

Biography for  
**KELLEY BROWN**

Widow of Chief Special Warfare Operator (SEAL) Adam Brown,  
whose story is told in *Fearless* by Eric Blehm

While a young man named Adam Brown spiraled toward drug addiction in Hot Springs, Arkansas, during the mid nineties, Kelley Tippy was living a life somewhat paralleling his, though not as dark or wild.

Born in 1973 in the state of Georgia, she had been an A and B student through high school in Little Rock, Arkansas, a cheerleader who was active in her church, barely drank, and never smoked. But after a semester at the University of Central Arkansas, she found herself lacking direction. She dropped out and moved to the beach in Florida, where she waited tables in the evenings then partied the rest of the nights away.

After a few months of this, Kelley realized that she was going nowhere in life and decided to return to Arkansas. After a couple years working as a travel agent and taking sporadic college courses, she met Adam—fresh out of the Teen Challenge rehab program—while out with friends in Little Rock. It was October 17, 1997, and that night, her life changed forever.

Both smitten at first sight, their love grew upon a mutual faith in God. Theirs was a love story of extremes, of ups and downs, as an unwavering Kelley stood by Adam's side through nine months of relapses into his crack addiction, hunting him down in drug houses, holding him accountable for his whereabouts and spending habits, reminding him that he had so much more to offer the world if only he could beat his addiction. Everybody, including Adam's parents, told her to leave him, but through it all Kelley told Adam, "God has not told me to leave. My heart says stay and see this through."

On July 19, 1998, Adam and Kelley were married by a justice of the peace in Little Rock. The following day Adam joined the U.S. Navy. They repeated their vows on July 26 during a church service. Adam then left for boot camp--the start of a journey that would take the newlyweds to Great Lakes, Illinois, San Diego, California, and Virginia Beach, Virginia, as Adam fought his addiction, and battled the grueling qualifications required to become a U.S. Navy SEAL.

A week after Nathan Cole Brown was born on January 26, 2000, Adam graduated from BUD/S and was assigned to SEAL Team FOUR. During his deployments, Kelley was the model military wife, assuming the role of both parents, and remaining strong through the birth of another child, Savannah Nicole Brown on September 24, 2002. She also cared for Adam as he suffered numerous injuries and subsequent surgeries—including the reattachment of severed fingers, nursing grotesque wounds, changing his bandages, and helping him regain his strength.



In November 2006, Kelley and Adam quietly celebrated his transfer to the Naval Special Warfare Development Group, also known as SEAL Team SIX, the upper echelon of the U.S. Navy. When Adam's injured eye was removed in 2009, Kelley was right beside him. When Adam was in Iraq or Afghanistan, she ran a tight ship at home. When Adam took college courses between deployments, Kelley proofread his papers. When doctors said Adam's injuries were clearly disabling and that he could be honorably discharged and receive disability pay for the rest of his life, she understood and supported his decision to ignore the injuries and continue to serve his country at the highest level, ultimately overcoming his physical challenges and reaching the top 1 percent of the Naval Special Warfare community—SEAL Team SIX,

On February 26, 2010, Kelley, Nathan, and Savannah said a teary farewell to Adam as he deployed on what was to be his last mission as a SEAL. He was killed in action on March 17, and on March 24, Kelley buried her husband in a small cemetery in Hot Springs.

The Browns now reside in Hot Springs, where Nathan and Savannah attend the same elementary school where Adam was a student two decades earlier. Kelley has established The Adam Brown Legacy Foundation and is working to continue Adam's legacy of devotion to family, faith, perseverance, and compassion.

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