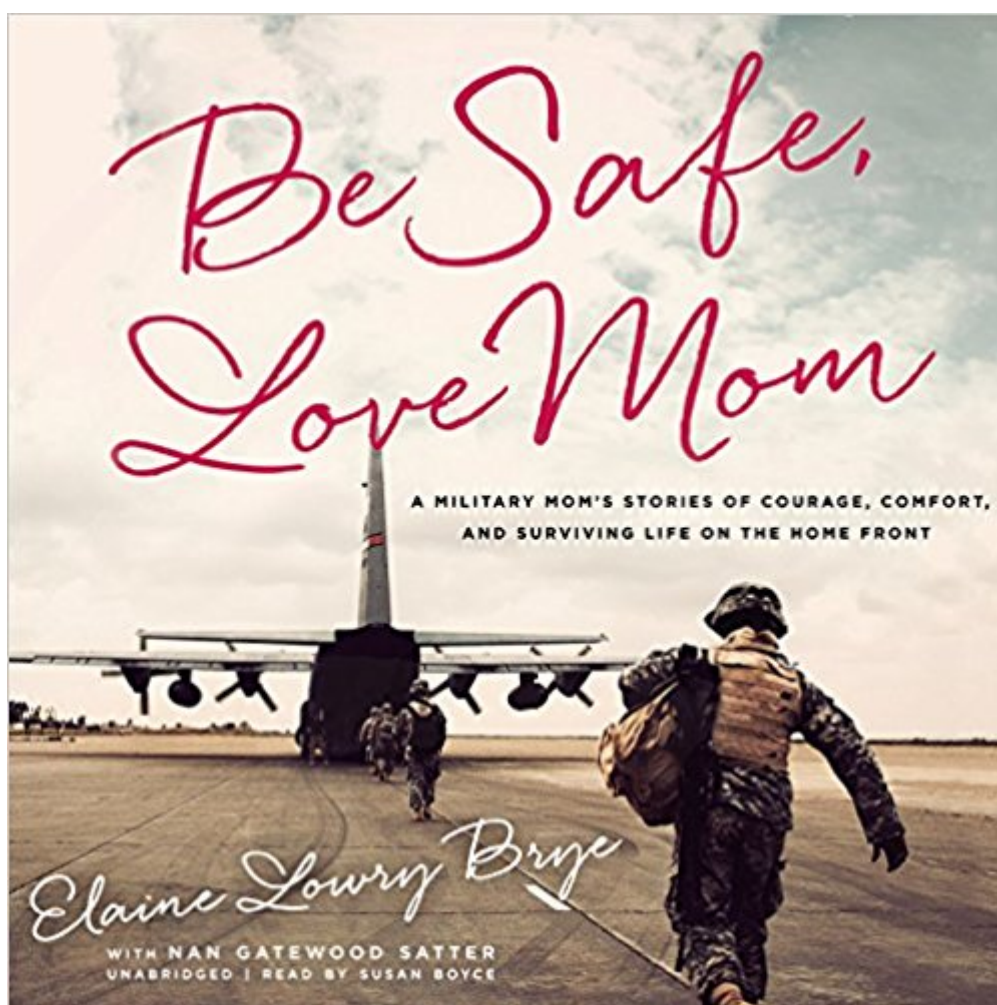


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# Be Safe, Love Mom: A Military Mom's Stories Of Courage, Comfort, And Surviving Life On The Home Front



## Synopsis

[Read by Susan Boyce] When you enlist in the United States military, you don't just sign yourself up for years of duty - you also commit your loved ones to a life of service all their own. No one knows this better than Elaine Brye, an army brat turned military wife turned military mom of four officers, each serving in a different branch of the military: Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. Brye's father and mother met while both serving in the US Army, and her childhood was that of a typical army brat, with frequent moves - some to faraway countries - dinner table conversations full of military lingo, an ever-present anxiety during her father's deployments to Vietnam and elsewhere, and family vacations to national monuments and battlefields. In 1976 - the first year women were accepted in the service academies and ROTC - Brye herself enlisted in the Air Force, where she would later meet her husband, an Air Force pilot. Now Elaine Brye is a mom to four military officers, and for more than a decade she's endured countless teary goodbyes, sparse communication from boot camps and training summers, deployments, emotional airport reunions, empty chairs at Thanksgiving dinners, and sleepless hours waiting for phone calls in the night. She's navigated the complicated tangle of emotions - pride, worry, fear, hope, and deep, enduring love - that accompanies life as a military mom. In *Be Safe, Love Mom* Brye reflects on her family's military service and offers a lifetime's worth of insight, comfort, wisdom, and a bit of humor to fellow military moms who are navigating the unpredictable life that accompanies having a child - or children - in uniform.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Brye offers an invaluable handbook for parents of US military service members. An Army brat, Air Force wife, ROTC candidate, and mother of four military officers - one each in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines - she draws her advice from hard-won experience...Brye doesn't shrink from the hardest topics, including traumatic brain injuries, PTSD, and, most unthinkably, casualty calls. For nonmilitary families, her work is a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by those who serve and by their loved ones. For military families, Brye's book will comfort and inform." --Publishers Weekly

