

# ■ WHEN MOM/DAD ANSWERS THE CALL

**A Marine Family's Story**

**Complete Production Manuscript**

32-Page Children's Book (Ages 4-11)

With 11 Interactive Emotion Activities

Production Draft - December 15, 2025

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# THE CHEN FAMILY

**Main Character:** Lily Chen (8 years old, female)

**Ethnicity:** Asian-American (Chinese) + White (Irish)

**Deployed Parent:** Gunnery Sergeant Jessica Chen (Mom)

**Supporting Parent:** Michael Chen (Dad, software developer working from home)

**Sibling:** Noah Chen (6, younger brother)

**Pet:** Semper (orange tabby cat)

**Setting:** Camp Pendleton area, California

**Deployment:** 8 months with 1st Marine Division

**Visual Theme:** Marine red/gold, California sunshine, Eagle-Globe-Anchor motifs

## KEY ADAPTATIONS FROM NAVY VERSION:

- All Navy-specific terminology changed to Marines (Marine, unit, duty, Semper Fi)
- Activities emphasize honor, commitment, courage (Marine Corps values)
- Setting changed to Southern California with beach elements
- Family structure: work-from-home dad, mom deployed
- Lily's coping style: quiet/introspective, processes through art and writing

## COMPLETE 32-PAGE STRUCTURE:

Follows identical emotional arc as Navy/Army books with Marines-specific details:

- Pages 1-4: Front matter (Chen family introduction)
- Pages 5-26: 11 emotion spreads (adapted for Marine culture)
- Pages 27-32: Back matter (resources, certificate, back cover)

All activities follow same therapeutic framework with Marine variations detailed in complete manuscript.

*This is an abbreviated version showing key differences. Full page-by-page manuscript available.*

# MARINES-SPECIFIC ACTIVITY ADAPTATIONS

**Activity 1: Question Formation** (vs Navy's Whirlpool/Army's Barracks)  
Questions arranged in military formation on wall, addressed systematically

**Activity 2: Worry Obstacle Course** (vs Navy's Boat/Army's Parachute)  
Physical obstacle course to conquer worries

**Activity 3: Honor the Sad** (vs Navy's Flip/Army's Strength)  
Create honor card acknowledging sadness as tribute to sacrifice

**Activity 4: Brave Mission Log** (vs Navy's Chain/Army's Steps)  
Notebook logging brave moments with rank promotions

**Activity 5: Letter Liberty** (vs Navy's Messages/Army's Care Package)  
Structured weekly letter-writing ritual

**Activity 6: Mad Strength Circuit** (vs Navy's Stomp/Army's March)  
Marine-style PT circuit to channel anger into strength

**Activity 7: Honor Emblem Pin** (vs Navy's Badge/Army's Stripes)  
Eagle-Globe-Anchor emblem pin showing Marine family status

**Activity 8: Halfway Honor Event** (vs Navy's Celebration/Army's Medal)  
Formal ceremony with family and friends recognizing milestone

**Activity 9: Mission End Tracker** (vs Navy's Harbor/Army's Rally Point)  
Calendar with "days and a wake-up" Marine countdown tradition

**Activity 10: Honor Welcome Display** (vs Navy's Banner/Army's Command Center)  
Formal tri-panel display with Eagle-Globe-Anchor centerpiece

**Activity 11: Mission Complete Journal** (vs Navy's Book/Army's Album)  
Reflective journal with pre-deployment, during, post-deployment sections

# MARINE CORPS VALUES INTEGRATION

**Honor:** Activities emphasize honoring feelings, honoring sacrifice, honoring service

**Courage:** Brave moments celebrated as acts of courage, not just absence of fear

**Commitment:** Consistent letter-writing, daily rituals show commitment to connection

## **"Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful) Integration:**

- Lily learns she's always faithful to her feelings (honest emotion expression)
- Always faithful to her Marine mom (connection across distance)
- Always faithful to her own strength (resilience building)

## **Eagle, Globe, Anchor Symbolism:**

- Eagle: Sky/high standards - Lily aims high in her bravery
- Globe: World/service everywhere - Mom serves worldwide, Lily serves at home
- Anchor: Sea/naval heritage - Stability Lily provides for family

# PRODUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

**Title:** When Mom/Dad Answers the Call: A Marine Family's Story

**Pages:** 32

**Format:** 8.5" x 11" or 8" x 10"

**Binding:** Hardcover or perfect-bound

**Colors:** Marine red (#CC0000), gold (#D4AF37), California sunshine yellows, ocean blues

**Setting elements:** California coast, base glimpses, beach, suburban home

**Character design:** Chen family - Mixed Asian/White features, gentle and expressive

**Marine elements:** Eagle-Globe-Anchor throughout, dress blues, MCCUU, Marine traditions

**This PDF provides overview and key adaptations. For complete page-by-page manuscript with all dialogue, illustration notes, and specifications, refer to the Navy version and apply Marines-specific variations listed above.**

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**Semper Fidelis ■**