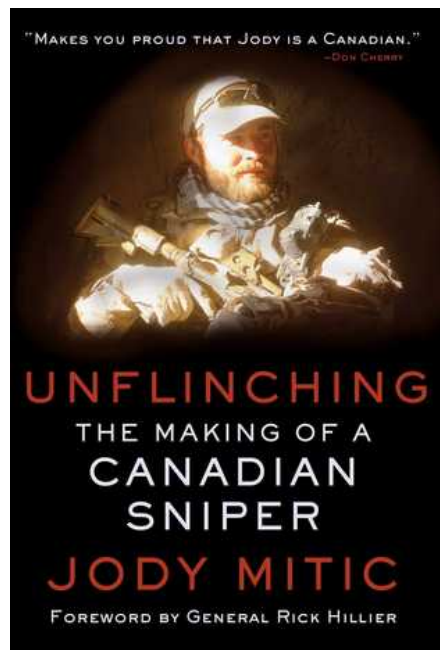




Unflinching: The Making of a Canadian Sniper

Jody Mitic

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From retired elite sniper Jody Mitic, who lost both of his legs below the knees in Afghanistan, *Unflinching* is an uplifting memoir on military issues, endurance, and overcoming adversity.

Afghanistan, 2007. While on patrol with the 1st Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment deep within enemy territory, sniper Jody Mitic stepped on a land mine and lost both legs below the knee. Though Jody was a dedicated serviceman who had dreamed of a military life since he was a child, it seemed that his fighting days were done.

Ever a soldier at heart, Jody was determined to still be of service to his country, and he refused to let his injury hold him back. After only a few short months of rehab, Jody was up and walking again on two prosthetic legs, and only a year later, he was running his first road race.

But despite his success in physically recovering from his injury, Jody still struggled to mentally adapt to his new reality. As he experienced first-hand the controversial treatment of Canadian veterans, Jody turned his efforts towards developing programs for wounded veterans and publicly advocating on their behalf. With a renewed purpose to guide him, Jody came to find a new lease on life.

An inspirational memoir of resilience and courage in the face of overwhelming adversity, *Unflinching* is a unique portrait of a man who exemplifies the perseverance, strength, and optimism needed to overcome seemingly unconquerable barriers.

Unflinching: The Making of a Canadian Sniper Details

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From Reader Review Unflinching: The Making of a Canadian Sniper for online ebook

Cody Lasko says

It's a 3-star read that brings out 5-star emotions. Get the average.

This book should also serve as profound inspiration to get up, dust off, and soldier on with it. Jody details his life pursuing a military career, desperately working to maintain a military career, and the events leading to him losing his military career (and his legs).

But in doing all of that he gains so much more. It's the real life account of a tenacious man fighting to overcome serious odds and in doing so defined exactly the man he wanted - and needed - to be.

His story can inspire your own, just as it has for so many other Canadians. Hell, you don't even have to be Canadian to find inspiration from it. You just have to be living.

And that's what Jody continues to do.

Thank you for your service, and thank you for sharing your story, sir.

Giselle says

This is a telling story of Jody Mitic's foray into the Canadian Armed Forces as a sniper. It includes some photos, and letters he sent to his father. I knew he didn't write the story but it's obvious someone else did. The pacing of the story is very very quick so there's not a lot of emotions felt. It's more of a telling rather than showing what happened and I felt it lacked the depth of feelings for the reader to silently place their shoes in his. There were tons of military jargon and I was sad to see the glossary by the end which was too late for me to flip through. I really think the publisher should say "Glossary in back" so people know about this. It's a fairly quick read but I also had trouble getting into it as well. Some scenes are more memorable like others like the Taliban using children to scout areas and if they're seen as a threat they would be gunned down. And obviously the part about him losing his feet. I really wanted him to explain more about his recovery and his addiction. I felt like it was glossed over.

Kate says

I may get accused of being anti-patriotic for this opinion cuz really, who doesn't like a book by a guy who is an elite member of a CAF sniper team, gets his legs blown off while serving his country, then comes home to run a half marathon on prosthetic legs, gets 2nd place in a reality show, cures himself of Oxy addiction, and basically moves himself through therapy and rehab single-handedly?

Well, me.

