

american sniper by chris kyle

American Sniper by Chris Kyle

American Sniper is a compelling autobiography penned by Chris Kyle, a United States Navy SEAL renowned for his extraordinary marksmanship and service during the Iraq War. The book offers a gripping, firsthand account of the harrowing experiences faced by soldiers in combat, the psychological toll of warfare, and the enduring impact on their personal lives. As one of the most decorated snipers in American military history, Kyle's story not only highlights individual heroism but also provides insight into the complexities of modern warfare. This article delves into the key themes, life experiences, and the legacy of Chris Kyle as depicted in his autobiography.

Overview of "American Sniper"

Background and Context

"American Sniper" was published in 2012 and quickly gained national and international attention. The book chronicles Kyle's journey from a young man in Texas to becoming a legendary sniper with over 160 confirmed kills. It provides an unfiltered view of his military career, the challenges faced on the battlefield, and the emotional struggles that follow wartime service.

Purpose and Impact

The book serves multiple purposes:

- To honor the sacrifices of servicemen and women.
- To offer a realistic portrayal of combat and its psychological toll.
- To challenge perceptions about warfare and heroism.
- To serve as a foundation for the subsequent film adaptation, which brought Kyle's story to a broader audience.

Chris Kyle: The Man Behind the Legend

Early Life and Motivations

Born in Odessa, Texas, Chris Kyle grew up in a family with a military background, which influenced his decision to join the Navy SEALs. His patriotism and desire to serve his country propelled him into a military career.

Military Service and Achievements

Kyle's military career is distinguished by:

- Over 160 confirmed kills, making him the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history.
- Multiple deployments to Iraq.
- Recognition and awards, including the Silver Star and the Navy SEAL sniper designation.

Post-Military Life and Personal Struggles

After retiring from the Navy, Kyle faced:

- Difficulties adjusting to civilian life.
- Personal tragedies, including the loss of fellow soldiers.
- His efforts to help returning veterans through charity work.

Thematic Exploration of "American Sniper"

War and Its Psychological Impact

Kyle's narrative provides an intimate look into:

- The mental toll of combat, including stress, guilt, and trauma.
- The concept of "the sniper's dilemma," balancing duty with morality.
- The challenges of reintegration into society post-deployment.

Heroism and Sacrifice

The book examines:

- The meaning of heroism in the context of combat.
- The personal sacrifices made by soldiers and their families.
- The importance of camaraderie and loyalty among soldiers.

The Ethical Dimensions of Warfare

Kyle reflects on:

- The moral complexities of targeting enemies.
- The dilemma of killing in self-defense versus collateral damage.
- The emotional consequences of warfare decisions.

Key Episodes and Anecdotes from "American Sniper"

First Deployment and Initial Experiences

Kyle recounts his first combat experiences, highlighting:

- The adrenaline and focus required.
- The importance of discipline and training.
- The initial shock and adjustment to war.

The "Kill Zone" and Sniper Tactics

The book details:

- The precision and patience involved in sniper operations.
- The importance of surveillance and intelligence.
- Specific missions that showcased Kyle's skills.

Dealing with Loss and Guilt

Kyle shares moments of:

- Personal grief over fallen comrades.
- The weight of responsibility for every shot fired.
- How these experiences affected his mental health.

Family and Personal Life amid War

Despite the dangers, Kyle emphasizes:

- The significance of his family as a grounding force.
- The struggles of maintaining relationships during deployments.
- The eventual impact of wartime experiences on his marriage and parenting.

Legacy and Cultural Impact

Media and Film Adaptation

The 2014 film "American Sniper," directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Bradley Cooper as Chris Kyle, brought the story to a global audience. The movie sparked discussions about:

- The realities of modern warfare.
- The heroism and trauma associated with soldiers' experiences.
- The political debates surrounding military interventions.

Influence on Military and Veteran Communities

Kyle's story has inspired:

- Increased awareness of veterans' mental health issues.
- Charitable initiatives supporting returning service members.
- Conversations about the psychological aftermath of combat.

