

Real life stories about Yazmin, tackling the struggles of pre-teen years.

The Making of ×

Story and illustrations by Jayne Conry



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The beginning

Yazmin was a very shy girl. She was so painfully shy. She wished she was like other

> kids who would run and play and... be like other kids.

But Yazmin was afraid to say "boo". She was afraid to ask a question in case the answer was no. She was afraid to go places alone in case she got lost.

Yazmin would lie in bed and imagine that everyone else was at a party together... and she was alone.

Yazmin had no superpowers. She was just a girl.

She wondered why she even existed. "Why was I born?

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Couldn't it have been someone else?"

But there was Someone who wanted Yazmin on this earth. This Someone was watching over her before she was even born.

Yazmin went to school but kept her eyes to the ground. She didn't make friends easily and was afraid to ask for help.

Yazmin was just a girl. She didn't have any superpowers. But she wished she did.

"What if I could be invisible and be here without anyone seeing me?"

"What if I could be as small as a bug. I could sit and listen... and not have to think of things to say?"

"What if I was like other children and could do things like they could do?"

Oh dear, Yazmin was just a girl. A shy, shy, ordinary girl.

Superman and Spiderman and Captain A... they were superheros! They were kind.



They could help people with their superpowers. But Yazmin had no superpowers to make her special. She was just a girl.







When Yazmin was only five years old, she went for a walk one day. She loved to walk and look at flowers. But the problem was... she didn't stop walking. She walked so long that her parents didn't know where she had gone.

"Yazmin! Where are you?" her parents called. But Yazmin was too far away to hear.

The grass was green and the sky was blue. What a beautiful day. Yazmin reached a rock and sat down to rest.

"Come with Me," Yazmin heard a gentle whisper in the wind. She took her shoes off. She took her socks off too. And she followed the gentle whisper.

She walked with Someone on that green grass under that blue sky. She knew there was

Someone watching over her. She knew she was not alone.



Her parents were relieved when they found Yazmin's shoes and her socks. They soon found Yazmin too.

Yazmin didn't remember this story until a long time later. But she knew that Someone was watching over her.



The big change

CWe're not going to America! We're not going to America!" Yazmin's brother was so excited about the big change but he wasn't allowed to tell anyone. So he simply made it into a song.

But he was right. They were not going to America! They were going to Australia!!

Yazmin was so excited about this new big adventure. "Wow! I wonder what it will



be like. I bet I can make friends there. I think they would love to have a friend with a foreign accent."

Yazmin was full of hope that she could now be the person she always dreamed of being. A girl that everyone liked. A girl with superpowers.

Yazmin was excited to meet new people. She tried to be the person she believed she could be. Soon she was eating lunch with a big group of girls. "Wow! They believe I'm special!"

But very soon these same girls turned on her. "You can't sit with us. You love Jesus and we don't like Him." Yazmin stayed silent. But it was too late.

They took her to Betty. Betty had a long skirt and long hair. Betty smelt of onions and sat by herself. Yazmin felt sorry for her. Yazmin was happy not to be alone. They were both relieved to have someone to eat lunch with.

There were two other girls who came to sit with Betty and Yazmin. They liked drinking red fizzy pop. They wanted Yazmin to drink red fizzy pop too. But Yazmin really didn't like it. These girls were so funny. Yazmin really wanted them to like her. But she refused to drink the red fizzy pop.

Soon it was just Yazmin and Betty left again... eating their lunch together.

At least she wasn't alone.







The worst day and best day of her life



* * *

There was Candy with fiery red hair. There was Elsa who was so sooooo cool.

Some girls looked very pretty. Yazmin didn't feel pretty.

One day the teacher took them on an outing. Everyone was so excited. But Yazmin was so afraid. She was even more afraid when the teacher put them in groups of three. The teacher told them to come back to the bus after one hour.

Candy and Elsa didn't want to be with Yazmin. Yazmin didn't want to make them angry. She asked them to meet her at the fountain in one hour. "Can you please come back here? I can't find the bus again on my own."

