



# Strong Ending A Journey from Combat to Comedy

*Audible Originals , Mary-Louise Parker (Narrator)*

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**Strong Ending A Journey from Combat to Comedy** Audible Originals , Mary-Louise Parker (Narrator)

This heartfelt Audible Original, narrated by Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress Mary-Louise Parker, follows three military veterans as they reclaim their most painful memories and turn them into comedy.

Michael Garvey, Isaura Ramirez, and Patrick Harth left combat zones to challenge themselves in a stand-up comedy boot camp. As they learn to transform their raw emotions into cathartic experiences, they face the daunting challenge of trying to make an audience laugh with jokes about war, trauma, and mental health. This audio documentary details their move from military service to sharing their searing honesty and gritty strength while performing in front of packed crowds.

Strong Ending also features insight from professional comedians Rob Riggle (The Daily Show, The Hangover) and Maria Bamford (Lady Dynamite, Arrested Development) as it explores the science behind the healing power of comedy and the role of military comedies in popular culture. A perfect mix of wit and warmth, this is an inspiring and honest listen that unearths the anxieties of readjusting to civilian life and the powerful potential of finding light in the dark.

## Strong Ending A Journey from Combat to Comedy Details

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Author : Audible Originals , Mary-Louise Parker (Narrator)

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# From Reader Review Strong Ending A Journey from Combat to Comedy for online ebook

## Debbie says

An interesting documentary on how comedy is used to help many veterans deal with their pain.

I could relate when I recognized the way my own father, a retired career soldier, uses humor to deflect his pain.

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## Kenneth Geary says

My score is based off it as a literally work, HOWEVER...

This is an awesome commercial for the Armed Services Arts Program or ASAP (Ironically and maybe purposefully the same acronym the military uses for a substance abuse program). The program sounds like an amazing thing for veterans and being a Vet myself and it being in my own backyard I'll probably look more into it , not to perform but support of it.

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## Erin says

3.5 stars

**Audiobook narrated by Mary -Louise Parker 1h 16m 11 secs**

An Audible selection for the Month of November, this is a frontline look at a comedy bootcamp that provides men and women who have served in military operations an outlet to heal through laughter. More performance and interviews than literary, these short clips were more powerful and compelling than any 800 page epic could be . Viewers that enjoyed the series, *M\*A\*S\*H* will no doubt be intrigued.

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## Vincent Stoessel says

Really good stuff here. heartfelt and funny.

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## Nicholas Driscoll says

Very short, but really quite interesting look into how soldiers suffering from ptsd turn to stand up comedy as a means of dealing with their problems. Rather inspiring and touching, and pretty slickly produced. I enjoyed it.

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## **Susan Kennedy says**

This was a heartfelt look into lives of some of our men and women veteran's who struggle from various mental illnesses after returning to civilian life and how they use comedy to try and heal. It was honest and raw and I enjoyed hearing their stories and getting to know them a bit and how life is. It was nice to hear them healing and using their own stories and struggles to do it. Laughing at themselves and making others laugh with them to heal; what can be better than that?

It wasn't bad. I wasn't a fan of the language in some of it, but it was almost expected so I wasn't surprised. I hate foul language. People just use it and think it is nothing, but I feel there is so many other ways to communicate that aren't crude. With that said, it didn't take away from the journey and it was well worth listening to.

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## **Carole says**

My friends served in Viet Nam, I recently read *The Great Alone*, and last year saw *Served Like A Girl*, a documentary about women veterans competing in a beauty contest. If you haven't seen this film, check out: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/fi...> *Served Like A Girl*, a powerful look at a group of female veterans transitioning from active duty to civilian life after serving tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. These veterans are struggling with PTSD, homelessness, broken families, serious illness, physical injuries, and military sexual abuse. They find ways to adapt to the challenges they face through participation in the "Ms. Veteran America" competition. Thank you all for your service and thank you Mary Louise Parker for being part of this project.

