

Jessica Mathisen

No Matter Where I Go

illustrated by
Katie Rewse



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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*



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979-8-3845-2093-1

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Dewey Decimal Classification: C231.6

Subject Heading: FOSTER CHILDREN / GOD—ATTRIBUTES / LOVE

Printed in Shenzhen, Guangdong, China, December 2024

1 2 3 4 5 6 • 29 28 27 26 25



Things have been hard at home.
I love Mama and Daddy, but
sometimes I feel afraid.

Whenever I'm scared, I hold my dog
Milo tight and imagine flowers are
all around me. I feel happy in the
garden with Mama. She calls it her
"happy place," and it's mine too.





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 . . .

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





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.



photograph by Rory Mathisen

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.



JUVENILE FICTION / Family / Adoption
Printed in China

ISBN 979-8-3845-2093-1

USD \$14.99

51499



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