infant daughter, as a straight or gay person."

Homeless, Not Helpless

Street paper salesman doing things the right way.

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