

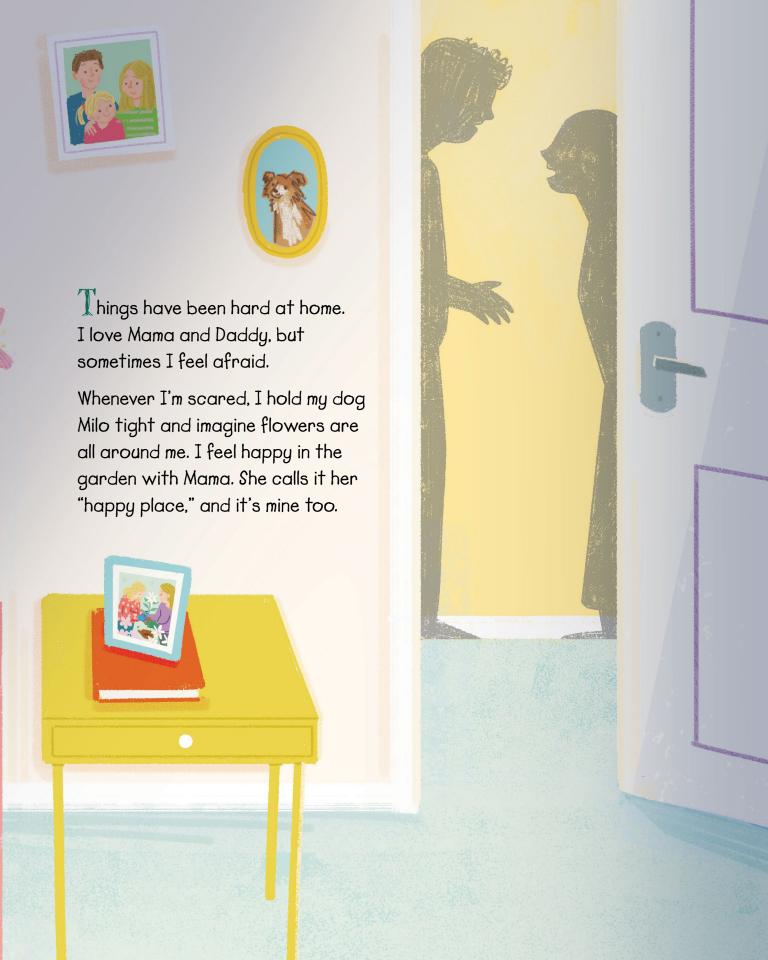
To Karen, the bravest young woman I am privileged to call my daughter.

I want to be like you when I grow up.

"This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged.

For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."—Joshua 1:9 ESV



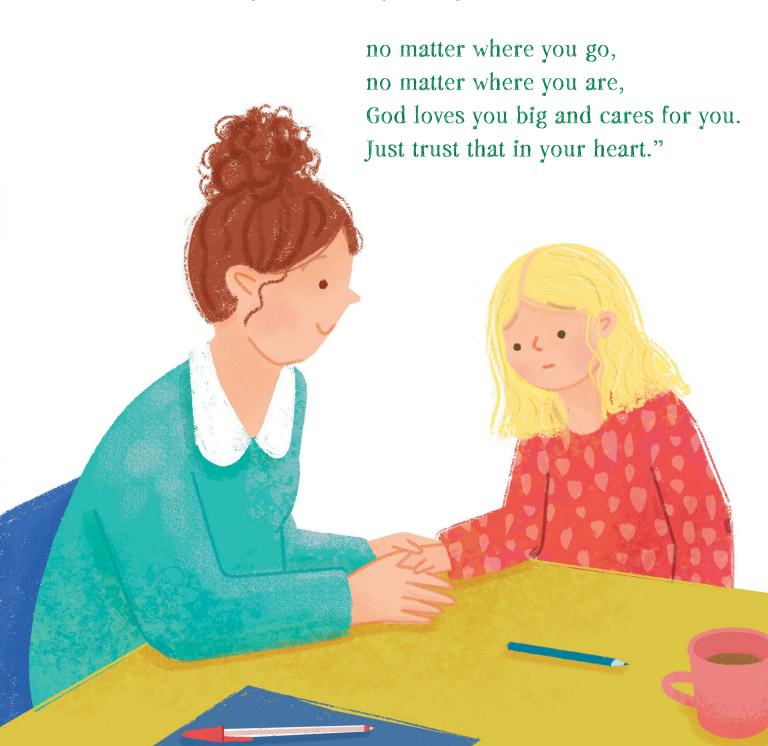




At school, I think about Mama and Daddy all the time. I hope they're okay, but I feel sad and afraid to go home.

Mrs. Miller calls me to her desk and asks me, "Are you okay, Elena?" I tell her how I feel.

Mrs. Miller takes my hand and whispers in my ear, "Elena...





Mrs. Lopez is my friend. She visits our house sometimes and asks me lots of questions. I don't mind because she always brings a treat for Milo.

Today is different. Mrs.
Lopez kneels and looks
at me with a sad smile.
She takes my hand in
hers and tells me we are
going to a new place
where some people will
take care of me for a
little while. They'll be
called my foster family.





As we walk to the car, Mrs. Lopez says to me in a calming voice, "I know you're afraid, Elena.
But remember this.

No matter where you go, no matter where you are, God loves you big and cares for you. Just trust that in your heart."



God's love might look different at different times, but He is always there.

When Elena is placed in foster care, she wonders if she will ever see her family again. When they notice Elena's fear, several grown-ups in her life repeat these words over her:

"No matter where you go, no matter where you are, God loves you big and cares for you. Just trust this in your heart."





Follow Elena's journey as she wonders how she can know that God loves and cares for her when her life is so hard. Through the words and actions of people around her. Elena discovers that she is never alone in her sadness or fear.





Jessica Mathisen is a former elementary school teacher and a foster, adoptive, and bio mom whose passion is to communicate God's love to others through words and relationships. Her greatest joy is helping people know and love God's Word. She lives just outside of Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband and three kids.





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