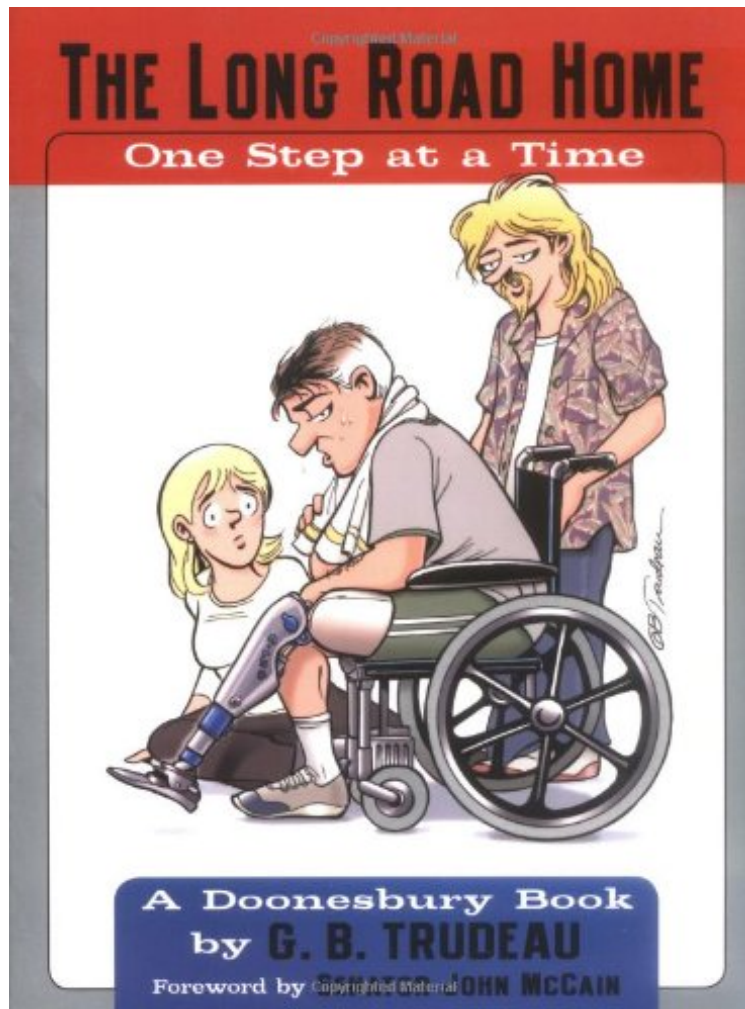


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The Long Road Home: One Step at a Time

G. B. Trudeau

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G. B. Trudeau : The Long Road Home: One Step at a Time before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Long Road Home: One Step at a Time:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. tlqeeeeeBy tlqeeeeeI am a traumatic above-knee amputee jus like BD. When BD lost his leg in the war I was actually more surprised that he lost his helmet. BD ALWAYS had a helmet of some sort since his first appearance in Doonesbury. I was astounded by how close my initial situation was to his. I was not ever in a war. I was hit in an American city street. I lost the opposite leg to the one BD lost, but pretty much everything was absolutely identical between me and BD. The differences between us just simply aren't important, even if one of us is real life and the other is a fictional comic strip character.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy M. HodgeIt's hard to believe how easily Trudeau manages to deal with such a serious issue while making you laugh at the same time. It's like gallows humor I suppose, and when you're at the gallows finding a way to

laugh at it must be a relief. I think it's particularly telling that John McCain (like many Republican politicians) despised Trudeau, but he found this series so moving and on point that he felt compelled to write the foreword. If you haven't seen it, the next book about B.D.'s struggle with PTSD is even more touching. I recommend them both highly (especially the latter). 33 of 34 people found the following review helpful. Been There, Seen This By Q`BERRY FAMILY Unlike a previous reviewer, who claimed he had been in Iraq for a year, and hated Trudeau (he obviously never read the book), I can say that not only was I a participant in OIF (2003), but I also had the pleasure (?) of using the Fisher House at Landstuhl RMC (Oct 2003-Feb 2004). If you buy this wonderful book for no other reason, buy it because you support us, the men and women of the Armed Forces. This is not whether the War is right or wrong. My personal opinion does not count. I have sworn to uphold and defend The Constitution, defend you, the American People, and obey the orders of the President (elected, and re-elected by the American People). This is about the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Reservists, Guardsmen and Civilian Contractors who pass through Landstuhl every day. We either stay until recovery and return to our Commands (as I did), or we get sent to either Walter Reed or Bethesda. While I was there, some spent weeks recovering. Too well to go stateside, too wounded to return to the AOR. The Fisher House cost us anywhere from \$0.00-\$10.00 per night, and included meals and maids. If for no other reason, THAT is what is right about this book. And if you don't think this was a real book review, you wouldn't understand, anyway.

On a road outside Fallujah, an RPG blows apart a Humvee and upends the life of a former football star. As a medevac chopper swoops down, the wounded Guardsman hears "Not your time, bro. Not today," and his remarkable healing journey begins. Thousands of U.S. soldiers have suffered grievous wounds in Iraq, but only one of them is a Doonesbury character. The Long Road Home: One Step at a Time chronicles seven months of cutting-edge cartooning, during which B.D.-and readers of the strip-got an up-close schooling in a kind of personal transformation no one seeks. Deprived not only of leg but also his ubiquitous trademark helmet, B.D. survives first-response Baghdad triage, evacuation to Landstuhl's surgeon-rich environment, and visits by innumerable morale-boosting celebs, both red and blue in hue. He's awed in turn by morphine, take-no-guff nurses, his fellow amps, and his family, including the daughter who hand-delivers succor, one aspirin at a time. Transferred stateside to Walter Reed's Ward 57, B.D. is inspired by the wisdom of physiatrists, warmed by the dedicated ministrations of real-life fellow-amp heroes like Jim the Milkshake Man, and dazzled by high-tech prostheses that cost more than luxury cars. He's annoyed by his own bouts with self-pity, by the bedside awkwardness of friends more comfortable regarding his stump from e-mail distance, and by Zonk's unwavering commitment to supplementing his care with organic meds. As their journey continues, B.D. and Boopsie are cared for by Fisher House, a home-next-door-to-the-hospital for families whose lives revolve around therapy. B.D. finds himself painfully engaged in building his future, one sadistically difficult physical therapy session at a time. "To Lash, Helga, and the Marquis!" toast the band of differently limbed brethren, raising their glasses to their PT masters as they prepare for reentry into the ambulatory world. From rebuilding tissue to rebuilding social skills to rebuilding lives, B.D.'s inspiring, insightful, and darkly humorous story confirms that it can take a village, or at least a ward, to raise a soldier when he's gone down. "Thank you for getting blown up," offers one of B.D.'s visiting players. Replies the coach, "Just doing my job."

About the Author G. B. Trudeau has been drawing his Pulitzer Prize-winning comic strip for more than forty years. In addition to cartooning, Trudeau has worked in theater, film, and television. He also has been a contributing columnist for the New York Times op-ed page and later an essayist for Time magazine. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts Sciences. He lives in New York City with his wife, Jane Pauley. They have three grown children.