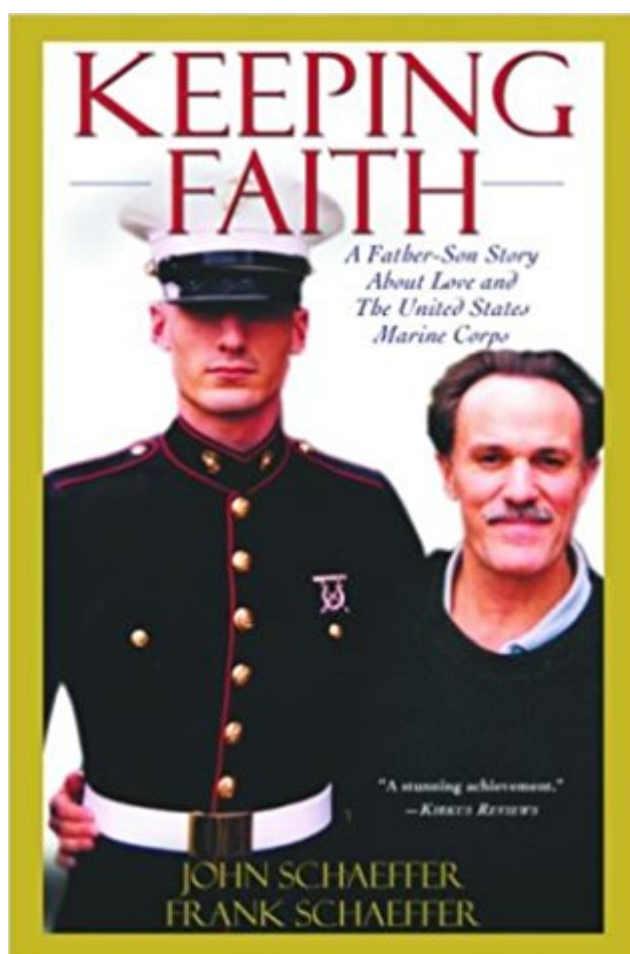


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# Keeping Faith: A Father-Son Story About Love And The United States Marine Corps



## Synopsis

In 1998, Frank Schaeffer was a bohemian novelist living in "Volvo driving, higher-education worshipping" Massachusetts with two children graduated from top universities. Then his youngest child, straight out of high school, joined the United States Marine Corps. Written in alternating voices by eighteen-year-old John and his father, Frank, *Keeping Faith* takes readers in riveting fashion through a family's experience of the Marine Corps: from being broken down and built back up on Parris Island (and being the parent of a child undergoing that experience), to the growth of both father and son and their separate reevaluations of what it means to serve. From Frank's realization that among his fellow soccer dads "the very words 'boot camp' were pejorative, conjuring up 'troubled youths at risk'" ("But aren't they all terribly southern?" asked one parent") to John's learning that "the Marine next to you is more important than you are," *Keeping Faith*; a New York Times bestseller; is a fascinating and personal examination of issues of class, duty, and patriotism. The fact that John is currently serving in the Middle East only adds to the impact of this wonderfully written, timely, and moving human interest story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The story of a young man having a growth experience by joining the military is a classic scenario, and John Schaeffer does justice to his take on it in his account of personal transformation from high-school graduate to U.S. Marines corporal. Interspersed with his narrative are his father Frank's remarks on the rest of the family's incidental affiliation with and new perspective on the marines in particular and the military in general. They brought to the encounter the ignorance and prejudice

against the military that too often accompanies their status as members of the college-educated white middle class, from which, in fact, precious few of America's servicemen come. But in the end, Frank expresses open pride in having sent one of "the best ye breed" to the corps before September 11. One of the better books of its kind, and likely to remain so. Roland Green Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"What the Schaeffers have done here is extraordinary! ... This is a timely, compelling, and important book!"

A must if your son or daughter is going into the marines and good for them too.

I would give this book six stars if possible. It is a bit dated (enlisted in 1998, but published in 2003), but the book covers what happens when a non-military family (Dad Frank is an author and academic) has an energetic smart son with a sense of duty and a yearn to serve (son John enlisted as a Marine). The book covers the letters sent back and forth from father to son (and vice versa) during Marine Basic Training. It is filled with emotion, thoughts, feelings, and personal observations as the Dad reconciles and tries to understand his son's choice. And it is filled with emotion and visible maturity as the son matures from a high-school graduate to a US Marine. (As he returns, he learns that he has little in common with his previous high school buddies.) This is "required reading" if you have a son or daughter in the Marines. It will help the parents cope and learn and understand. (And it is a great Primer for any young folks who are looking for some "Marine Action". This one tells it like it is - with little polish and glory. Both Father and Son end up learning more about each other. And in the end it reinforces their love for each other - and the Son's newfound respect as he becomes a Man. (But not just "any man" - a United States Marine. A very special breed.) JDMc

This book was recommended by other Marine parents. I very much enjoyed this book and it helped me better understand what my son will go through when he leaves for boot camp.

Very informative!

Excellent read! Thoroughly enjoyed this one! Each chapter I read brought a tear as my own son was going through each thing his son was going through. Each chapter would bring a tear. I would

definitely recommend this for any parent whose child is in boot camp!

I purchased this book as a Christmas gift for my son in law who is an ex-marine having served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He and his father share a strong bond, so I thought he might like this book. Seems like he really liked it.

This is a must-read for parents who have sons/daughters going into today's military service... especially into the Marines. The author provides excellent perspectives of how a young person's decision affects the parents, friends, and other family; also provides some real insight into today's military, as well as shows how a young person matures during training. I bought another copy for a friend who is terrified and heartsick that her son wants to join the Corps, right out of High School. My own Mother went through this when I enlisted during the Korean War, and my younger son was a Marine in Somalia, among other places. Once a Marine, always a Marine. The author tells it like it is... Definitely worth reading.

I read this while my Marine was going through bootcamp & was happy to learn that I was not the only person dealing with the feelings that I was feeling. This book helped me to deal with the guilt, sadness, regrets & pride that I was going through. Even though I am sure that some things have changed since Mr. Schaeffer's son went through bootcamp, I am sure that the basics are the same.

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