

NATALIE LOVEJOY

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## Artist Statement

In 2008, I was an Army wife, writer, and composer stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY. My then-husband was a soldier deployed to Iraq for a year. I noticed the military world I was experiencing was rarely accurately represented in entertainment, much less musical theater. This world was one composed of complex, apolitical, and full of real individuals struggling to find meaning in their lives like everyone else. As someone from a completely civilian background, this experience forever changed me, and I found myself determined to write a musical that would allow civilians to have a similar experience. In addition, I wanted service members to see themselves authentically represented in a piece of musical theater. As a result, I started writing *Deployed*.

The following song, “Battle Scars” is part of a subplot between a Specialist and an MP during the deployment in Iraq. Though they both have developed feelings for each other, they are blocked by their own assumed prejudices: She feels resentment over the suspicion that he doesn’t take her seriously as a soldier, and he holds back out of the fear that she has stereotyped him as just a dumb “grunt.” In this scene and song, they finally find some common ground.



[Click to hear a performance of "Battle Scars"](#)

An excerpt from *Deployed*

ACT ONE

SCENE 6

*The barracks, a few days later. Lights up on the soldiers watching a movie. They lean forward, very serious and intently absorbed. We hear the romantic, emotional score of Beauty and the Beast, and then the Beast says, "You came back." SOLDIER 1 sniffles loudly.*

SPECIALIST

Are you fucking *crying*?

SOLDIER 3

*Sbbb!*

(They continue to watch, completely engrossed. The SPECIALIST gets up and turns it off. Everyone boos at him.)

SOLDIER 2

That's the best part of the whole movie!

SPECIALIST

It's a fucking cartoon, you pussies.

(He leaves the tent in a huff and sits on a bench outside, smoking. Lights out on the other soldiers. The MP enters and walks over to the SPECIALIST.)

MP

Something came for you.

SPECIALIST

Really? (He takes the package and looks at the wrapping.) Is this M.R.E. paper?

MP

Just fucking open it!

(He unwraps it. It's a package of cigarettes.)

Oh, cool. These are my favorite. (He reads the attached card.) "Merry Christmas. Lung cancer kills." (He smiles.) Thank you.

MP

So what's going on with your folks?

SPECIALIST

I've just been on so many deployments sending care packages isn't fun for them anymore, I guess. What about yours?

MP

Um, yeah, same. (Beat) So where's my gift, asshole?

[MUSIC IN: NO. 12 "BATTLE SCARS"]

SPECIALIST

I'll stop giving you a hard time...for today.

MP

You know, grunts are the only ones doing shit out here.

SPECIALIST

Yeah, but we're the ones getting all fucked up. (He lifts up his shirt, revealing a large scar on his side.) See this? That was from a huge-ass piece of shrapnel I took during a patrol once. They had to remove a rib. (She rolls her eyes at him.) I have one less rib than you!

MP

So?

I HAVE A SCAR HERE ON MY SHOULDER —

SPECIALIST

I GOT A SCAR THERE, TOO.

MP

A BULLET BARELY MISSED -

SPECIALIST

MORE SHRAPNEL.

MP

THAT SHIT JUST DOESN'T LIKE YOU.

SPECIALIST

HERE'S ANOTHER ON MY FOREHEAD  
FROM A BLAST -

MP

YEP, SAME HERE.

(Showing him the scar under her hair)

LOOK YOU CAN SEE IT.

SPECIALIST

MINE IS WORSE.

MP

OH?

SPECIALIST

IT KNOCKED MY BRAINS OUT.

MP  
YEAH, THAT'S CLEAR...  
SPECIALIST  
I NEEDED A STTTCH!

MP  
AND I WAS SEEING STARS!

SPECIALIST  
Whatever...

MP  
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH BATTLE SCARS.

(The SPECIALIST tosses his cigarette.)

SPECIALIST  
Ok, time for the big guns. (Gesturing to his arm muscles) Get it?

MP  
Oh, you're funny, too.

SPECIALIST  
I MIGHT AS WELL SHOW YOU THIS ONE.

MP  
IS THAT A HEART?

SPECIALIST  
YEAH, IT WAS.

MP  
AND SOMEONE'S NAME?

SPECIALIST  
RELAX, IT'S ALMOST GONE NOW.

