

HE ALWAYS HEARS

A Story of Loss and
the Hope of Things Made New



Written by Alyson Punzi

Illustrated by Tyler Charlton

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He Always Hears: A Story of Loss and the Hope of Things Made New

© 2025 by Alyson Punzi

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Published by Crossway

1300 Crescent Street
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

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Cover and interior artwork: Tyler Charlton

Art direction: Erik M. Peterson

First printing 2025

Printed in China

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-4335-9628-5

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Punzi, Alyson, 1997– author. | Charlton, Tyler, illustrator.

Title: He Always Hears : A Story of Loss and the Hope of Things Made New / by Alyson Punzi ; illustrated by Tyler Charlton.

Description: Wheaton, Illinois : Crossway, [2025] | Audience: Ages 3–8

Identifiers: LCCN 2024041543 | ISBN 9781433596285 (hardcover)

Subjects: LCSH: Grief—Religious aspects—Christianity—Juvenile literature. | Hope—Religious aspects—Christianity—Juvenile literature. | Consolation—Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC BV4906 .P86 2025 | DDC 242/.62—dc23/eng/20241031

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024041543>

Crossway is a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

RRDS			34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25		
15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Lois, may you hold fast to our true hope.

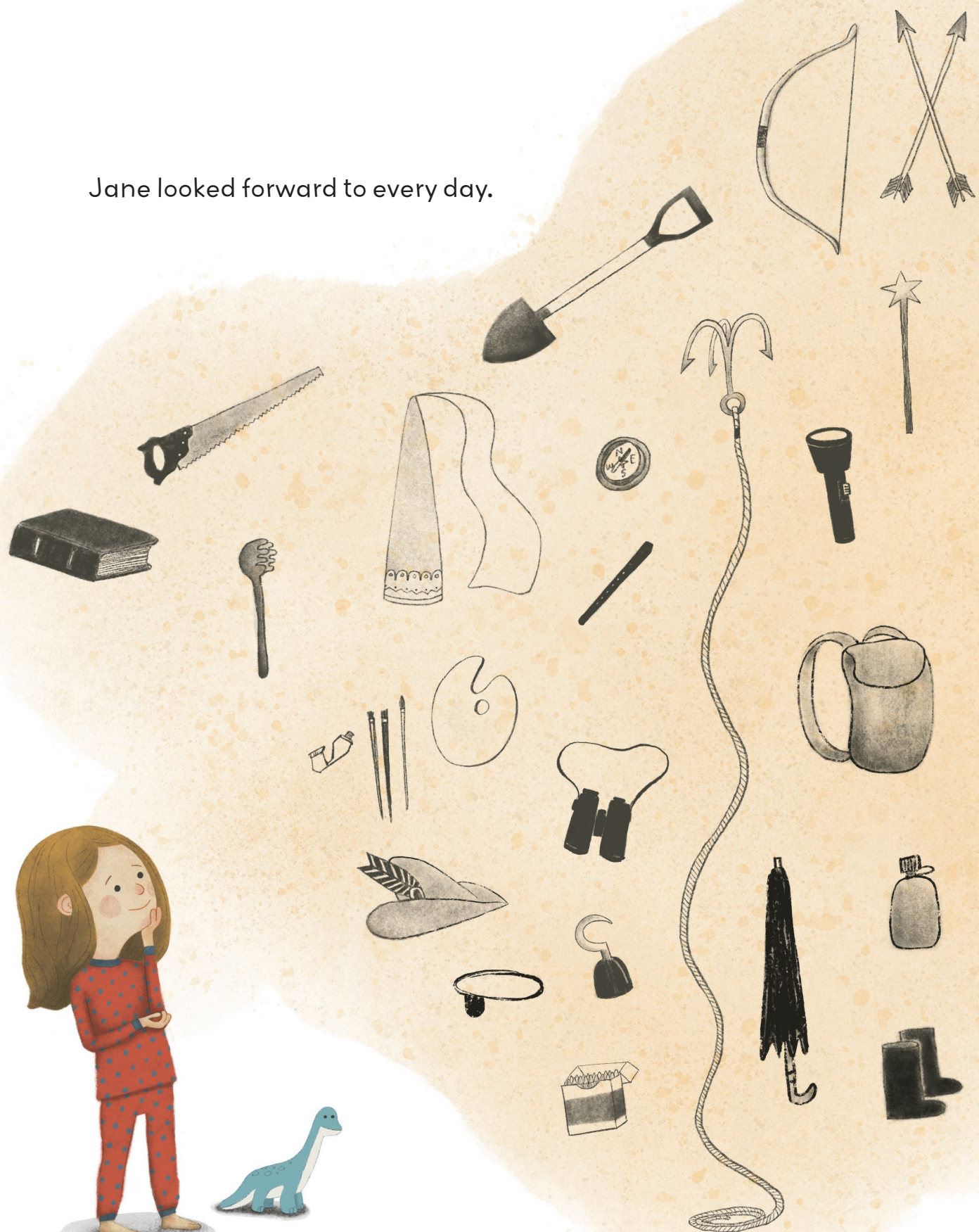
Frank, thank you for faithfully hoping in Christ in life and death.

