



# Keeping Faith: A Father-Son Story About Love and the United States Marine Corps

*John Schaeffer, Frank Schaeffer*

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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.

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