Controversies and Criticisms

While celebrated, the book and film also faced criticism:

- Some questioned the portrayal of war and violence.
 - Debates about the accuracy of Kyle's accounts.
 - Discussions about the broader implications of sniper tactics.
-

Lessons from "American Sniper"

Understanding the Cost of War

Kyle's narrative underscores that:

- War leaves indelible marks on soldiers' minds.
- Physical bravery is accompanied by psychological resilience needs.
- Recognition should extend beyond combat achievements to mental health support.

The Power of Patriotism and Service

The book exemplifies:

- The deep sense of duty that drives servicemen.
- The importance of community and family support systems.
- How individual sacrifices contribute to national security.

Empathy and Awareness

"American Sniper" encourages readers to:

- Recognize the human side of soldiers' stories.
- Develop empathy for veterans' struggles.
- Support ongoing efforts for veteran care and reconciliation.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of Chris Kyle

"American Sniper" stands as a testament to the complex realities faced by soldiers in modern warfare. Chris Kyle's story is not merely about military prowess but also about the human cost of service, the resilience required to confront trauma, and the enduring bonds of brotherhood. The autobiography continues to serve as an essential read for those interested in understanding the sacrifices of service members, the ethics of combat, and the profound impact of war on individuals and their families. Through its candid storytelling, it challenges readers to reflect on the true meaning of heroism and the sacrifices that underpin freedom and security.

In essence, "American Sniper" by Chris Kyle is more than a memoir; it is a powerful narrative that humanizes the often misunderstood world of combat and honors those who serve with courage, sacrifice, and integrity.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main focus of the book 'American Sniper' by Chris Kyle?

The book chronicles Chris Kyle's experiences as a Navy SEAL sniper, highlighting his military service, personal challenges, and the impact of his career on his life and family.

How did 'American Sniper' influence public perception of military veterans?

The book brought widespread attention to the sacrifices and challenges faced by service members, fostering greater appreciation and understanding of veterans' experiences.

What are some key lessons from 'American Sniper' about resilience and mental toughness?

Chris Kyle emphasizes the importance of discipline, focus, and mental resilience in overcoming fear and trauma in high-stress combat situations.

Has 'American Sniper' been adapted into a film, and how does it compare to the book?

Yes, the book was adapted into a highly successful film in 2014 starring Bradley Cooper, which depicts Kyle's life and military service, though some details differ for cinematic storytelling.

What controversies surround 'American Sniper' and Chris Kyle's legacy?

The book and Kyle's story have sparked debates over the portrayal of war, the accuracy of certain events, and discussions about the morality of sniper tactics and military actions.

What impact did 'American Sniper' have on veteran awareness and military recruitment?

The book's popularity raised awareness about the realities of war and inspired many to consider military service, while also fostering conversations about veteran support.

What personal struggles does Chris Kyle discuss in 'American Sniper'?

Kyle shares his struggles with PTSD, family challenges, and the difficulty of transitioning from military to civilian life.

How does 'American Sniper' portray the emotional toll of combat?

The book candidly depicts the emotional and psychological impacts of war, including grief, guilt, and the difficulty of reconnecting with loved ones afterward.

Why is 'American Sniper' considered an important memoir in contemporary military literature?

It offers an authentic, firsthand account of modern warfare from a highly decorated sniper, providing insight into the soldier's perspective and the complexities of combat.

Additional Resources

American Sniper by Chris Kyle is a compelling and intensely personal memoir that offers an unfiltered glimpse into the life of one of America's most renowned and controversial snipers. As the deadliest marksman in U.S. military history, Kyle's story is not just about warfare but also about the complex emotional and psychological toll of serving on the front lines. The book combines action-packed military tales with heartfelt reflections, making it a must-read for those interested in military history, personal heroism, or understanding the human side of war.

Overview of "American Sniper"

"American Sniper" was published in 2012 and quickly gained widespread attention, both for its raw honesty and for the controversy it sparked. It chronicles Kyle's journey from a young man seeking purpose to a legendary sniper, highlighting his numerous deployments in Iraq and the profound impact of his service on his personal life. The memoir is written in a straightforward, accessible style that allows readers to immerse themselves in Kyle's world, providing insights into the rigorous training, intense combat situations, and the emotional aftermath of war.

Author Background: Chris Kyle

Chris Kyle, born in Odessa, Texas, was a Navy SEAL sniper with four tours in Iraq. Known as the "Devil of Ramadi," his skills earned him numerous commendations, but his story is much more than military accolades. After leaving the service, he became an outspoken advocate for veterans and their mental health. His life was tragically cut short in 2013, but his legacy continues through his writings, including "American Sniper," and his influence on military culture.

