

The book was found

# 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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## Customer Reviews

"His no-holds-barred photography has captured dozens of young wounded vets in ways the public is not used to seeing them: fit, happy and proud to show themselves." - CNN "Those Sexy, Naked Amputee War Veterans Are Now Part of a Sexy, Naked Book" - Cosmopolitan ""Stunning photos of the heroes who have lost their limbs in war"" - Daily Mail ""Instead of portraying male and female amputee veterans as broken soldiers, these sexy, nude photos celebrate their strength, helping to change the way we see their disability." - Metro "Gaze At These Brave (And Naked) Veterans And Feel Free To Let The Thirst Take Over" - MTV

"Raised in Berkeley, California, Michael Stokes is now a Los Angeles-based photographer. He graduated first in his class and Phi Beta Kappa with a Fine Art degree through the film department at California State University, Long Beach. Before changing his career path to filmmaking, he was a photography major, learning pre-digital photographic techniques and using darkrooms and silver gelatin film. In film school, he wrote and directed a short film, *Alien*, that screened in film festivals around the world. Michael's first coffee table book, *Masculinity* (2012), was a glamour-styled, photographic male figure study book that is currently out of print. In the same style as his first, his second book, *Bare Strength* (2014), is already in its third printing and is available on . It features a chapter on wounded veterans of war, specifically amputees. From the sales of this book, he has donated \$10,000 to the Semper Fi Fund, a charity that benefits veterans of war and their families. Also in 2014, Michael collaborated with the publisher Taschen to produce *My Buddy*, supplying the publisher with his collection of vintage photos of nude WWII soldiers. Michael's third and fourth books, *Exhibition* and *Always Loyal* release November 1, 2015. *Exhibition* continues the exploration and celebration of the male figure, while *Always Loyal* is dedicated exclusively to wounded United States veterans. Before the end of 2015, from pre-sales of both books, Michael will donate \$20,000 to the Semper Fi Fund. Michael's photos of wounded veterans have been shared around the world and have been featured on television: *Good Morning America*, *The Today Show*, *The Tonight Show*, *The View*, and *The Talk*. They have been featured in several major newspapers and online periodicals around the world, including: *The Independent* UK, *The Mirror* UK, *The Drudge Report*, *The Huffington Post*, *The Huffington Post* (French Edition), *Cosmopolitan*, *People* magazine, *BuzzFeed*, and *Vanity Fair* Italy, just to mention a few. Michael's fashion and fitness photographs have been featured on *America's Next Top Model*, have twice been the cover for *Men's Health* Italy, and are used for more than twenty-five novel covers. Michael has also made personal appearances on television's *The Insider* and *Inside Edition*. You can follow him on Facebook for updates and previews of his latest work and projects. <https://www.facebook.com/MichaelStokesPhotography>"

I have followed Stokes' projects since finding out he "found" Alex Minsky. I was fascinated with Minsky's personal story and found out that Stokes was working on Always Loyal. Having a special place in my heart for true American heroes I was incredibly excited to be able to order this for myself as a birthday gift. It is simply fantastic. Our daughter also loves our military men and women. I let her read the book as it is not just pictures. She was impressed, fascinated, and now she, too, follows Stokes along with several of the book subjects via internet social sites. We did not find anything inappropriate at all. The photography is outstanding, very tastefully presented and I leave the book out on our coffee table for all visitors to see and look at. I am proud to have it and look forward to future projects by Mr. Stokes.

What an ASS! I mean that with the deepest respect...the beauty of the human body is unparalleled as you will find within the pages of this most extraordinary book. Always Loyal celebrates the heroism of wounded combat veterans with an emphasis on those who suffered and survived amputation of limbs. The photography by Michael Stokes is extraordinary in the artistic display of both the models and locations. It is not often (if ever) one takes time to think of what life can be like after the carnage of battle...these men and women leave a lasting memory in my mind of loyalty to country and each other, pride in themselves and their accomplishments, motivation and resolve to overcome, adapt, and conquer! Each model has numerous poses and a bio page that provides specific details about their life, military experiences, and achievements.

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 I 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.

Well done way to show honor and respect to these heroes. I recommend this book to everyone.

Probably the most beautiful photography I have ever seen, and the stories of each of these brave men and woman were amazing to read.

As always Michael Stokes has graced us with another beautifully done book of the beauty of men and their bodies. This tribute to military veterans who have lost limbs during combat is an

emotionally charged book that shows the human spirit can and will always overcome whatever life puts in the path. The great lines and shades of black and white with the bold and brilliant colors of bodies of art and body art will inspire any one who appreciates art.

Michael Stokes does some wonderful and beautiful pictures and I have wanted this book so bad, I have it now and I want even open it, I still have it in the plastic and hopefully someday I will have the chance to let him sign it for me.

Absolutely stunning photographs.

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