This was the November choice for my book club. Disclaimer: all of the members of my club are spouses of serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces. I think this was the book choice in part because most of the

military spouses of my fellow clubbers already owned it.

I didn't really know Jody's story before reading his book (I don't watch tv, didn't follow the election campaign for his City of Ottawa seat). Clearly he has what it takes to be successful in whatever he puts his mind to and I respect his determination and drive. He's also brought important attention to the state of the CAF and injured soldiers. But, I couldn't shake a growing dislike for the guy and while my opinion of the author should have no bearing on the topic, that distaste affected my opinion of the book.

First, the book itself is a quick, easy read but I thought it would have benefited from an merciless edit job.

I acknowledge he was an exceptionally skilled member of an elite team of fighters and consequently enjoyed special status among the ranks, but I'd had enough of his self-congratulations 1/2 way through the book. "First thing we snipers did ..." "We snipers were allowed certain freedoms ..." "Snipers have the ability to turn off their emotions ..." "us snipers don't get PTSD" (seriously?? This one makes me particularly annoyed. This totally blames the victim among the ranks - so if my spouse struggles with PTSD, it's because he can't separate himself from the events as Jody claims?) I understand his need to maintain his military and sniper identity that gave him status at one time but OMG it got tiring.

I understand that I'm an outsider to military thinking and that they are trained to kill, but the descriptions of "longest kills" bothered me on a fundamental level. I can't help but think of the life gone on the other end of that bullet, and to them it's a contest, about setting a record. I know they are trained to do this and they do what they do to protect human life, and that thinking alters when you are being fired on in return. I truly respect and support the need to be in conflict zones and do what is necessary. I also recognize they need to think this way in order to not lose it mentally themselves, and that this sort of contest among soldiers is as old as armed conflict itself. I know all that. But still ... call me a bleeding heart liberal, I found the descriptions of it all as a "contest" and "breaking a record" hard to get past.

I also found it odd that he took such care to omit last names of his crew and cover eyes in the photos, but gave detailed descriptions of the events of one particularly horrific day in Afghanistan, including names and conditions of the bodies of deceased Canadian soldiers. I'd find that pretty hard if I were a family member of the deceased.

What I was looking forward to in this book was a description of his drive to succeed translated to his recovery post-injury and create change in the system, and the book fell short on this. For me, the book started on page 201 (out of 229 pages) when he started describing his recovery. In spite of my complaining above, the first part of the book was interesting and made me respect CAF members even more for what they go through on overseas deployments as well as here at home. I know that 98% of his readership will buy the book for exactly all the descriptions of fighting and military life. But I think if he really wants to create change for returning injured veterans, he missed his chance by failing to describe more fully his experience on return and *why* that demonstrates the need for change, and what could be done to actually create change in the system.

Karli Archambault says

I work for Coles, Indigo. When I was at work one day and I heard about this book coming out - I knew I had to have it. I bought "Unflinching: The Making of a Canadian Sniper" the day it came out, and I can honestly say it was one of the best books I have ever read in my life.

I am usually not one for Autobiographies, but Jody's story was so inspiring and touching that I knew I had to

get my hands on a copy. Military history and war in general are my favourite genre's to read, and even though I have a very strong foundation on military acronyms and protocol, I was impressed to see how Jody wrote his book in a very easy-to-read and understand fashion for the general public.

This book captures my attention fully, and I had a hard time putting it down. It truly highlights the triumphs and the heartbreak in Jody's life and career as a sniper for the Canadian Armed Forces, and the brotherhood and strength of it's service members.

If you are looking for a fantastic, true story that is exceptionally written, "Unflinching: The Making of a Canadian Sniper" is the book for you!

Megan Frowley says

Jody's story was truly inspiring for me; I've thought greatly about joining the CAF, and his drive and determination solidified my goal to pursue a career with the army. I'm training and keeping in mind the positive aspects of life that the CAF will provide to me once I achieve them. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is looking for guidance on how to overcome any obstacle that life may throw at you.

Krista says

This was a very readable book, that had a pretty impressive story. Jody spirit is very evident in this book. A funny coincidence-- I didn't realize I was present at the ceremony when Jody was presented with the sacrifice medal. It was only when I saw the picture in the book that I made the connection.