Content and Themes

Military Service and Training

The book begins with Kyle's early life and his decision to enlist in the Navy. His training at SEAL Team Six is depicted with gritty realism, emphasizing the physical and mental discipline required to become a sniper. Readers gain insight into the rigorous selection process, the importance of teamwork, and the meticulous preparation needed for combat. Kyle's descriptions of sniper training are detailed, illustrating the combination of patience, precision, and mental toughness necessary for success.

Key features:

- Detailed account of Navy SEAL training
- Emphasis on discipline and perseverance
- Insights into sniper tactics and techniques

Combat Experiences in Iraq

The core of the memoir focuses on Kyle's deployments in Iraq, where he faced life-and-death situations daily. His sniper missions often involved complex decision-making, balancing the need to protect fellow soldiers while minimizing civilian casualties. Kyle's accounts of engaging targets, the stress of long-distance shooting, and the moral dilemmas faced in war are vividly conveyed.

Pros:

- Vivid descriptions of combat scenarios
- Personal reflections on the morality of killing
- Highlighting the chaos and unpredictability of war

Cons:

- Some readers may find the detailed violence unsettling
- The narrative sometimes emphasizes action over introspection

Personal Life and Challenges

While Kyle's military achievements are prominent, the memoir also explores his struggles with the psychological impact of combat, including PTSD and the strain on his relationships with family and friends. Kyle's dedication to his wife and children is contrasted with his internal battles, providing a nuanced view of the toll war takes on soldiers.

Features:

- Honest portrayal of mental health challenges
- Reflection on the importance of family support
- Insights into reintegration into civilian life

Writing Style and Narrative Technique

Chris Kyle's writing is direct, engaging, and accessible, making complex military concepts understandable to a broad audience. His narrative is often laced with humility and a sense of duty, giving readers an authentic voice that resonates throughout the book. The use of personal anecdotes and vivid descriptions helps paint a clear picture of both the battlefield and the emotional landscape of a soldier.

Advantages:

- Clear and easy-to-follow prose
- Personal tone that fosters connection
- Effective use of storytelling to evoke emotion

Limitations:

- Some critics argue the narrative lacks deep psychological analysis
- The straightforward style might omit nuanced perspectives on war

Impact and Reception

"American Sniper" received widespread acclaim for its candid portrayal of military service, with many praising Kyle's honesty and bravery. It became a bestseller and was adapted into a successful film starring Bradley Cooper, further amplifying its reach. However, it also faced criticism from some quarters who questioned the glorification of sniper tactics and the portrayal of war.

Pros:

- Raises awareness about military life
- Highlights the sacrifices of service members
- Inspires patriotism and respect for soldiers

Cons:

- Some interpret the book as endorsing violence
- Critics argue it simplifies complex geopolitical issues

Controversies and Criticisms

While many lauded Kyle's memoir for its bravery, others criticized it for perceived glorification of combat and violence. Some veterans and critics felt that the book did not sufficiently address the psychological scars of war or the broader implications of military intervention. Additionally, Kyle's outspoken political views and his stance on gun rights added layers of controversy to his legacy.

Features:

- Sparks debate on war ethics
- Raises questions about the portrayal of soldiers as heroes
- Highlights the divide in public opinion about military interventions

Pros and Cons Summary

Pros:

- Authentic and personal storytelling
- Provides an inside look into sniper tactics and military culture
- Highlights the emotional struggles of soldiers
- Well-written and accessible prose
- Inspires patriotism and respect for military service

Cons:

- Graphic violence may be unsettling
- Some may perceive it as glorifying war and violence
- Limited exploration of the broader geopolitical context
- Critics argue it lacks depth in psychological analysis of trauma

Conclusion: Is "American Sniper" Worth Reading?

"American Sniper" by Chris Kyle is a compelling, raw, and thought-provoking memoir that offers valuable insights into the life of a soldier on the front lines. Its straightforward narrative makes it accessible to a wide audience, and its honest portrayal of combat and personal struggles resonates deeply. While it may not delve deeply into the broader political or psychological complexities of war, it succeeds in humanizing a figure often viewed solely through the lens of military achievement.

