

Resembling Jesus: Plot Summary

In book one of the five-book series, Purple Trees and a Will to Believe, Sybille and her younger twin brothers Sander and Solomon have just lost their mother to cancer. They are raised by a physically, mentally, and emotionally abusive alcoholic father who frequently beats them with a belt, a small wrench from his garage, and an ironing cord.

Randall Smith is now imprisoned for child abuse and domestic violence. His 11-year-old daughter Sybille Smith visits him for the first time since he was taken away in handcuffs. The middle grade novelette takes readers on a coming-of-age journey. Find out what Sybille thinks of her father Randall Smith after working up the courage to confront him at the close of book two, Prisoner. Follow along in book three, Resembling Jesus as she works through feelings of anger, grief, sadness, and despair while braving the frightening world of Temecula Valley Correctional Facility.

In its entirety, Resembling Jesus takes readers on a journey through the harsh reality of a correctional facility for drug dealers, burglars, child abusers, and murderers. Sybille is faced with a plethora of challenges, among them working through her own inner turmoil following her father's arrest. The story documents visiting hours with the inmates, where Sybille is given an opportunity to converse one-on-one with her abuser.

Sybille believes her father resembles Jesus, however not because he has the compassionate characteristics of Christ but because she WANTS him to have those characteristics. She learns that sometimes who you WANT someone to be and who they actually are, are totally different things. The story closes with Sybille's father apologizing for the pain he has caused his family. The simplistic, "I'm sorry," is symbolic of what is to come in a future series book. Tune in to find out!