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Always Loyal



Synopsis

Inspired by a chapter in his 2014 book, "Bare Strength," which featured wounded amputee Marines, celebrated photographer Michael Stokes has created an entire photographic volume dedicated to U.S. Gulf War veterans. *Always Loyal*, a large-scale, hardcover coffee table book, showcases the beautiful side of wounded soldiers, whose injuries and/or lost limbs are detailed in intimate, exclusive photographs and information that provide a highly unique appreciation for those brave souls who have fought for the United States of America. The goal of fitness photographer Stokes—who, inspired by a shoot with veteran and amputee Alex Minsky, wanted to put a different spin on how wounded veterans were depicted—was to create a book via crowdfunder KickStarter.com. "I met this veteran, Alex Minsky, and talked to him about different approaches to a portrait session," says Stokes. "I had already studied as many amputee photos that I could find. I noticed that most of them emphasized the lost limb, and that the mood was often sorrowful. That was not the vibe I was getting from him, so I decided to simply photograph him as if he were not an amputee, photograph him exactly the same way I would any of my fitness models." The result of the book is pure art. *Always Loyal* received praise from CNN, Cosmopolitan, The Daily Mail, Metro, MTV, and many others around the globe. Stokes donated \$20,000 from *Always Loyal* sellings to the Semper FI Fund, a charity that benefits wounded warriors.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (81 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I ordered this book through Stokes' Kickstarter, as a birthday present to myself. It is. Amazing.

Such beautiful photos of some of the most inspirational and courageous people in the world. I particularly loved that he included the stories and bios of every soldier featured. I highly recommend this book.

Beautiful book, as a wife of a retired EOD man, I've had the privilege to meet some of these men and women. Thank you Mr Stokes for showing the spirit of our men and women who have sacrificed so much for their country.

Michael Stokes is not just a photographer, he is a Master Artist that uses a camera instead of a paint brush or a music score. I am grateful to have been a part of Michael's Kickstarter project to publish "Always Loyal" and "Exhibition" books. Words can not express the artwork that can only be appreciated by viewing the art itself. The quality of the publishing is above and beyond my wildest dreams. Through the kickstarter project, Michael donated \$20,000 to the Semper Fi Fund. Thank you Michael Stokes for all that you have done, we will continue to follow you on Facebook, and we will remainalways loyal.

I absolutely love everything about this book. Michael Stokes uses his incredible talent to showcase true American heroes. He captures their essence beautifully in this high quality book. Thank you Michael Stokes for making this amazing book.

This book was beautifully done, it brought out each Military Vet and Soldier in their rawest sense. It gave the story behind what happened to them allowing the reader to see inside of their lives and give a sense of what they went through. I have loved watching Michael's work come undone and am simply in awe of his raw edge and his ability to see what's really there through the lens. This was a fabulous read and the pictures are simply amazing! Awesome project and outstanding photographer in so many ways!

Michael Stokes is the epitome of an Artist. So privileged to have been a part of the Kickstarter for these two phenomenal books. What Michael does with his camera lens and use of lighting is beyond compare. Always Loyal and Exhibition are both, in their own right, absolutely Museum Quality. The way he captures the essence of each subject makes the reader feel as if he or she were present for the photo shoot. Thank you Michael, for sharing your talent with the world.

A worthy cause for sure, but for some reason it's ok for women to show all, or nearly all, but not men... His shots are very well done, subjects tell a story, tho I do wish it would have had more pictures in addition to the pages that told the story of each vet. Additionally, the organization is a bit... Odd. You will have a page that tells about a vet, but not match the photos on the next page.

I love this book. The images are artistically and technically amazing, but they're also haunting and evocative. Stokes took something that society tends to glance away from and made it an artistic statement in a respectful manner. I also love the fact that each wounded warrior who modeled has a full bio in the book. This is well worth the money. Caveat: I have the kickstarter version with the limited edition cover.

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