

COMPLICATIONS

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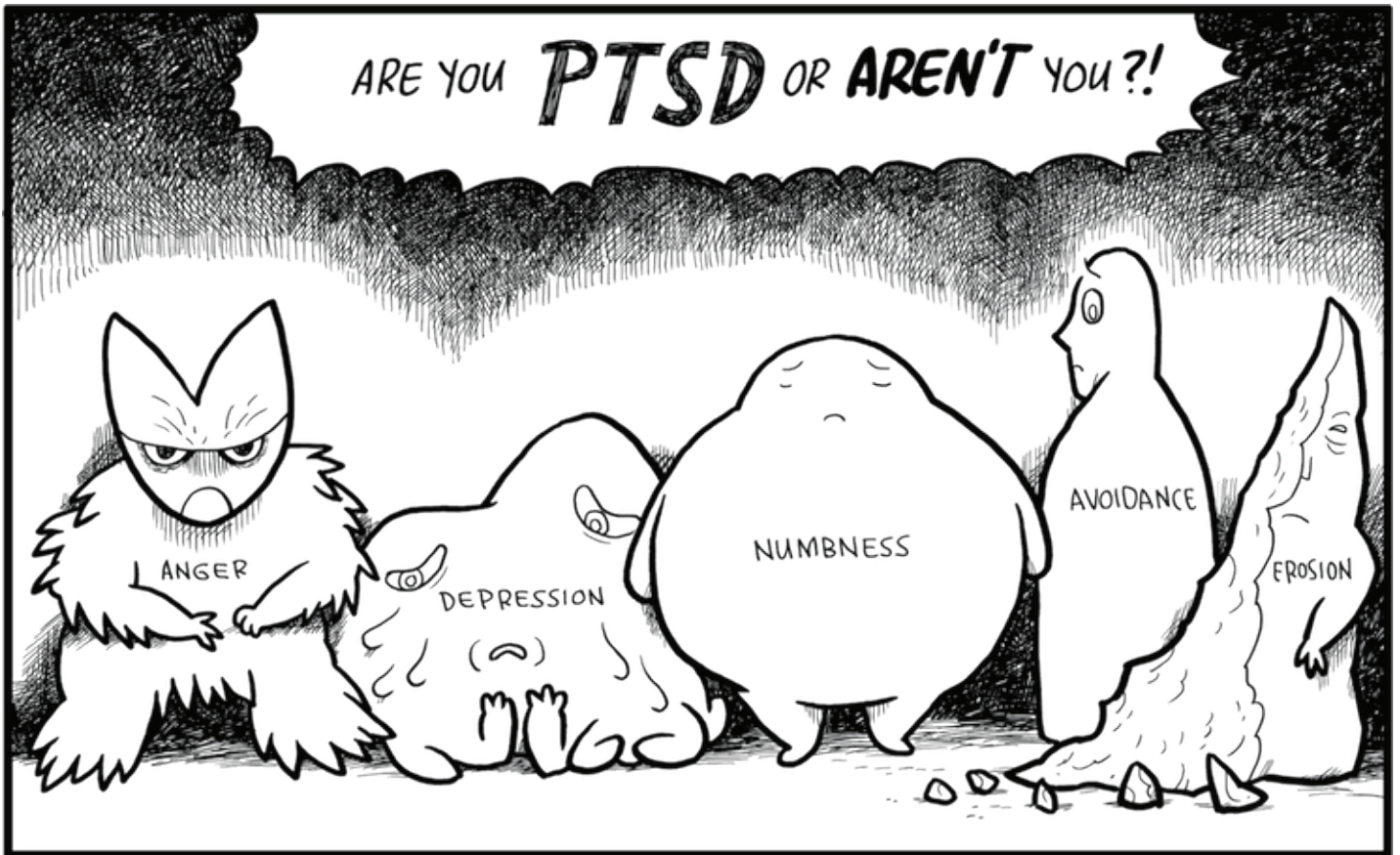
For more information about the SAGA program to help veterans with PTSD see
<http://www.sift.net/research/health-and-telemedicine/saga>



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THIS AIN'T NO LIGHTWEIGHT **PHYSICAL** DISEASE WHERE YOU GIVE A GUY **PURPLE SPOTS** AND A CASE OF THE **TROTS!**

YOU DO YOUR JOB **RIGHT...**

...AND YOU CAN STICK WITH YOUR HOST **FOREVER!**

NOT ONLY WILL HE OR SHE NOT EVEN REALIZE YOU'RE **THERE...**

HEH!