–Alyson

For Sarah. For Chelsea. For James.

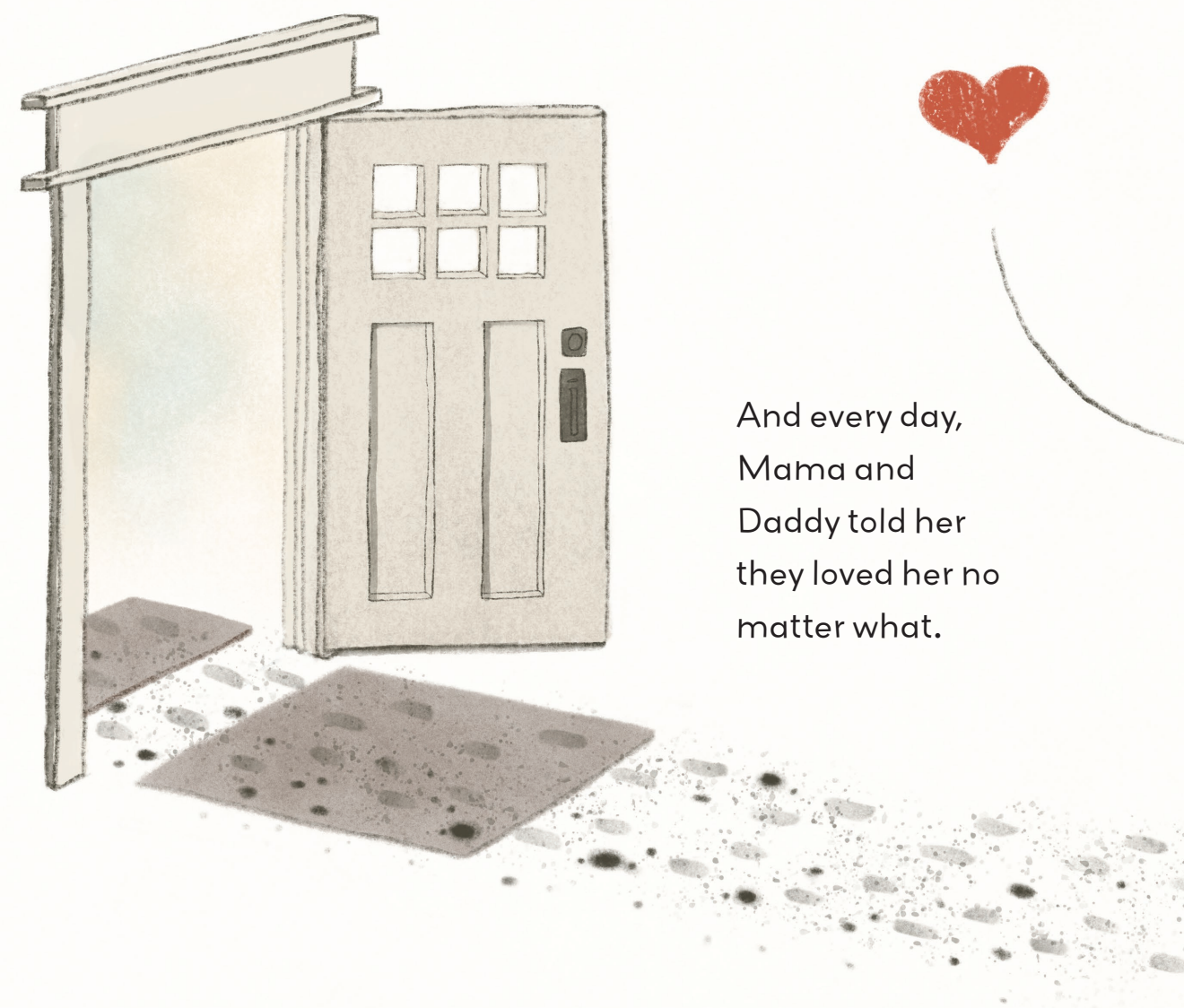
–Tyler

Jane looked forward to every day.





She had fun friends and amazing adventures. She loved looking for rocks and jumping in puddles.



And every day, Mama and Daddy told her they loved her no matter what.



On each and every adventure,
Jane brought Tom. He always
knew the best places for finding
the biggest puddles.

But one rainy morning,
Tom got really dirty.

Mama scrubbed and soaked
and washed, but no amount of
soap could help.

Jane scrunched her nose and
stomped her foot. "He's ruined!"



Daddy hugged Jane.

"It hurts when things are ruined. But you know what? We can take a deep breath and talk to God. He's with us and always hears our cries. You can tell him how much it hurts. Remember . . .

**Because God made and saved us,
we hope in what is true:
he promises that, one day,
what's broken, he'll make new."**





Jane looked down, squeezed
Tom tight, and sighed.

He sure doesn't look like new.

Note to Grown-Ups

When my daughter was only two years old, her father (my husband) died of leukemia. He had been diagnosed a mere twelve weeks earlier after suffering a stroke. While this book you’re holding does not describe the specific events our family experienced, the story of loss and lament it tells is one I know intimately.

It’s hard to watch our children hurt. But the kissing of boo-boos and consoling of nightmares doesn’t surprise us, because we know how much living in a broken world can hurt. We’ve lived long enough to know sorrows we hope our children will never face, but whether through a lost toy or the death of a loved one, our children already know our world is broken.

We have a grace to offer our kids, a pathway to hope and comfort. This grace is *lament*.

Lament is crying out to God about what it feels like to live in a broken world.

This is the story we get to teach our children, to show them the way through this life with our hope firmly placed on who God is, what he has done, and what he has promised.

