



Three years earlier, he had built a private elementary school for boys and girls. He called it the Khushal School. He was the teacher. Ziauddin planned to build more schools, then more and more. A high school for girls, another for boys, until every child in Mingora had a place to learn.

Ziauddin had grown up in a religious Muslim family. His father was a teacher. He taught Ziauddin that children were sacred, and all children needed to learn. He explained that it was important to help others. Ziauddin listened.



Her school would soon close, she said, covering her face, trying not to cry. She wanted to be a doctor. Doctors must study for many years. How could she ever realize her dream if there was no school to go to?

In January 2009, the Taliban did the very thing that Malala had been dreading. All girls'

schools would close for good on January 15. Boys' schools would stay open, but girls would have to remain at home.

On January 14, when school was over, Malala said good-bye to Moniba and all her other friends. No one knew what would happen next.

Malala spent the days reading, getting into fights with her brothers, and talking to the BBC reporter.



She spent lots of time creating different hairstyles for herself. She wished she wasn't so short. And she really enjoyed going to school—just like billions of other kids. Yet her love of learning was the reason she had been shot.

Malala was alive, yet remained very ill. Everyone at the hospital was worried about her. The operation was a success. Still, the doctors knew she would need the best care to recover completely. Malala was flown to a bigger hospital in Pakistan. She didn't remember that, either.

Soon Malala improved enough to be moved once again—this time to a hospital in Birmingham, England, that specialized in injuries like hers.

Chapter 7

All I Want Is an Education

On October 16, Malala woke up. A week before, she had been singing on a school bus in Mingora. Now she was in England, more than four thousand miles from home. Nothing seemed familiar.



Malala looked around and realized that she was in a hospital. The doctors and nurses were speaking English. She couldn't talk, because the doctors had