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## **Paul Shan says**

I'm hard pressed to think of what to say about this particular Audible Original. The stories that these fellow vets share about their service, their issues with reintegration, and how stand up is helping them cope are particularly moving. A worthwhile listen for any vet of any conflict.

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## **LindaJ^ says**

This was an Audible Original that I selected as one of my freebies in November. It tells how standup comedy is being used to help veterans, especially those with disabilities, transition to live amongst those of us who have not been in the military or not served in combat zones. The veterans learn to talk about what they have gone through (in the field and back at home) in comedy routines. Some of the best comedy comes from personal experience and making jokes about oneself. The veterans on this tape do great at standup comedy - I'm envious. The program seems like a good one. I'm glad to have ended my audiobook year with this short listen.

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## **Kent Kirker says**

**\*\*3.5 Stars\*\***

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### **Chris says**

So after my last couple of audiobooks didn't go so well, I wondered if it was me. I couldn't concentrate, couldn't focus. Couldn't give a rat's ass about the story I was ignoring.

This was just what I needed. It was short, so it wasn't intimidating at all. But it was long enough to show that I do have focus and an attention span if I'm interested in the subject.

As a veteran, I appreciate the efforts made to help these vets treat their depression and PTSD and anxiety through comedy. I cracked up several times, and I could hear how therapeutic it was for the vets sharing their experiences. I never went through any combat situations during my time in the Air Force, but I have always had a spot in my heart for those that have.

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### **Corinna says**

I loved this Audible listen for the attention it brought to PTSD and the brave men and women who fought for our country. Military mental health is near and dear to my heart as a psychiatric nurse. Some of the stand-up clips made me laugh out loud, and the interviews pulled no punches.

But I have beef with a particular aspect of this special. I may be about to lose friends over this. Bear with me.

They tried TOO hard to get the diversity factor to the point it was embarrassing and cringey listening to the female tell her story. I have much respect for the women serving our country and recognize there are many brave female soldiers who have been shot, victims of mortars, land mines, and a hundred other horrifying traumas. I fully appreciate the fact the everyone has their own threshold for stress. 100% comprehend this. But the fact they jumped from a soldier with PTSD due to being shot to a woman claiming PTSD because of people "making fun of my accent and not respecting me as a woman" literally made me cringe. One of these things does not belong! She stuck out like a sore thumb. And considering how much she was apparently affected by men not respecting her as "one-of-guys" she certainly had no issue with drawing unnecessary attention to her feminine attributes- case in point, joking about flashing men with her boobs and joking about stripping.

It was worth the listen, but I felt like the spotlight guests may have been better selected.

I would have had no issue with all the spotlight guests being men. I also wouldn't have had an issue with all the spotlight guests being women. My issue is that they chose people based on political correctness rather than legitimacy to the subject matter. Which makes the illegitimate candidates look foolish. This strikes me as a disservice to the women in our military who deserve to be recognized as more than disgruntled, insulted women with thin-skin. And maybe this woman truly has PTSD from her time in Germany and the teasing. But choosing her to represent PTSD in female soldiers was a poor choice in my mind. That's just my perspective. I'm sure others may perceive it differently.

I'd rate this a PG-13 for some swearing and stories of war violence.

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### **Emily says**

What a great look into what veterans go through. It's a beautiful look at how they are able to break through their own struggles with PTSD. I will admit that I did cry at a few moments, not because I was sad for them, but because it showed that there is strength in laughter.

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### **Montzalee Wittmann says**

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by Audible Original, Mary-Louise Parker

This is a very interesting, heartwarming (and heartbreaking in spots), and sprinkled with humor audible book about a handful of veterans coming home with issues and turning to comedy for therapy. I found it very touching and too short...I wanted more! I enjoyed it and glad they found some peace and a way to cope. Strongly recommend.

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### **Cheri says**

As a big fan of stand-up comedy, a USMC vet, and someone who deals with mental health issues, there wasn't much in this production I couldn't relate to. I was engrossed in each person's story and Mary-Louise Parker did a fantastic job bringing it all together.

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