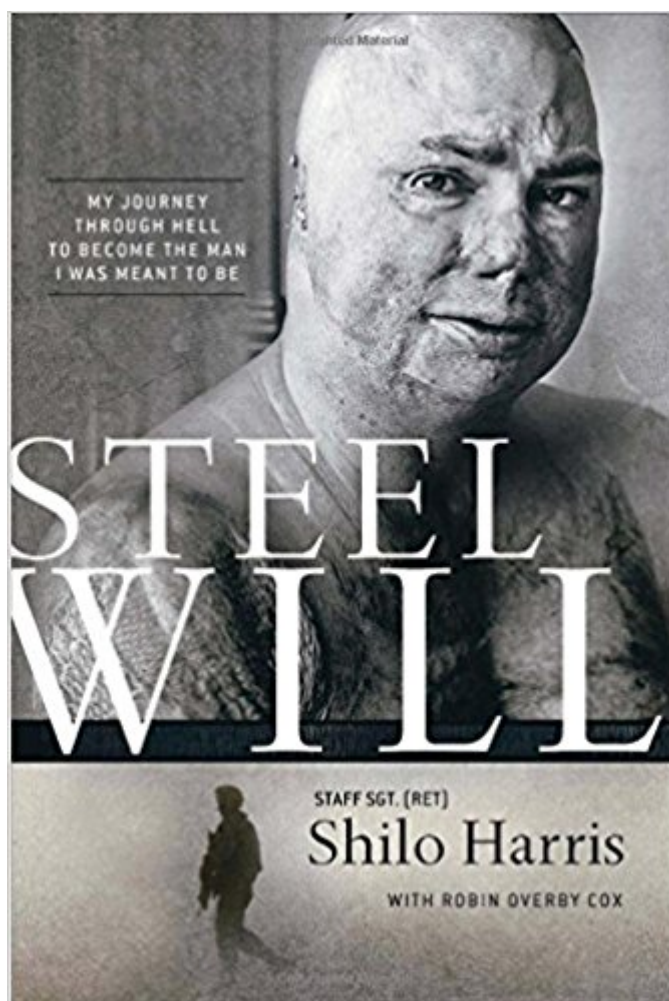


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Steel Will: My Journey Through Hell To Become The Man I Was Meant To Be



Synopsis

On February 19, 2007, SSG Shilo Harris was patrolling an infamous southern Iraqi roadway when his Humvee was struck by an IED. Moments later, three members of his crew were dead and Shilo had sustained severe burns over 35 percent of his body, lost his ears and the skin off his face, and lost much of the use of his badly mangled fingers. This fiery moment was just the beginning of an arduous road laced with pain, emotional anguish, and much soul-searching. For forty-eight days Shilo lay trapped in a medically induced coma as his wife, unable to ease his suffering, had to come to grips with a man utterly changed. This is the story of a young boy raised in a small Texas town under the heavy yoke of a father struggling with the personal aftermath of his service in Vietnam. This is the story of the first human being to participate in extracellular stem cell regeneration to regrow lost body parts. This is the story of the survivor not only of an explosion but of more than sixty surgeries to restore both form and function to his broken body. This is the story of the wife who stood by his side, made hard decisions, and continues to support her husband through his struggles with PTSD. This is the story of a God who reshapes us into the people he wants us to be. And in that way, this is the story of all of us. Anyone whose life has been touched by tragedy and loss, especially military families dealing with PTSD, TBI, amputations, and other realities of wartime service, will find strength, encouragement, and inspiration in this moving memoir.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

On February 19, 2007, SSG Shilo Harris was patrolling an infamous southern Iraqi roadway when

his Humvee was struck by an IED. Moments later, three members of his crew were dead and Shilo had sustained severe injuries that would alter the course of his life. For forty-eight days he lay trapped in a medically induced coma as his wife, unable to ease his suffering, had to come to grips with a man utterly changed. Through more than sixty surgeries, countless hard decisions, and the unwavering devotion of the wife who would not leave his side, Shilo discovered that he was being reshaped--within and without--into the person he was meant to be all along. His inspiring story will move you and motivate you to live boldly in the face of fear and trust God to pull you through the toughest of times--no matter what.

Shilo Harris enlisted in the US Army after 9/11. On his second deployment, he sustained catastrophic injuries when his vehicle was struck by an IED. Harris spent nearly three years in the burn unit of Brooke Army Medical Center. Harris retired from the military in 2010 and is now a motivational speaker, urging audiences to welcome veterans and wounded warriors home with open arms and open minds. He and his family were featured on ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition on December 11, 2012. They live in Texas.

Robin Overby Cox is a career educator and librarian. With deep roots in military life, she collaborated with Shilo in order to call communities to action on behalf of veterans. A graduate of both Florida State University and the University of South Florida, she calls Texas home and has five children and six grandchildren.

