

The Middle

A story written for all children currently living through scary, sad and difficult times.

Dedicated to the children in Ukraine.

Anna is a little girl with a very special gift. You see, Anna has a magical pen that writes down all the stories of her life. When she was very little it wrote stories about tall towers that she built with colourful blocks, adventures to fun new places with her family, and her very first day at school. As she grew older, her stories changed, they were longer and more complicated, but they always had a happy ending.

But one day, a very scary story began. There was barely time to write it down, and no time to make sense of it. All she knew was that terrible things were happening, and she had to run away. In all of the chaos and the running and the hiding, any pages that did get written were all muddled up. Some were lost, and others torn. All that was left was a big, jumbled mess of words and paper and lots and lots of tears.

When she finally stopped running, she was exhausted, scared, and very sad. She looked at the muddled, torn pieces of her story, and cried. It was such a scary, sad, and jumbled up story. None of it seemed to make any sense at all.

“I HATE this story,” she sobbed.

Her magic pen saw her crying, floated up into the air, and began to write to her:

“Oh Anna. I know this is a very sad, scary, muddled up story, of course you hate it, but it isn’t finished yet.”

“But how could this story ever have a happy ending?” she asked the pen.



“Honestly, I don't know. Some things are too hard to write about, or to figure out, especially when you're right in *The Middle*. You're still in *The Middle* of this story, so there isn't ANY kind of ending yet.”

“So what do I do?” Anna cried.

She just wanted a happy story with a happy ending.

The magic pen explained that it wasn't easy to be in *The Middle* of a story, especially a scary, sad, muddled up one. But there were things that could make living through *The Middle* a little bit easier.

“Like what?” Anna asked.

The magic pen stopped writing, and simply pointed her towards someone she loved very much, then, it pointed towards some of the things she loved very much, and finally, it pointed towards all of the people who were helping them.

The magic pen hadn't written a word, but Anna understood its message. She went straight to the person she loved very much, and let herself be wrapped up in a big, warm hug.

“I'm scared, and sad,” she told her special person.

“I know. Me too,” they said, “but we are here together, and I love you very much. I will always do everything I can to keep you safe and make you feel better.”

Being scared and sad and in *The Middle* was hard, but when she was with someone she loved, that made it a little easier.



Anna and her special person read happy stories, sang songs, and played games. It was still hard to be scared and sad and in The Middle, but doing things she loved, with someone she loved, that made it a little easier.

Then Anna looked and found that while there were lots of scary villains in this story, there were also lots of heroes. Being scared and sad and in The Middle was still hard, but seeing all the heroes, all the good characters, all the people helping, that made it a little easier too.

Now I know that most stories finish with “The End” but this story is going to finish with “The Middle” instead.

Anna’s story doesn't have a happy ending just yet, but even in The Middle she is finding ways to make it a little easier. Even in The Middle she knows that she is brave, and loved and that there are heroes in her story already.

- The Middle