Yazmin was so bad at directions! If she turned left and then she turned right... she couldn't find her own way home. How could she find the bus again on her own?

Candy said she would come back. But she lied. Everyone left... and Yazmin waited. She waited so long that tears started coming out of her eyes. She felt so alone. But Someone was watching over her.

When the bus was ready to leave, Yazmin was missing. Candy came to get Yazmin. She was angry. Oh, the tears didn't stop falling from Yazmin's eyes. She was so sad. This was the worst day of her life! Prince was the cool kid in class. All the girls liked him. And he liked all the girls. Well... most of them.

On this very day, Prince started making comments about the girls. "Candy is red hot. And Elsa is so sooooo cool." He continued making comments until he came to the last girl... "Yazmin is..."

Yazmin was so afraid of what he would say about her. But he wasn't afraid to say it.



Prince said, "Yazmin is the best of all the girls. Her heart is pure. She is kind."

Yazmin was shocked! The girls were shocked! Even the boys were shocked! Yazmin thought, "Wow! Did he really say that? About me?"

Yazmin received a superpower that day. She found that kindness was better than beauty. This was the worst day and the best day of her life. She knew that Someone had been watching over her. She was not alone.



ellybean and Yazmin knew each other since they were babies. They were in pre-school together. They were in youth group together. Their mothers were friends... but Yazmin always thought Jellybean was too popular to be her friend.

One day Yazmin and Jellybean went on a camp with their whole youth group. Yazmin slept on the top bunk next to Jellybean. "This camp is going to be the best camp ever!" thought Yazmin.

But then Yazmin got sick. She must have eaten something that made her stomach feel funny.

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Well, it wasn't funny because that night it all came out... all over the floor!

Yazmin was so embarrassed and tried to hide it. But when Jellybean found out in the morning, she asked, "Why didn't you wake me up? I would have helped you clean up the mess."

Yazmin was surprised. "You would help me if I asked?" Yazmin found another superpower that day. She didn't need to be afraid to ask for help. She was not alone.

Girl and her horse

Yazmin didn't actually own a horse, but she did ride a horse every Saturday. She loved horses!

Black Beauty was just like her name. She was black and she was beautiful. She was a very tall horse. When Yazmin rode her, she felt like she was riding high in the sky.

Black Beauty was in a car accident. She was badly hurt and almost died. But Beauty's owner prayed for her. And she was healed! She could walk again!!

Beauty's owner was very careful about who could ride her. She wanted someone with a kind heart to ride Black Beauty. She chose Yazmin.

There was something special about this tall, beautiful horse. She had been healed!

But Beauty was actually missing an important part of her shoulder. Yazmin would put her hand on Beauty's leg. And instead of feeling bone, she felt a hollow.

She knew that Black Beauty was a miracle horse!

Yazmin felt so special riding Black Beauty. She felt so high off the ground, sitting tall with a straight back and her head held high.

Yazmin thought, "If Someone loved a horse so much to do this miracle, this same Someone must know and love me too."

There was another horse that Yazmin loved to ride. Her name was Blaze. She was a ginger horse and had a white streak down her nose. Blaze was not as tall as Black Beauty... but she was fast!!

Blaze needed a strong rider on her to stop her from going too fast. Blaze's owner chose Yazmin.

She wanted someone with a strong arm... and a kind heart. Yazmin was so excited!

Blaze didn't like to be told to slow down. And sometimes Yazmin couldn't stop her from running fast. Yazmin enjoyed going fast. She felt like she was flying. A girl and her horse.

One day Yazmin and Blaze were trying some jumps. Blaze jumped so high that Yazmin came out of the saddle and landed on Blaze's neck.

Blaze had Yazmin exactly where she wanted

her... and bent down to drink some water. Yazmin went rolling down Blaze's neck... and splash! She landed in the water trough.

Everyone laughed. Yazmin was so happy! She was not alone!

One night at a horse-riding camp, Yazmin and some girls sat around a campfire. They



listened to Missy. Missy was the owner of Black Beauty and Blaze.