For readers interested in military history, personal heroism, or understanding the human cost of war, this book is a significant read. It serves as both a tribute to service members and a reminder of the profound sacrifices made by those who serve in conflicts around the world. However, potential readers should be prepared for graphic descriptions of violence and consider the book's perspective within the larger debates about war and peace.

In sum, "American Sniper" is a powerful memoir that honors the bravery of Chris Kyle while prompting reflection on the moral and emotional complexities of warfare. Its influence extends beyond the battlefield, inviting readers to consider the cost of service, the resilience of soldiers, and the enduring human spirit in times of conflict.

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american sniper by chris kyle: American Sniper Chris Kyle, Scott McEwen, Jim DeFelice, 2012-01-03 The #1 New York Times bestselling memoir of U.S. Navy Seal Chris Kyle, and the source for Clint Eastwood's blockbuster, Academy-Award nominated movie. "An amazingly detailed account of fighting in Iraq--a humanizing, brave story that's extremely readable." — PATRICIA CORNWELL, New York Times Book Review Jaw-dropping...Undeniably riveting. —RICHARD ROEPER, Chicago Sun-Times From 1999 to 2009, U.S. Navy SEAL Chris Kyle recorded the most career sniper kills in United States military history. His fellow American warriors, whom he protected with deadly precision from rooftops and stealth positions during the Iraq War, called him "The Legend"; meanwhile, the enemy feared him so much they named him al-Shaitan ("the devil") and placed a bounty on his head. Kyle, who was tragically killed in 2013, writes honestly about the pain of war—including the deaths of two close SEAL teammates—and in moving first-person passages throughout, his wife, Taya, speaks openly about the strains of war on their family, as well as on Chris. Gripping and unforgettable, Kyle's masterful account of his extraordinary battlefield experiences ranks as one of the great war memoirs of all time.

american sniper by chris kyle: Chris Kyle: American Sniper Alexis Burling, 2015-08-01 This biography examines the life of Chris Kyle using easy-to-read, compelling text. Through striking historical and contemporary images and photographs and informative sidebars, readers will learn about Kyle's family background, childhood, education, service in the US Navy SEALs, and his time as a sniper. Informative sidebars enhance and support the text. Features include a table of contents, timeline, facts page, glossary, bibliography, and an index. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Essential Library is an imprint of Abdo Publishing, a division of ABDO.

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a man named David Landrum while he was still a student. Landrum's strict expectations made Kyle want to prove himself. Kyle believes this prepared him to become a Navy SEAL. Kyle decided to quit school and join the military. He learned about the SEALs and wanted to become one. He investigated the opportunity further and learned that there was no guarantee he would become a SEAL if he joined the Navy. He would need to earn the privilege. Kyle went through the application process, but the Navy disqualified him because of the pins in his wrist. He felt his military career had ended before it began. He went back to work for Landrum and hoped to become a rancher. Shortly afterward, a recruiter called and asked if he was still interested in becoming a SEAL.

american sniper by chris kyle: Chris Kyle Biography: The Deadliest American Sniper in the US History Chris Dicker, What does it take to be a good father at home and a good sniper killer abroad? Was Chris Kyle an American hero or a stone cold killer? He was known as the most lethal American Sniper in the US Military History, because he have killed more than 150 people caused threat to the US soldiers in the Iraq war. There was a bounty reward from \$20,000 to \$80,000 for his head in Iraq, as every sniper kill was associated with him, whether that was true or not. Many Iraq mercenaries wanted his head. Many speculate that Chris Kyle was a cold killer, because he was very good at it, from killing women with toddlers to military aged men. It was documented that all the Kyle's kills were terrorists or people who posed a threat to the US marines in Iraq. Otherwise he would have been prosecuted and in jail. For others, Chris Kyle was a true American hero, protecting the American values and way of life, inspiring many of the US soldiers in service for years to come. Most of the people in the United States are very soft and live in a dream world. They have no idea of what's going on at the other side of the world, the harsh environment Iraqis have been doing to themselves. Chris Kyle knew that distinction very well as he was serving in Iraq for four deployments. When you read this book, you'll know exactly who Chris Kyle was, what he believed in, what he stood for. You'll also learn Chis Kyle's relationship with his wife Taya Kyle as she struggled while he was serving his country in Iraq. All the drama, conflicts and family issues will be revealed. This book is about Chris Kyle's legacy! Grab your copy now!

