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Fire In My Eyes: An American Warrior's Journey From Being Blinded On The Battlefield To Gold Medal Victory



Synopsis

The inspiring story of Brad Snyder's journey from the Naval Academy to Afghanistan, from being blinded by an IED explosion to winning Paralympic gold. In Afghanistan, Lieutenant Brad Snyder had one of the world's most dangerous jobs: to find and destroy enemy bombs, as an elite US Navy Special Operations warrior. On September 7, 2011, the former Naval Academy captain of the swim team stepped on an improvised explosive device while helping save the lives of his patrol's Afghan counterparts. The subsequent explosion left Snyder permanently blind. Through unrelenting pain, hard work, and dedication, Snyder qualified for the US Paralympic Team and on September 7, 2012; one year to the day after suffering his devastating injury; he won a gold medal in men's swimming for Team USA in London. Brad Snyder's journey from darkness to light embodies the courage of America's new "Greatest Generation" and serves as an inspiration to all of us.

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Customer Reviews

A true and recent recounting of bravery on and off the battlefield. He begins with memories of

growing up in his family and school and swimming. After high school, there was Annapolis, where he was to learn that academics was more important than his devotion to physical training with the swimming competition. After graduation his wish came true in the form of acceptance into ordinance demolition school, which was a whole new kind of challenge and a whole new bunch of friends. Then there was a tour in Iraq, then more training. During this time, a good friend was killed in the war, and his lady from his time at Annapolis, a midshipman assigned elsewhere, gave in to suicide. Life was a real challenge for a while. Just before deployment to Afghanistan, a serious bout of stupidity nearly ended his career. But he and his skills were desperately needed, so his punishment was delayed, and he was deployed. While on deployment, he was informed that his father had died suddenly, but he needed to put his grieving aside for now. Then came the day when, at 27, a slight miscalculation resulted in his being seriously injured by an IED. At first, he believed that he had died and was transitioning. Then came the pain, medics, waking in ICU in Walter Reed, hearing his family, learning the extent of his injuries, and more surgery. Moved to the VAH near his mother's home, he gained strength until able to join two skilled therapists and do a 5 mile marathon. While there, he was visited by an active duty army officer who had married after his injury and had recently had a new baby. Next it was off to a VAH Augusta, GA with specialized training staff for the newly blind.

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