



## JULIAN'S STORY

When Julian, a young girl from Kampala, Uganda, loses her father, she struggles along with her mom and siblings to survive. Her dad's family takes everything from them except their tiny home in an alley behind a brewery. Drunken men fight in the alley. They break into the homes, taking whatever they want. Desperate to find a way to survive, Julian's mom takes her out of school so she can help sell sweet potatoes in the market. Julian gives up hope that she will ever have any value. She begins to think that her only means of surviving, her only way to help her family, is to be sold into marriage by the time she is 14.

Miraculously, Julian and her sister join a local Compassion program. She meets other children like herself. Through the Compassion workers and letters from her sponsors, she begins to see that she is more than a poor girl in the slums. She is more than a beautiful bride for sale. She is loved by God. When she and her sister go to boarding school, Julian excels in her studies. While life has improved dramatically, money is still tight. Julian must study at home, behind the brewery, in order to finish school ... or she could marry and collect the dowry for her family. Through the help of Compassion, she sees that God still has big things in store for her.

**Sensitive topics:** *alluding to drugs and alcohol, poverty*

## RUBEN'S STORY

In Cochabamba, Bolivia, young Ruben and his sister, together with their mom, flee in the middle of the night in order to escape an abusive father and his escalating violence. With nowhere to turn, they live wherever they can. By age 6, Ruben is shining shoes and doing whatever he can to help support his family. It's not enough to get meals every day and pay rent. He envies the life of the street kids, who live on their own.

When Ruben finds out about a local Compassion-assisted child development center, he doesn't dare dream he can get in. He visits and meets Norma, a strong, godly, loving woman. Ruben enters the program. His life and the life of his family are dramatically altered by the support and correspondence of his sponsor. Norma helps Ruben catch up to the other students in his school. God is moving powerfully in his life... until Ruben must decide between life on the streets of Cochabamba ... and the life that God has planned for him.

**Sensitive topics:** *domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, poverty*