MP

I BET THAT HURTS.

SPECIALIST

YES, IT DOES...

(The MP pulls back her shirt, revealing a tattoo of a man's name.)

MP

I'VE GOT SOME INK AS WELL HERE.

SPECIALIST

(Threatened)

WHO IS THAT?

MP

JUST A GUY I KNEW.  
HE WAS KILLED ON OUR LAST DEPLOYMENT.

SPECIALIST

YEAH, I KNEW A FEW OF THOSE, TOO...

BOTH

NOT EVERYONE WOULD LIVE THROUGH SCRAPES LIKE  
OURS.  
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH BATTLE SCARS.

SPECIALIST

I'M BROKEN AND BATTERED,

MP

I'M CUT UP AND SHATTERED,

SPECIALIST

I'VE GOT SCARS YOU CAN'T SEE.

MP

IT'S THE SAME WAY WITH ME.

SPECIALIST

I'M SCARED THAT THEY'LL SCARE YOU.

MP

I'M SCARED YOU'LL BE SCARED, TOO.

SPECIALIST

THEY NEVER GO AWAY,

BUT EVERY SINGLE SCAR

MAKES YOU WHO YOU ARE

MP

THEY NEVER GO AWAY,

BUT EVERY SINGLE SCAR

BOTH

AND I LIKE WHO YOU ARE TODAY.

I'VE BEEN BURNED AND DRAGGED  
THROUGH EVERY KIND OF WAR,

SPECIALIST

BUT I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE,

MP

I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE,

SPECIALIST

I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE,

MP

I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE -

SPECIALIST

I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE -

BOTH

ANYMORE.

(The SPECIALIST leans forward to kiss her, and his hand is immediately clipped by a mousetrap that the M.P. planted earlier.)

SPECIALIST

Mother-fucker!!

(They laugh. Music and lights out.)



# Battle Scars

from *Deployed*

Music and Lyrics by  
Natalie Lovejoy

With a steady pulse,  $\text{♩} = 100$

PP

Measures 1-4 of the piano introduction. The right hand plays a series of chords in the treble clef, and the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass clef. The music is marked *pp*.

Measures 5-8 of the piano introduction. The right hand continues with chords, and the left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. The music is marked *pp*.

MP

M.P.

I've got a scar here on my shoul - der.

SPECIALIST:

SPC

I got a scar there, too.

mp

Measures 9-12. The vocal parts (MP and SPC) enter. The piano accompaniment continues. The music is marked *mp*.

DEPLOYED - BATTLE SCARS

12

MP

A bul - let bare - ly missed... That shit just does - nt like \_ you.

SPC

More strap - nel

12

MP

Yep, same here.

SPC

Here's a - no - ther on my fore - head... from a blast.

14

MP

Look, you can see it. Oh? Yeah, that's clear... And

SPC

Mine is worse. It knocked my brains out! I need-ed a stitch!

16

DEPLOYED - BATTLE SCARS

19

MP

I was see - ing stars! — You're not the on - ly one — with bat-tle scars. —

21

MP

M.P.

Is that a heart?

SPC

I might as well show you this one. Yeah, it was.

27

MP

And some'one name.. I bet that hurts. I've got some ink as well here.

SPC

Re - lax, it's al - most gone now. Yes, it does...

DEPLOYED - BATTLE SCARS

30

MP  
Just a guy I knew. He was killed on our last de-ploy-ment. Not

SPC  
Who is that?? Yeah... I knew a few of those, too...

30

MP  
ev - ry-one \_\_\_ would live through scrapes like ours \_\_\_ You're not the on - ly one

SPC  
Not ev-ry-one would live through scrapes like ours \_\_\_ You're not the on - ly one

37

MP  
\_\_\_ with bat-tle scars. \_\_\_ Im

SPC  
\_\_\_ with bat-tle scars. \_\_\_ Im brok-en and bat - tered.

37



DEPLOYED - BATTLE SCARS

32

MP

I've been burned and dragged through ev - ry kind of war,

SPC

I've been burned and dragged through ev - ry kind of war,

37

MP

I'm not the on - ly one, —

SPC

— but I'm not the on - ly one, — I'm not the on - ly one,

61

MP

I'm not the on - ly one — an - y - more. —

SPC

— I'm not the on - ly one — an - y - more. —