Missy told stories of the great things God had done. Yazmin knew the miracle of Black Beauty. But there were other stories that seemed impossible. But they were true!

Missy then told the girls that there were two prayers that were very important. One was to invite Jesus into their heart. The other was about

the Holy Spirit.

Yazmin's eyes were wide open with excitement. She

knew about Jesus. But who is the Holy Spirit?

Yazmin really wanted to pray the second prayer. But tonight she had to choose the first prayer first. She asked Jesus to come and live in her heart. Right there and then, around that campfire, there was Someone watching over Yazmin. He was so close that she could almost feel it. She now had Jesus living in her heart. Yazmin would never be alone again.





Superpowers

When Jesus left the earth, He said that He would send a Helper. It would be many more years before Yazmin would meet this Helper.

Meanwhile Yazmin grew bigger and stronger. She grew happier and braver. And she always knew that Someone was watching over her.

Then one day Jesus said it was time. Yazmin was learning about Jesus and God. And then the teacher taught about the Holy Spirit.

Yazmin remembered the prayer that she wanted to pray all those



years ago. "Is this it? Can I pray that prayer now?" "Yes!" She heard the answer clearly.

Yazmin invited the Holy Spirit to come and live in her too. Suddenly it was like the Holy Spirit had been there all along but was now moving inside of her.



Years later Yazmin went to an island in the Philippines. It was a small island with chickens and fishermen.

She went to the island with some others to tell people about Jesus. But Yazmin was still very very shy.

Each day the group would make a drama, share a testimony, and someone would teach. Yazmin certainly did not want to talk in front of strangers. Yazmin had a plan.



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Each day the leader asked Yazmin what she wanted to do. Yazmin said, "I will act in the drama!" Yazmin enjoyed acting different parts in the drama. She became someone else.

But one day her plan was discovered. "Yazmin, you can't always act in the drama. Today you will share your testimony."

"Oh no!" thought Yazmin. "I can't do that!" But she did. Yazmin shared her testimony. And it was good.

The next week Yazmin was told, "Today you will teach from the Bible."

"No, you don't understand. I'm just a girl. I don't have any superpowers. It's impossible!" But her leader didn't listen. She just told her to pray.

Yazmin prayed and asked God to do a miracle. "Can You make it rain really hard so that no one will come?" But the sun kept shining.

Next Yazmin asked Father God quietly, "What can I talk about?"

And then it happened.

Yazmin heard that gentle whisper in the wind again! She heard the voice speak to her! The

voice told her which verse to read... and how to tell the story! This was amazing.

Yazmin still hoped it would rain that night and no one would come. But the weather was perfect and many people came! Yazmin was so nervous.

But do you know what? When she stood up, she felt something move inside of her. It was the Holy Spirit. He spoke through Yazmin. And the people understood.



Yazmin discovered a superpower. It was the Holy Spirit! He could even speak through her!

There was Someone smiling down over Yazmin. He was so proud of her being courageous. Yazmin could feel that smile warming her own heart.







Yazmin woke up and wondered why she had dreamt such a strange dream! In the dream she was going to climb a mountain. But she didn't have any clean clothes! So she had to borrow someone else's clothes!

That's a strange dream!

Two weeks later Yazmin had another funny dream.

This time she was getting married... but she couldn't remember who she was marrying! She spent her



wedding day trying to find out who she had said 'yes' to!

"That's embarrassing!"

She quickly forgot about these dreams... but Someone wanted to talk to her about them.

"Yazmin, are you ready for what I have for you?" It was that gentle whisper again.

Yazmin felt excited by this invitation. "If You tell me what it is, I will get ready!"

"Yazmin, are you ready for what I have for you?"

"I want to be. Please tell me what it is so that I can be ready!" Yazmin waited for the gentle whisper to answer. Instead, she heard...

"Yazmin, are you ready for what I have for you?"

Suddenly she remembered the dreams. Clothes. A wedding.

The gentle whisper spoke a little louder this time. "Don't forget the most important thing... closeness with Me."

