Men

The movie Men is about a soldier who becomes a paraplegic in the war and a fiancé who encourages him to go on.

The refreshing thing about the film Men is that in the beginning the doctor goes right down the list of what paraplegia is and all the baggage that comes with it. The women ask all the obvious questions people would ask. It’s a approach’s the subject in a Q&A form.

Ken , Marlon Brando, is on a spinal cord unit and reflects what it was like in those first early year for me. Right down to pushing away someone who loved me. The difference is that Ellen, Teresa Wright, is more encouraging and doesn’t give up. There is a scene with Brando grabbing for the reach bar above his bed. It is a memory I soon had forgotten. Even the leg spasms the guys in the film get bring back memories.

Brando’s character conflict is with his disability. His problem with his paralysis is reflected in the times. People staring when he goes out in public, Ellen’s parents rejection and Jack Webb’s pessimism.

For my film, it will be a similar theme, the rejection of accepting the paralysis and inability to do things. A common theme in the older films about paralysis is that they paraplegics can’t have kids. Only a couple movies discuss that the character went on to have kids. I want to dispel that as well in my script. It is possible.

There are a couple montages of Brando, working out and getting back in shape. It is a theme of physical fitness to show that the body is strong still. I plan to use something similar but more of the mind. My character can only use one arm so; physical transformation will be limited, unlike Ken.

The end of the film brings Ken’s powder keg personality to a head. Ken has received all the physical rehabilitation but still lacks it mentally. Being a paraplegic comes with Ptsd. The just didn’t call it that or address it in this film. They handle his behavior by kicking him out of the hospital. If only that still happened today.

Ken is a much darker character than I’d like to have in my story. There is a place for him in the genre but it’s one Id rather not tackle.