God made us.

When God made the world, he made it perfect. But when the first people sinned, our world broke. Because our world is broken, we lose things we love and people we love. Because we are broken, we don’t love God or others like we should. It’s sad to live in a broken world.

God saved us.

But God promised to fix all the brokenness. God the Father sent God the Son to come and rescue us from our sin and make us new. Jesus came and died so that we could be forgiven of our sin. But Jesus didn’t stay dead. He rose to life again, defeating death!

Everyone who believes in Jesus has their broken hearts made unbroken.

After Jesus rose from the dead, he returned to heaven and promised that one day he would come back and fix all the brokenness. Everyone who loves him will live with him in a new, perfect world, where nothing and no one will be broken again.

We can tell God how much it hurts.

But for now, while we wait, our world is still broken. Sometimes we are so sad that we feel like yelling, “Why, God?”

This is what Jesus did. When he was on the cross, his body and his heart hurt. And he cried out to God.

We can cry out to God about what it feels like to live in a broken world. We can tell him when we are sad, when we are numb, when we are angry, and when we just don’t understand why things are the way they are.

He promises that, one day, what’s broken, he’ll make new.

We can cry out to God because he always hears us and always keeps his promises. He kept his promise to save us from our sin, and he will keep his promise to fix all the brokenness.

Sometimes it’s hard to believe that God always keeps his promises, but God the Spirit is with us, he prays for us, and he helps us believe that God keeps his promises.

He loves us.

He’s good to us.

He will, one day, fix all the brokenness.

Scripture for Further Study

Genesis 1–3 | Psalm 22:1, 24 | Psalm 42 | Matthew 27:46
Mark 15:34 | Revelation 5 | Revelation 21:1–5 | Revelation 22:20