To be ready for whatever God had for her, she needed this closeness with Him. If Yazmin had this close relationship, she would be ready for whatever God asked her to do that day! He could ask her to clean dishes or to teach a thousand people. And she would be ready... if she had this closeness.

Yazmin desperately needed this closeness with God. She needed this superpower. But she would need to work hard for this one.






Y azmin was learning so much about God and Jesus and about the Holy Spirit. But she was still a little girl trying to survive in the big scary world.

"Ask Jesus for a picture." The instruction was simple but the game seemed too difficult.

"What do you mean, 'Ask Jesus for a picture'?"

"Just close your eyes... ask... and trust that what you see is from Jesus."

"A rabbit?! A ball? And a red umbrella?! Oh no, I'm never going to learn this!" Yazmin was so embarrassed.

This superpower was so special. This superpower is what all superheros have superpowers for... to help others in need.

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Yazmin didn't realise that there was Someone so excited for her to learn this new superpower.

Yazmin enjoyed this new game. They were all learning together. Sometimes God showed them a picture, or led them to a bible verse, or spoke one word.

Each time Yazmin asked Jesus what He wanted to say, she felt His big love for the person she was praying for. Yazmin learned about Jesus'

love more and more.

Her own heart was being filled to overflowing with this great love!

Yazmin learnt to tell others how much Jesus loves them. She learnt to feel God's heart for people and to encourage them in what Jesus loves about them.

Yazmin loved this new superpower. It made her feel so close to Jesus.

> Each time she prayed for someone else, she would feel Jesus' love

flowing from Jesus... through her... and to the other person.

Actually, this superpower is just knowing Jesus as a friend and spending time getting to know Him more each day. It's like growing in closeness with God.

Yazmin not only had a new superpower. She also had a new friend: Jesus.







Yazmin was having so much fun. Each time she prayed for someone, she was filled with love. She felt that Someone was watching over her and was filling her with His love for her.

Yazmin wanted to meet this Someone one day. And so Someone decided to introduce Himself to Yazmin.

Yazmin sat on a boat in the early morning. She sang a sweet song thanking Jesus for all He had done.

And as she sang, the words of the song changed. She was now singing to a Father who seemed so far away.

And the more she sang the closer He came. And she kept singing until she couldn't sing anymore.

She stopped mid-sentence when her heart was about to burst. This Father... her Father... this Someone who loved her dearly... had actually entered her heart!

Her heart was so full that it could have burst. But instead of her heart bursting, the tears burst from her eyes... not from pain... but from love.

Yazmin had met her Someone who had been watching over her all these years. She could now call Him Father.



The briefcase people * * *

Yazmin had another dream. There was a big room. And there were many, many people standing in line in front of a desk.

They were all dressed in suits. And each person held a briefcase. They were all waiting for their turn to talk to the boss.

In her dream, Yazmin saw herself walking into the room. She wasn't wearing a suit and didn't have a briefcase. She was just a little girl wearing cute denim jeans.

As she walked into the room, the man behind the desk stood up. It was God! He said to everyone, "The office is now closed. My Daughter is here, and I want to spend time with her."

The briefcase people all had to leave because her Daddy just wanted to be with her. Yazmin then understood the dream.

The briefcase people all wanted to be with their Father. But they thought they needed a suit and a briefcase to have a reason to come to Him.

Yazmin learnt that day what her Father really wanted. He wanted His little girl with no superpowers to know she was welcome anytime.

Father would stop everything just to be with her. He had been watching over her since before she was born.

And now she knew. Yazmin was just a little girl surrounded by Father God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. She felt like she had all the superpowers any girl could wish for.



Super Girl

Yazmin could now walk into scary situations and know that she had exactly what she

needed... Closeness with her Father!

Yazmin continued to grow in strength and in love with Jesus. She grew in courage knowing she was not alone.

She didn't need superpowers to be Super Girl. She needed Father God, and Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. They are the true Superheros of this story.





The End... to be continued by you...



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