

The story that was changed



*He heals the brokenhearted
and bandages their wounds.*

Psalm 147:3

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Jade lived a happy life. Her book was full of colorful memories, for many things that had already happened in her life. Although there had been some ups and downs, the book made her happy. It had become part of her. Jade was still young, and so her book had only a few chapters.

Her imagination ran wild as she thought about things that would make her story exciting and beautiful.

One day, as she sat with her book, it suddenly became dark. Something wasn't right, and Jade was afraid. She tried to cover the book because it was the most precious thing she had.

mind and Jade gave them life.

She knew that God was pleased with her story, and she prayed that her book would help others see themselves in the beauty of His love.

heaven.

Slowly, hope trickled into Jade's heart. As she closed her eyes and drew in a deep breath, she reached out to God; and at that moment, His joy filled her heart. From then on, she thought about her life differently because God had changed her. Together, they wrote her story. God would put beautiful thoughts in her

As time passed, Jade tried to forget about the page. But somehow the book often fell open on the blotchy page. Jade became angry, and she didn't like the book anymore. She tried her best to keep to herself so she wouldn't say hurtful things to her mom and to others. What made her angry was that it was *her* book, and no

But when the darkness had left, there was a terrible mess on the page she'd been working on.

For a few moments, Jade sat there wide-eyed, unable to move. Her heart pounded in her chest. She quickly closed the book.

Perhaps it had just been a bad dream.

her book incomplete.

As Jade's jumbled thoughts started to settle, she felt ashamed. She had always tried to keep her book clean and beautiful. Now there was a blotchy page.

So Jade decided to pretend that nothing had happened: that the page wasn't there. No one needed to know about it.

But as she opened the book again, there it was.

Frightened and confused, Jade wondered what had happened and why her page looked like that.

She blankly stared at her book and thought of tearing the page out. But then she realized that the pages were numbered; and having a missing page would make

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The next day she'd be able to start a new page, and life would carry on.

But that night, when her mom came to say good night, she asked Jade how her book was coming along, for she'd noticed that something wasn't right.

Jade was afraid of showing her the page. What would her mom say? Yet, the bad

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one had the right to ruin it!

Then one day, someone told Jade about God, and about how much He loves her book. He would help her finish her story, and it would have her name and God's name on the cover. As she thought about her life and how her book might end, she imagined a special place for every book on God's bookshelf in

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feeling that was filling her heart had to come out. Jade took a deep breath. As she did, courage welled up from inside her, and she told her mom.

Jade's mom hugged her and held her for a long time. With tears in her eyes, she told Jade how sorry she was for what had happened.

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