"The mother of four serving military officers pays tribute to the parents of children in active service, especially mothers, America's 'unsung heroes'...Coming from a multigenerational military family - her parents served during World War II, her husband is a retired officer, and she has four children on active duty - she knows the terrain...The author also touches on the special difficulties for women in the military, as they must demonstrate physical toughness but not get too chummy with their male counterparts, in order to gain respect...A compassionate, insightful guide for military parents and the rest of us who are in their debt." --Kirkus Reviews

Elaine Lowry Brye grew up as an army brat, married an Air Force pilot, and ultimately became a mom to four military officers, one each in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. For the last thirteen years she has been mentoring parents as they make the adjustment to military-parent life through the USNA Parents List Serve and in other online forums. Her professional life has included a bachelor's degree in medical technology; a master's in business; training in Air Force ROTC; and certification as a science educator. In 2010 she spent a year teaching in Kabul, Afghanistan, gaining her own experience in a war zone. The role she is most proud of, besides being a mother, that has taken her to the White House and to the stage of the Democratic National Convention is that of mentor and supporter of military families.

Wonderfully written, inspiring, and informative. I read this in two days ( I laughed, I cried) and am starting to read it again, this time slowly to savor all the love and advise! If you have a child in the military this is a must read. Thank you Elaine Brye!!!!

I have a child in the military and this has opened my eyes to realize that I am not alone. We are a sisterhood of moms and wives that have loved ones serving Semper Fi.

As a mother of a Marine Officer and a Naval Flight Officer in training, I loved this book...Mrs. Brye captures not only the pride we parents feel for our sons and daughters who make the sacrifice for

our country as well as the sacrifice we parents make when we unabashedly support their decisions to serve. From the many aspects of her life as a military "brat", a member of the military herself, a military wife and as a military mother she brings a unique view of the stresses, the worry, the pride, and mostly the love of country and our children that we military mothers and fathers share, those of us who are in this "sisterhood" and "fatherhood". It should be required reading by anyone who has a loved one thinking about joining our military service. Elaine captures my feelings and the feelings of many others just like me, who will watch our children take their beginning steps towards protecting our country through her first hand experience in a touching, matter of fact, loving, supportive manner that is easy to read, easier to understand and a perfect gift for any mother on the day her son or daughter takes their oath to serve. I cried and laughed as I read of her childhood, marriage, the subsequent raising of her children and her first hand experiences in this big world, especially in the Middle East. She is the "battle buddy" every mother needs as her "baby" goes away on a deployment as she has been there, done that and has many (9) T shirts to prove it. I have purchased extra copies of the book to have on hand to pass on to other mothers who need a battle buddy of their own. I highly recommend *Be Brave, Love, Mom!*

I laughed, I cried, and then did it again. I am a MoM of a Marine and the roller coaster ride is depicted perfectly. It is a great read for someone going through the military journey and a great read if someone wants to try to understand why we "embrace the suck".

Delivered to my iPad at midnight and finished with coffee. Funny, heartfelt and weepy at times, Elaine Brye has beautifully captured the ups and downs and immense pride of military parents in this book. A must read.

It is nice to know that others go through what we go through and that we are not alone and that not everyone thinks our children are throwing away their lives by opting for a military life.

This is a beautifully written book that conveys the strength and steadfastness of a remarkable woman, Elaine Brye, the mother of four U.S. military officers. Through many personal vignettes, composed with fluid and inviting prose, she describes the panoply of emotions confronted by parents of those who serve, and, more than that, the drama of young daughters and sons deciding on future paths that can impose anguish, as well as pride, on their parents.

Bought this book for my best friend who's son was just deployed to Afghanistan. I know as most parents would -she was having a hard time. She loves the book because she already has it. Her awesome son bought it for her. I told her to please pass it on to another mom with a brave child in the military.

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