My only complaint was that the pacing of the book seemed slow in the beginning, and then after his accident, we were rushed to the end.

Regardless, I admire what he is doing for veterans, and making their lives better. Overall, a good read.

Jesse says

For this review and more, check out my blog at <https://bluedecemberblog.wordpress.com>

Judy Decaigny says

Fascinating. An interesting look inside the modern soldier and this man's journey to becoming a sniper for the Canadian Military. Highly recommended.

Anne says

I first became interested in this book after hearing Jody defending Nostalgia by MJ Vassanji on Canada

Reads 2017. I had recently read Waiting for First Light by Romeo Dallaire, and was interested in stories of modern war. Unflinching definitely provided that story. Jody's story of his advancement through the military structure to sniper, and the struggles within that, and then his struggles after he got injured in Afghanistan.

The book was very easy to read, and had good momentum and provided good detail. I think I expected a bit more of the story than was provided - his recovery and learning to walk in prosthetics was probably more difficult than the book made it seem, but it was still an excellent read.

Abby says

This book rates a solid 4 stars. This is a powerful story of one man's journey through the ranks of the Canadian Armed Forces to train, ultimately as a sniper. Along the way, you as the reader, come to understand the dedication and sacrifice each soldier must make and be willing to lay their life down for their country. This is also Mr. Mitic's personal journey home after a devastating injury and his road to recovery, both emotional and physically. This book shows even under the most daunting and extreme hardships can someone find inspiration to move forward.

Bruce says

10 Stars all the way

Jennifer says

Along with being a role model and a Canadian hero I think you could add an accomplished author to Jody Mitic's list of accomplishments.

What an amazing story of a person making the best of himself after the worst experience. A down to earth guy who wrote his story in an easy to read format and he even discussed topics that most books don't talk about and despite the seriousness of it all his humour and compassion shone through and probably because of these traits of his, he has created a whole new story for himself.

Written in a way that civilians can understand. It gave me a better sense of what soldiers go through to keep us safe. The good and bad of being in the Canadian Armed Forces I guess you could say.

It's an incredible story of courage. There's no whining about anything in the book. He just tells it like it is. I would like to meet Jody and just spend time listening to him retell some of his adventures. He comes across as tough but humble and he knew/knows what he wants to do. There's an ease to his story-telling.

It's an incredibly inspiring book and I would recommend it to anyone. Sacrifices are sometimes made without choice and this book is about what it takes to remake your life when the worst happens. It all boils down to the choices you make about the crap that sometimes comes into your life unexpectedly.

A book full of great imagery and I would now love to see his story in a documentary. Should also be required reading in our Canadian school system. I know it would get and keep the kids attention!

It's the story of the making of one tough dude and I'm telling you, you'll be missing out if you don't read it! He is one ACCOMPLISHED man. ...

"A man of perpetual optimism ... a priceless trait to possess because it has the power to transform people. One person's determination can spread hope far and wide. If he could pick himself up and put his life back together after being a casualty of war, there's HOPE for all of us as we face life's challenges ... " General Rick Hillier

Today is my #invictusday...the day I chose to remove SUICIDE from the options category in my problem solving strategies.

<https://youtu.be/8sAEIYEs86I>

One of the best non-fiction books I've read lately. Thank you for your service Master Corporal Jody Mitic

Stuart Lewis says

Moving story. If you have ever had a relative serve then this is a must read - my father did. One can never know what it is like not having fought ourselves, but this story brings some of it home. RESPECT.

Eva says

Jody Mitic has written a powerful account of his life serving in the Canadian military in "Unflinching: The Making of a Canadian Sniper."

The reader gains an understanding of his years as a young teen and follows his journey when he joins the reserves. Throughout his tours of duty overseas, he shares his frank observations. They illustrate the role training has helped to develop these young members of the military into quick thinkers.

After he loses both his legs, his life undergoes significant changes; he struggles with an addiction to painkillers while becoming a father at the same time. Fortunately, Jody overcomes his demons and continues in public service as a politician.

Thank you GoodReads for the book.

Meag M says

Unflinching was great. It told the story of Jody Mitic's life so far, detailing his triumphs and losses. I could barely put the book down. His undying perseverance is nothing short of inspiring.
