Book Descriptions

Books were part of two Human Library programs at Thomas Jefferson University in 2014. For more information about the Human Library Organization click here.

A Human Being First; Gay, Married, Working Mother of Two Second

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."

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!
Disabled Veteran

Dealing with unseen disabilities. Difficulty finding work as a disabled minority veteran. How to become a civilian again after service.

Homeless, Not Helpless

Street paper salesman doing things the right way.

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.

Mums the Word

I work in an Emergency Department as a Patient Services Coordinator and Support Staff Supervisor. Just like the many patients seen in an E.D. my lifestyle is also very diverse. It too has seen its fair share of complications.

Out for Good

J.D. Degree; All but dissertation for Ed.D., Masters Religious Education. Terminated from teaching at a theological seminary for "unsubstantiated information" that I counseled students in the viability of a homosexual lifestyle. I am a mirror twin (identical twin with late splitting egg, giving me the dominant left side and her, the dominant right side). Being in the closet did not protect anything so I came out for good.
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?

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??