american sniper by chris kyle: The Life and Legend of Chris Kyle: American Sniper, Navy SEAL Michael J. Mooney, 2025-05-01 A New York Times bestseller: The life story of Chris Kyle, the American Sniper. A brutal warrior but a gentle father and husband, Chris Kyle led the life of an American hero. His renowned courage and skill in military service earned him two nicknames -- The Devil among insurgents and The Legend among his Navy SEAL brethren -- but his impact extended beyond that after he came home from combat and began working with fellow veterans. Journalist Michael J. Mooney reveals Kyle's life story, from his Texas childhood up through his death in February 2013. Mooney interviews those closest to the late SEAL and also sheds light on the life of the suffering veteran who killed Kyle. The Life and Legend of Chris Kyle is a candid, essential portrait of a celebrated warrior -- a man about whom a movie has only added to the legend.

american sniper by chris kyle: American Sniper: An Autobiography by Chris Kyle (Trivia-On-Books) Trivion Books, 2016-09-07 Trivia-on-Book: American Sniper: An Autobiography by Chris Kyle Take the challenge yourself and share it with friends and family for a time of fun! Kyle's longest successful recorded shot was made from two thousand, one hundred yards (or one thousand, nine hundred and twenty meters) away outside of Sadr City. He had spotted an insurgent who was about to throw a grenade at a U.S. convoy. Kyle fired a single shot using a sniper rifle and successfully hit the man, killing him before he could cause any harm. Sadr City was the last place Kyle was deployed, and this was where he saw the worst fighting. You may have read the book, but not have liked it. You may have liked the book, but not be a fan. You may call yourself a fan, but few truly are. Are you a fan? Trivia-on-Books is an independently curated trivia quiz on the book for readers, students, and fans alike. Whether you're looking for new materials to the book or would like to take the challenge yourself and share it with your friends and family for a time of fun, Trivia-on-Books provides a unique approach to American Sniper by Chris Kyle that is both insightful and educational! Features You'll Find Inside: • 30 Multiple choice questions on the book, plots, characters and author • Insightful commentary to answer every question • Complementary quiz

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american sniper by chris kyle: *American Wife* Taya Kyle, Jim DeFelice, 2015-05-04 The widow of "American Sniper" Chris Kyle shares their private story: an unforgettable testament to the power of love and faith in the face of war and unimaginable loss--and a moving tribute to a man whose true heroism ran even deeper than the legend. In early 2013, Taya Kyle and her husband Chris were the happiest they ever had been. Their decade-long marriage had survived years of war that took Chris, a U.S. Navy SEAL, away from Taya and their two children for agonizingly long stretches while he put his life on the line in many major battles of the Iraq War. After struggling to readjust to life out of the military, Chris had found new purpose in redirecting his lifelong dedication to service to supporting veterans and their families. Their love had deepened, and, most special of all, their family was whole, finally. Then, the unthinkable. On February 2, 2013, Chris and his friend Chad Littlefield were killed while attempting to help a troubled vet. The life Chris and Taya fought so hard to build together was shattered. In an instant, Taya became a single parent of two. A widow. A young woman facing the rest of her life without the man she loved. Chris and Taya's remarkable story has captivated millions through Clint Eastwood's blockbuster, Academy Award-winning film *American Sniper*, starring Bradley Cooper as Chris and Sienna Miller as Taya, and because of Chris's bestselling memoir, in which Taya contributed passages that formed the book's emotional core. Now, with trusted collaborator Jim DeFelice, Taya writes in never-before-told detail about the hours, days, and months after his shocking death when grief threatened to overwhelm her. Then there were wearying battles to protect her husband's legacy and reputation. And yet throughout, friendship, family, and a deepening faith were lifelines that sustained her and the kids when the sorrow became too much. Two years after her husband's tragic death, Taya has found renewed meaning and connection to Chris by advancing their shared mission of "serving those who serve others," particularly military and first-responder families. She and the children now are embracing a new future, one that honors the past but also looks forward with hope, gratitude, and joy. *American Wife* is one of the most remarkable memoirs of the year -- a universal chronicle of love and heartbreak, service and sacrifice, faith and purpose that will inspire every reader.

