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EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL

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Find Beauty Everywhere

Life is beautiful.

We say it all the time. Our Instagram feeds are full of picturesque scenes where the light shines just perfectly so our go-to filter makes our surroundings look like they came from something out of a Tolkien novel. We talk to our coworkers about our beautiful adventures outside of work, we tell the most adorable stories of our children, and we make sure we humblebrag about the sweet, romantic gesture our husbands made last weekend.

But no one sees the fight you two had before he got you those flowers. No one sees you losing your temper after your kids kept banging on the bathroom door asking for a snack—because apparently using the bathroom in peace is an outrageous request. No one sees how hard you fought to get out of bed under the crushing weight of depression, and no one is there to watch you try to picture your life after a terrifying diagnosis. When the entire world seems to be embroiled in war, injustice, and disease, it can be hard to see real beauty anywhere—despite the perfect image we curate online.

We live on an unwell earth, and each moment of brokenness only serves to remind us of that fact. Any attempt at finding hope, beauty, or anything remotely good to cling to can sometimes feel like an impossible task. But you and I serve a big God. We serve a God who can't be held back by what ails this earth. We serve a God who promises to give us "a crown of beauty instead of ashes" (Isaiah 61:3).

Our God is one who redeems.

Still, in the midst of the brokenness of this world, that can be hard to remember. The hope for this book is that, as you color and meditate on the words, you are gently reminded of the beauty that can still be found in the bleakest of moments and that this book becomes a bit of a lifeline to remind you our Savior is always there with us. We also hope this book reminds you He has the power to redeem every moment of our lives. Yes, this world is broken, but our Jesus is not.

Music can often express our feelings better than mere words, which is why we created a Spotify playlist called "Everything Beautiful," for which you'll find a link in the back of the book. Play the music while

you color, play it on your morning commute, play it when you're feeling trapped in darkness, or simply play it whenever you need to be reminded of the beauty Christ has made from the ashes of this earth.

Of course, it can be easiest to revel in the beauty of this earth when we're spending time with those we love. Grab a group of friends, pop on the playlist, and be reminded of Christ's goodness in a new way. We'd love for you to talk about your coloring adventures on social media too; use the hashtag #EverythingBeautifulBook to join the conversation.

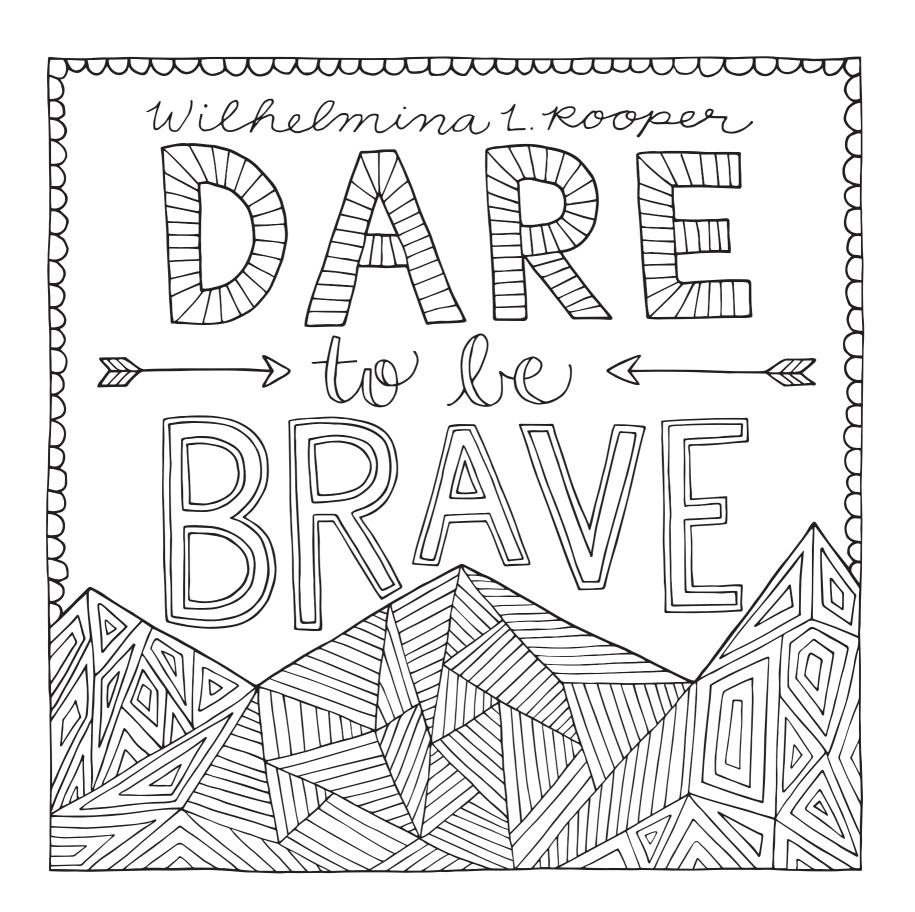
Everything Beautiful is about finding beauty in the everyday, the mundane, the broken, and the scary. May this book and the phrases from hymns, scriptures, preachers, teachers, and writers remind you that our God is good, our God is Redeemer, our God loves us, and our God has made everything beautiful.

#EverythingBeautifulBook

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"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end." —Ecclesiastes 3:11



Dare to Be Brave

by Wilhelmina L. Rooper

Dare to be brave, dare to be true; Strive for the right, for the Lord is with you; Fight with sin bravely, fight and be strong; Christ is your captain; fear only what's wrong. Bear pain if it comes, with firmness endure, Hold to your honor, keep your heart pure.

Refrain

Refrain

Fight then, good soldiers, fight and be brave; Christ is your captain, mighty to save. Dare to be brave, dare to be true; Keep the straight way of duty ever in view; Do all your work as well as you can, Work for the Lord, not only for man.

Dare to be brave, dare to be true, Hearken to conscience, 'tis God's voice in you; Though comrades deride and leave you forlorn, Stand like the hero, unshaken by scorn. Refrain

Refrain

Dare to be brave, dare to be true; God grant you courage to carry you through; Try to help others, ever be kind; Let the oppressed a strong friend in you find.

Dare to be brave, dare to be true; God is your Father: He watches o'er you; He knows your trials; when your heart quails, Call Him to rescue, His grace never fails. Refrain

Refrain

Dare to be brave, dare to be true, Think of the home that's waiting for you; Home where the faithful whose battles are o'er Rest in the Lord in joy evermore.

Dare to be brave, dare to be true, Shun all dishonor, no mean action do; Refrain

Wilhelmina L. Rooper penned this hymn in 1889.



"I am trying, and will be trying every day for the rest of my life, to look for lovely in the simplest places and the grandest moments. But I'm not always succeeding. I'm that guy on the football team who rarely catches a pass, but the team likes him because he still shows up for practice every day."

—From Looking for Lovely by Annie F. Downs (Nashville: B&H, 2016), 179

Annie F. Downs is an author, speaker, and blogger who uses her writing to highlight the everyday goodness of a real and present God. Read her blog at AnnieFDowns.com.

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