"Staff Sergeant Harris has made a choice not embraced by veterans of wars past to talk and talk and talk about what he's experienced--a soldier turned messenger. He leaves crowds standing at attention, as he honors his friends who have fallen."--August Skamenca, reporter, CBS News

"In Steel Will, we see what happens to an ordinary man in extraordinary circumstances. We see what happens when an ordinary man rises above a bleak prognosis, when an ordinary family surrounds their hero with love and hopefulness, and when an extraordinary, miracle-working God places his hands on the one he loves."--SFC Leroy Petry, United States Army Medal of Honor recipient

"This book should be required reading for every American, especially our youth. Shilo Harris is a true patriot and an American hero. This book embodies the essential spirit of America by reminding us that being a hero isn't always judged by your accomplishments. It is often judged by your sacrifice so others can have their accomplishments under a blanket of freedom."--Ric Savage, former professional wrestler and television host

"SSG Shilo Harris, in his writing, has exposed his soul like no other author. His life is open and raw, revealing his unwavering faith, his clear understanding of the risks of war and its heartbreaking impact on all those who are touched by it. Steel Will is a book that will emotionally rip you apart but will have you cheering at the end."--Fred Gregory, Air Force Vietnam vet, astronaut, NASA Deputy Administrator

"I thought my story was tough. But reading

Steel Will put me in the fire, in the coma, and on the rocky road to recovery. When the last page was turned, I felt honored to know the man of Steel Will, Shilo Harris."--SFC US Army (Ret)Â Dana Bowman, HALO for Freedom Warrior Foundation

This book is an amazing story of pain, love and finding ones self. You will smile, you will cry and you will admire this man after reading this book. Shilo's story gives you a real world into what our veteran's endure to keep our country safe. Every American should read this book.

I saw Shilo being interviewed on television awhile back and immediately ordered the book. Reading his story was an emotional and inspiring journey. With all the negativity and hate out there, it was wonderful to get to know a man who has been to hell and back and still manages to keep a positive perspective. He is a regular guy of extraordinary character who has risen to every challenge presented to him. He's a patriot, and has a searing love of his family, his god (I'm not religious, but I can respect those who are), and his country. The book was extremely well written and is hard to put down. Anyone who can appreciate an inspiring story will love this book, but, being a veteran (combat arms early 80s saw no combat), I particularly could identify with his discussions of teamwork, dedication, and drive to accomplish his missions. If I could give this book 6 stars, I would. Absolutely, totally a GREAT read.

Steel Will is a well written and informative book. I had my eyes opened to what war does not only to a soldier but his family. Reading this book helps to educate us all. To know why a war is fought. Hardships people face in the war zone especially our military. A very good read.

I may be biased as he is my cousin but what an inspiring story. Whenever I feel sorry for myself for injuries sustained in a car wreck I think of Shiloh. way to go brother. You are a true inspiration and Hero..

God Bless you Shilo Harris and God Bless America. This is the most amazing story and it really puts into perspective what is most important in our lives. This book taught me to put aside my fears of cancer and gave me a better outlook on life and our country. I have always appreciated our military and this appreciation has been raised to new levels. In light of babies being killed by the thousands (monthly to abortion), it is so inspiring that the military hospital personnel see the value of someone's life, even the life of a man that has been torn apart, burned, etc. to the point that he only

had a 2 percent chance of survival. The hospital personnel never gave up, the family and friends never gave up, and Shilo Harris, in Steel Will, never gave up.

Great true story. Gives us a small picture of what our military and their spouses go through. It is great to know he helps fellow veterans now that he came through his trials. I love and pray for our military and it's leaders.

This a story of a hero both on and off the battlefield. Shilo is a true inspiration. Katherine is also true hero. They have both continued to assist with Wounded Warriors. The children are amazing with the way they handled all of this. This books lays out how a soldier life was turned upside down during an IED attack in OIF to his longtime recovery from his wounds. His wife and children were right by his side the whole time. It is a wonderfully written journey from the beginning to the end. It will give you a complete understanding how a wounded warriors life is and how the family learns to deal with the trails and tribulations of everyday life. It also provides some insight on the type of help that is out there for the veterans of our military. Thank you Shilo, Katherine and family for all you have sacrificed and all that you give back. Shilo is a " True American Bad Ass!!"

I purchased this book as a small token to thank this hero for his service. I rarely read such books, but from the first page to the last I was hooked. I traveled with him as he gracefully told not only his story but wrapped the story with his faith and will power that only the Father and our Lord Jesus brings to those who trust Him. This book did just that, it took me on this journey with this one's man faith and trust. Most often our pasts are not something one likes to share, yet this book gave reasons why one needs to take hold of our yesterdays to understand how our pasts conforms us to the way of the Father. Thank you for your bravery on foreign lands despite the world's opinion, such bravery sets the markers for our children's future for peace, liberty and independence. Again thank you for your bravery of sharing yourself and your sacrifices.

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