

# BECOMING WHOLE AGAIN

After an auto accident cost Kya Hill her arm and Army dream, positive attitude, state-of-the-art prosthesis are paving her way to recovery.

The high-tech, bionic arm that Kya Hill took home doesn't yet sport the pink camouflage finish she's been promised.

But the high school senior's bold, irreverent choice pretty sums up how she's confronted losing her right arm. The daughter of a retired fire-fighter and an emergency medical technician, Hill was in full command as she and her boyfriend raced to the nearest fire station after the accident that ripped away her

arm and, with it, Hill's dream of serving as an Army airborne medic. Prosthesis designer Randall Alley cheers on Kya after she moved the fingers of her new prosthetic arm for the first time. She is learning to control the \$200,000 electronic device by using muscle contractions.



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Fresh from the hospital a week later, she was off to a high school football game to promenade on the field with the cheer squad and let everyone see that she would be OK.

And a week after that, she went back to school, though the faculty ultimately convinced her to take a few more weeks off to adjust and work through her pain. In the months since, Hill, 17, has become something of a hometown hero for adapting to her new life with the kind of fortitude and humor that belies her age -- though friends and loved ones expected nothing less.

"Anyone who knows her knows how she is," say her friends. "If there's something in her way, she doesn't care. She just goes for it!"



Trying to find something fun, Fletcher had seen a sign at the Davidson County airport for High Rock Lake flight tours. Fletcher booked a tour and when he arrived at the airport for his scheduled tour, Tom Winnett, the flight instructor, spent a lot of time talking with him. Winnett asked him if he ever thought about flying.

"I had no idea I was going to be flying. I thought I was just going to get a private tour from the back of the plane and then they threw me in the front seat and I'm in the cockpit, ready to roll -- to take off.

I was like "this is the coolest thing ever." It's something I've always wanted to do," said Fletcher and chuckled. "And I was doing it; I was doing it good, too."

Everybody says, "He's not just a Marine; he's a machine. We've never met anyone like him."