american sniper by chris kyle: *Summary of American Sniper* Instaread Summaries, 2016-04-06

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american sniper by chris kyle: *The Man Who Shot Chris Kyle* Fabien Nury , 2022-02-02 The true story behind the murder of renowned American sniper Chris Kyle. Inspired by the poignant story of Chris Kyle, a Navy SEAL sniper who earned several awards for his service before his murder in 2013. Discover a unique graphic novel from award-winning writer Fabien Nury (*The Death of Stalin*) and artist Brūno (Tyler Cross) illustrating the events leading up to the death of American hero Chris Kyle, which came only a year after publishing his autobiography. This tragic tale adapts part of his memoir while also exploring the consequences and fate of those left behind after he was killed.

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minutes, nos résumés vous offrent un peu de sagesse du livre, de quoi alimenter vos pensées et avec espérons-le, vous donneront envie de prendre le temps de lire le livre en entier.

american sniper by chris kyle: The Man Who Shot Chris Kyle - Part 1 Fabien Nury, 2020-08-26T00:00:00+02:00 A former Navy SEAL and Iraq War veteran, Chris Kyle is the most lethal sniper in American military history. His autobiography, *American Sniper*, was a best-seller in the US. On February 2, 2013, Chris Kyle is killed by another veteran, Eddie Ray Routh. The murder takes place on a shooting range in Stephenville, Texas. But that's only the beginning of their story.

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american sniper by chris kyle: AMERICAN SNIPER SAINSBURY PB KYLE CHRIS, 2015-06-01

american sniper by chris kyle: *American Spirit* Taya Kyle, Jim DeFelice, 2019-04-02 The New York Times–bestselling author shares “moving and passionate” true stories of people who found their purpose through perseverance and service (Publishers Weekly, starred review). Taya Kyle entered a period of deep grief when she lost her husband, “American Sniper” Chris Kyle. Yet the experience served as a catalyst for profound growth. Taya found her own reserve of strength with the help of family and friends—and also many strangers across America, who shared their own stories of suffering and survival. Inspired by their courage, Taya discovered her calling: spreading a message of how we can triumph over personal pain and heal our communities. Working with trusted collaborator Jim DeFelice (coauthor of *American Sniper* and *American Wife*), Taya tells her own

story, as well as those of other Americans who have built extraordinary lives after grappling with loss, illness, all manner of setback: a 9/11 survivor, badly burned over 60% of his body, who asked himself What debt to do I owe to God?; a man with the hole in his heart who runs ultramarathons; a young cancer victim whose lemonade stand inspired a revolutionary new model for fighting cancer; a pastor who became an undercover investigator, and more. The more than thirty individual profiled here embody the “American spirit” of resilience, faith, and togetherness that has built the nation. In the end, their stories teach us that “every action, big or small, has the potential to spark someone else’s movement.”

american sniper by chris kyle: American sniper Chris Kyle, 2015-01-06 Chris Kyle est le sniper le plus redoutable de toute l'histoire militaire américaine. Surnommé « Al-Shaitan » (le Diable) par ceux qu'il traquait et « la Légende » par ses frères d'armes des Navy SEALs, il est crédité de 255 ennemis tués. Déployé à quatre reprises en Irak dans le cadre de l'opération Iraqi Freedom, il a été engagé dans les combats urbains les plus terribles du conflit : Fallouja, Ramadi ou encore Sadr City. Progressant au cœur des fournaises insurgées, investissant les maisons en tête des groupes d'assaut, protégeant ses camarades depuis son poste de tir, pris pour cible par les insurgés qui mirent sa tête à prix, Chris Kyle a été de toutes les batailles. Témoin des atrocités de la guerre et de la malveillance d'un ennemi fanatique, il livre un récit brut et dévoile au grand public son quotidien de SEAL et de sniper, mais aussi les conséquences de celui-ci sur sa vie personnelle.

american sniper by chris kyle: Chris Kyle, America's Most Decorated Sniper Stephen Wilson, 2015-02-23 We are given some details, including little known ones, about the life and exploits of the legendary American sniper, Chris Kyle.

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