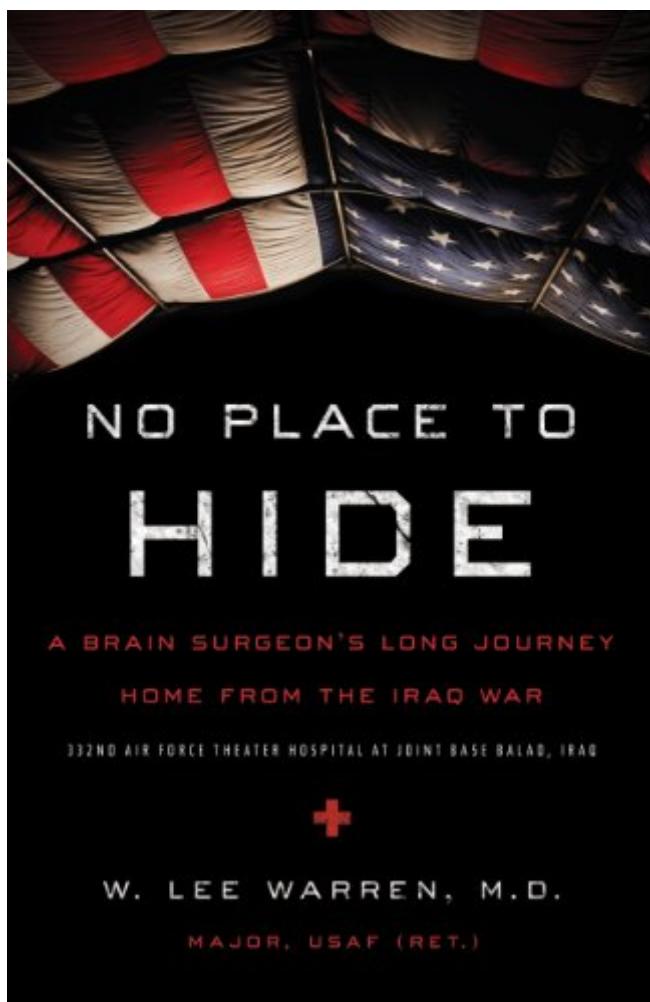


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# No Place To Hide: A Brain Surgeon's Long Journey Home From The Iraq War



## Synopsis

A War Zone of the SoulDr. W. Lee Warren's life as a neurosurgeon in a trauma center began to unravel long before he shipped off to serve the Air Force in Iraq in 2004. When he traded a comfortable if demanding practice in San Antonio, Texas, for a ride on a C-130 into the combat zone, he was already reeling from months of personal struggle. At the 332nd Air Force Theater Hospital at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Warren realized his experience with trauma was just beginning. In his 120 days in a tent hospital, he was trained in a different specialty—surviving over a hundred mortar attacks and trying desperately to repair the damages of a war that raged around every detail of every day. No place was safe, and the constant barrage wore down every possible defense, physical or psychological. One day, clad only in a T-shirt, gym shorts, and running shoes, Warren was caught in the open while round after round of mortars shook the earth and shattered the air with their explosions, stripping him of everything he had been trying so desperately to hold on to. Warren's story is an example of how a person can go from a place of total loss to one of strength, courage, and victory. Whether you are in the midst of your own crisis of faith, failed relationship, financial struggle, or illness, you will be inspired to remember that how you respond determines whether you survive—spiritually, emotionally, and sometimes physically. It is the beginning of a long journey home.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book started as an eye opening even shocking book on the war through the eyes of a neurosurgeon. That was amazing. Then he introduced how his flailing faith in God was affected by his intense war time medical service. Then he mentioned how his church service and church family there in Iraq helped to save him. He gives a good view of how PTSD affects a person and finds a way to begin healing. Ultimately he not only physically survived the war, but emotionally survived then grew. He realized unexpectedly and maybe inexplicably that he had gained more from his service in the war than he lost. All-in-all this book engaged me mentally, intellectually, but ultimately emotionally and finally spiritually. I'm sorry for his and all the other soldiers pain. But he took that pain and not only found a way to survive, then thrive, but he also gave us a gift in this book that can lead to our gain as well. Thank you!

Excellent biographical account of what it's like to be a trauma surgeon in a war zone. The book is not for the faint of heart, but I think it should be required reading for every American and especially for those who don't understand the sacrifices made in the name of freedom. It really gives one a better understanding of the battles our service men and women experience once they return to civilian life. No person should have to experience these horrors but sadly man will always make war with one another. Thank you Lee, for your service and the courage it took to share your life experience with us.

I found Dr. Warren's book very inspiring. It is a unique perspective of being a healthcare provider, in this case a neurosurgeon, providing life saving treatment in what had to be a horrible environment. I found that the courage that was demonstrated by all the health professionals discussed in the book amazing. Being a nurse I hope I would have the courage to provide the best care possible under the circumstances but it is extremely difficult for me to imagine. I have been blessed to receive care from Dr. Warren and the experiences described in this book no doubt impacted his skill and competency in what he does. I know that after I read his first book my confidence in him grew by leaps and bounds. When he performed my first surgery I knew very little about him and this book increases my

confidence even more in his abilities, when I faced an additional. I completed the book in two days because I could hardly put it down. I think anyone who reads this book will be inspired! I sincerely recommend it for healthcare professionals and the general public. It will give the readers and unique perspective on war that is not discussed in most circumstances. It will also provide a perspective that is not just the soldiers that come home with PTSD but also those who save their lives. Anita C. Ali, RN, PhD Auburn University/Auburn University Montgomery

I loved how Dr. Warren shared his faith and his personal experiences with us in such a well-balanced way. I would recommend this book to anyone who takes for granted their daily blessings of living in a free country. I can see not only that because of men and women like Dr. Warren, my freedom to worship God without fear is secure, but that those who have served our country in a time of war need our love and understanding very much. Thank you for your service.

Why is it that I did not know our physicians give the enemy equal care? Why in the world are medical supplies limited in battle zones? If we can get them one case of supplies, why not fifty? Aside from my anger toward the roadblocks they faced, this is the story of a gentle, humble and spiritual man with superior intelligence and an uncommon focus and skill in an unfathomable environment.

I have read several books by neurosurgeons outlining tails of their amazing surgeries into the human brain, as well as many books by soldiers in combat. This book combined both aspects, neurosurgery and war, but was very different than any I have read thus far. Dr. Warran really put a human face on the soldiers, civilians and enemies that are affected by war, and how as a doctor in the war zone it isn't his job to judge who is who. As a reader, you really feel the horrors of what he is seeing on a daily bases and the struggles that it causes. He also beautifully describes how in a world of death and chaos like a war hospital, it's the little success that are important and keep them going. I think what sets this book apart was Dr. Warran's ability to tap in and share his personal struggles of fear and inadequacy not only as a surgeon in war, but also as a father, a husband and a man. I think most of us have felt those feelings in some aspect of our lives at some point. I appreciate him sharing those emotions with the reader. I can't imagine it was easy to write about.

I truly loved this book. I could not put it down as I wanted to know what happened next. The author endured a lot while in Iraq and He not only survived, but he had a renewing of his faith with God. I

cried a few tears of joy over the many ordeals he went through and because of his faith he survived and is living a full and happy life. Thank you Major (Dr.) Warren for your service and a great book.

This was a very enlightening book about the effects of war. Your insight and your heart and your skill all came into sharp focus. You opened your heart to all so we could experience a small fraction of the enormous impact this war and any war has on the lives of young soldiers and innocent civilians. God Bless You!!

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