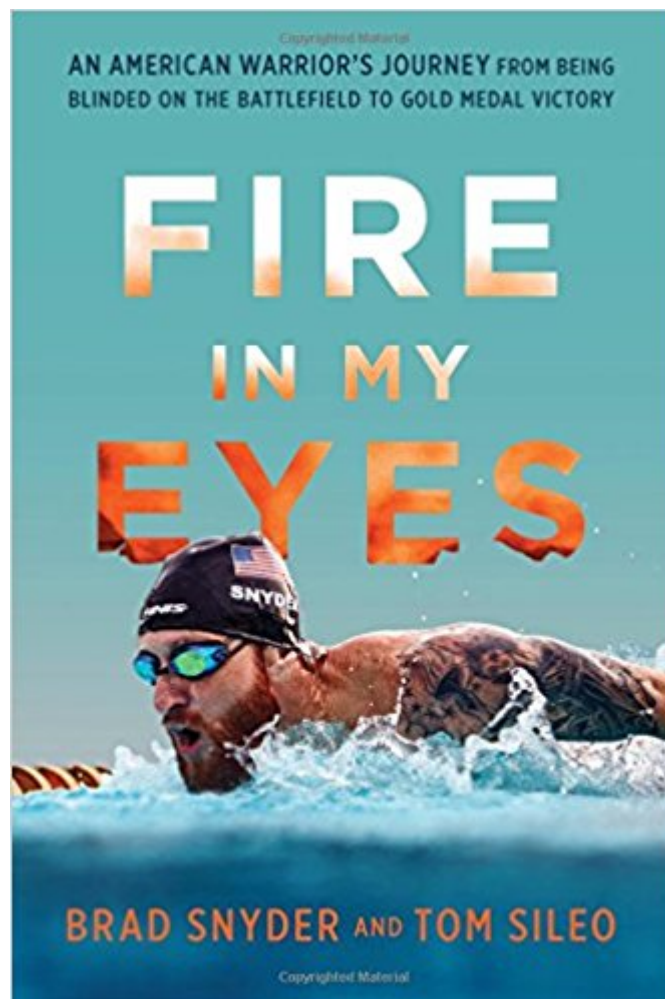


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# Fire In My Eyes: An American Warrior's Journey From Being Blinded On The Battlefield To Gold Medal Victory



## 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."â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 himâthrough tenacity and courage, he tore it down.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Da Capo Press (September 6, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0306825147

ISBN-13: 978-0306825149

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1.2 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂÂ See all reviewsÂ (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #27,615 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > Special Needs #52 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Military > Afghan & Iraq Wars > Afghan War #129 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors

## 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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