...BUT THEY'LL ACTUALLY **ACTIVELY AVOID TREATMENT** BECAUSE YOU'VE MADE **THINKING** ABOUT IT SO **PAINFUL! BRILLIANT!!**

THIS IS THE **BATTLEGROUND, TROOPS.**

YOU GAIN A **FOOTHOLD** WHEN YOUR TARGET EXPERIENCES

TRAUMA.

YOU GOTTA WORK **FAST.** LET THEM **THINK** ABOUT IT TOO MUCH AND YOU COULD **LOSE** THAT **FOOTHOLD** BEFORE YOU EVEN **START.**

HOW DO YOU KEEP 'EM FROM THINKING ABOUT IT? **GLAD YOU ASKED!**

THAT'S WHERE YOUR **TRAINING** COMES IN.

ANGER!!

YOU'VE **GOT** TO GET HIM **AWAY** FROM **RATIONAL THOUGHT!**

BLAME! RAGE! AIM YOURSELF AT ANYTHING AND ANYONE AROUND HIM!

RIGHT!

AND AFTER HE GETS MAD AT THE PEOPLE WHO DON'T **DESERVE** IT, THINK HOW **UPSET** HE'LL BE!

DEPRESSION!

THAT'S WHERE **YOU** COME IN! ONCE HE TURNS THAT **ANGER INWARD**, YOU CAN KEEP HIM FROM WANTING TO DO **ANYTHING, PARTICULARLY** SEEKING **HELP!**

OKAY...

...BUT WHAT IF HE FINDS **OTHER** THINGS TO MAKE HIM FEEL **BETTER?**

NUMBNESS!

THAT'S YOUR **CUE!** YOU GOTTA **QUICK** GET HIM ONTO SOMETHING TO TAKE AWAY THE **PAIN.**

DRUGS! ALCOHOL! CONSTANT DISTRACTION! ANYTHING TO KEEP HIM FROM **ADDRESSING** HIS **PROBLEMS!**

YEAH, BUT...

...THERE ARE LOTS OF **PROGRAMS** AIMED AT **DEFEATING ADDICTIONS.** WHAT IF HE DOES **THOSE?**

AVOIDANCE!

HA! SOMETIMES ALL IT TAKES TO RUIN SOMEONE'S LIFE IS JUST TO TAKE AWAY ITS LITTLE **PLEASURES.**

DID THE TRAUMA HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH **CARS? CROWDS? SMELLS? SMALL ROOMS? BIG ROOMS? NOISES?**

KEEP HIM **AWAY** FROM THEM! HE'LL BE LIVING **HALF LIFE** BEFORE YOU **KNOW** IT!

I-I'LL GET TO IT A-AS SOON AS I CAN, CHIEF!

EROSION!

ALL THIS WORKS TOGETHER TO **WEAR AWAY** AWAY AT OUR TARGET'S HAPPINESS AND HIS ABILITY TO **COPE.**

YOU MAKE SURE THOSE PIECES OF HIS LIFE THAT CHIP OFF HIM ARE **LOST,** HEAR ME? IF HE NOTICES THEM STILL AROUND, HE MIGHT TRY TO START GETTING SOME **HELP,** AND THEN WE'RE ALL **SUNK!**

YOU GOT IT!

NOW, BEFORE YA START CELEBRATING...
...WE GOT **THREE MAJOR WEAKNESSES**:

1 IF HE GETS TIME TO THINK CLEARLY, HE'LL START TO SEE...

2 ... THAT YOU'RE PART OF THE DISEASE, NOT PART OF HIM.

and

3 IF HE HAS THE SUPPORT OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS...

...WELL, THEN HE COULD GET **HELP!** TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT HIS PROBLEMS! TAKE STEPS TO REDUCE HIS **ANXIETY** AND RECLAIM HIS **LIFE!!**



DO YOU WANT THAT, RECRUITS?
DO YOU?!



BECAUSE YOU COULD NEVER SURVIVE IN A WORLD LIKE THAT.

SAGA

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PTSD AND COMICS GO TO SAGA.SIFT.NET