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



## Synopsis

"I am not going to let my blindness build a brick wall around me. I'd give my eyes one hundred times again to have the chance to do what I have done, and what I can still do."-Brad Snyder speaking with First Lady Michelle Obama

On the night Osama bin Laden was killed, US Navy Lieutenant Brad Snyder was serving in Afghanistan as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer with SEAL Team Ten. When he learned of SEAL Team Six's heroics across the Pakistani border, Brad was thankful. Still, he knew that his dangerous combat deployment would continue. Less than five months later, Brad was engulfed by darkness after a massive blast caused by an enemy improvised explosive device. Suddenly Brad was blind, with vivid dreams serving as painful nightly reminders of his sacrifice. Exactly one year after losing his sight, Brad heard thousands cheer as he stood on a podium in London. Incredibly, Brad had just won a gold medal in swimming at the 2012 Paralympic Games. *Fire in My Eyes* is the astonishing true story of a wounded veteran who refused to give up. Lieutenant Brad Snyder did not let blindness build a wall around him-through tenacity and courage, he tore it down.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Advance praise for *Fire in My Eyes*—*Fire in My Eyes* is a testament to the extraordinary courage and unwavering dedication of the men and women serving in the US Armed Forces. Lieutenant Brad Snyder's remarkable story is sure to captivate and inspire. —Donald Rumsfeld, former Secretary of Defense

*Fire in My Eyes* by Brad Snyder and Tom Sileo tells

an unforgettable story of heroism and sacrifice on the battlefield. It's an inspiring journey that leads us through darkness to victory." •Eric Greiten, New York Times bestselling author of Resilience and former Navy SEAL •Brad Snyder is an American hero. I first met him at Walter Reed and thanked him for his brave service to the nation. As a wounded veteran and two-time gold-medal swimmer, his story is the American story of a patriot who never gave up fighting to live and to win for his country. •Leon Panetta, former Director of the CIA and Secretary of Defense •Brad Snyder represents the true essence of a warrior. Facing a life-changing injury that would cripple the strongest of individuals, he demonstrated the willpower of an American warfighter. His story is one of courage that we all need to read. •Captain Florent Groberg, US Army (Ret.), Medal of Honor recipient New York Journal of Books, 8/19/16 •Every once in a while, every American needs to pick up and read a book like Fire in My Eyes •Snyder's story is a needed reminder that the very best of us continue to risk their lives serving in our armed forces with courage, dedication and a deep and abiding love for our country •An inspiring tale. •NavyHistory.org (website of the Naval Historical Foundation), 7/30/16 •A visceral story of fortitude, of striding into harm's way time and again for the sake of others •The prose is strong and authentic •Veterans, especially service academy graduates and disposaleers, will connect with their own experiences due to Snyder and Sileo's superior composition •Fire in My Eyes must sit prominently next to other phenomenal stories like Elizabeth Kauffman Bush's America's first Frogman and Aaron Ralston's autobiography, Between a Rock and a Hard Place. To those aspiring to serve •Fire in My Eyes is mandatory reading •Through these pages they will truly understand what service is, what one is called to do. •"Inspirational." TeamUSA.org, 11/1/16 "A story of tragedy that turns to gold...Snyder gives a first-hand account of what it is like to serve in today's military - high stress, intense training, and loss of friends and loved ones...A truly inspirational story." Today.com, 11/14/16

Brad Snyder is a US Navy veteran and Paralympic gold medalist in swimming. Brad is still an active athlete for Team USA and travels the country as a motivational speaker. He lives in Baltimore. Tom Sileo is coauthor of 8 Seconds of Courage: A Soldier's Story from Immigrant to the Medal of Honor and Brothers Forever: The Enduring Bond Between a Marine and a Navy SEAL that Transcended Their Ultimate Sacrifice. He lives in Florida.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Brad's story. It's not just an inspirational story of overcoming an injury

to achieve success. It's about how Brad's outlook and positive attitude throughout his life enabled him to get past numerous setbacks on his journey from boy to elite soldier to world class athlete. There's a message that comes through loud and clear, but without being tedious or self-righteous. Full disclosure: I had the pleasure of working with Brad in the summer of 2012 while he prepared for the London games and we have stayed in touch ever since. Clearly that makes me a bit biased, but I can say without a doubt that Brad comes through in this book. This is who he is.

Fire In My Eyes is a tremendous retelling of Brad Snyder's childhood, schooling, military career, and ultimately his Olympic story. To say it is gripping is an understatement. I began reading it on a 6-hour cross-country flight, and was finished before we even began our descent. Quite simply, I could not put it down. Mr. Snyder's experiences are shared with raw purity, and my emotions ran the gamut, from "aww, that is very sweet" to "my God, such horror!" to "Go Brad Go!". I had the honor of hearing Brad Snyder speak live, so I knew his story; still, I was enthralled with this book. I highly recommend it.

I heard the author speak at a corporate event and bought his book on my way out of the meeting. Lieutenant Snyder has an amazing story. Tom Sileo partners with Snyder to do a wonderful job of telling the story. I couldn't put the book down. If you ever get the chance to hear Snyder speak, run don't walk.

Brad Snyder comes from the average American household and shares his transition to become an All American leader on and off the battlefield. His day to day courage defines true American resiliency and perseverance no matter how tough the obstacle is. His story and message will inspire generations of people around the world. We have much more to learn and hear from Mr. Snyder.

My husband heard the author speak. He said this is a great book, and the author has an amazing story.

I couldn't put this book down. Brad's book tells an amazing story about overcoming adversity in so many different ways. He recounts his journey from being blinded on the battlefield to winning Paralympic gold with such humility that he makes his readers believe that with a little perseverance, we can all achieve whatever big goals we can dream up. The perfect book for anyone in need of a little inspiration!

AMAZING recount of a heros' journey! This book is honest, witty and truly inspiring! I honestly could not put it down once I began reading. Brad is and will no doubt continue to be a great example to us all. The sky is the limit for him!!!

Just finished this book (could not put it down) and was moved to say the least. Candid, humorous at times, introspective and surprisingly thought-provoking. Job well done to Snyder and Sileo.

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