

P.T.S.D.

BY FERNANDO BELTRAN AND KATHRYN KUHLEN

SCREENPLAY GENRE: PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER

Seven million people suffer from post traumatic stress disorder (P.T.S.D.) in the United States alone. Four of them have become part of a revolutionary treatment to cure them, but they have no idea what their minds are capable of...

Back from the war and suffering from post traumatic stress disorder, DANTE MORELLI is arrested after a bar brawl with his wife's lover. His war-induced flashbacks and deteriorating social skills have gotten him into trouble before. His only ticket out of prison is consent to group psychotherapy.

Dante joins three other equally interesting PTSD sufferers at a nearby mental hospital. The developer of the therapy, Dr. Samuel Bell, hasn't told the participants his treatment masks a much riskier experiment – the surreptitious use of drugs and sound therapy to induce the patients to enter into each others' consciousness, forcing them to re-live their traumas in a collective state of mind.

Will this novel mode of treatment help the patients heal one another, as Dr. Bell professes? Or will the terrors lurking in their unconscious minds force the patients to turn on one another? Dr. Bell, who has his own warped motives for involving the group in his tinkering, takes a hand in the experiment, which leads to disastrous consequences.

With the truth about their treatment hidden from them, the patients scurry through the hospital like rats in a maze, vainly trying to protect themselves. As the terrors inside them bubble over into real life, Dante learns that the depths of the unconscious can hide more unspeakable horror than the worst war could offer.

At once both a sympathetic examination of PTSD and a thriller that plunges ahead at breakneck speed, PTSD plumbs the terra incognita of the human unconscious, drawing the viewer down the frightening rabbit hole that lurks inside each of us.

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