

## *Introduction*

**I LOVE THE HISTORY** of Joseph as told in the book of Genesis. In the years since my own divorce, Genesis 50:20 has become my life's verse: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people." Sometimes God brings us through some pretty bad experiences, including a rotten marriage or a difficult divorce, not to harm us, but because He plans to use our lives to save others.

That is Joseph's story. It is mine as well. Nothing that I've gone through happened in vain. What should have harmed me and left me bitter and angry has made me more dependent on God and my faith in His promises. Now I look for ways to use everything for good. I walk redeemed, and I share my story here so others can as well. I do not sugarcoat my own story or pretend it was easy. Like Joseph, I struggled. I spent nights crying out to God for mercy. I felt so very alone, and oftentimes I actually was. I share the raw truths with you because they are part of my story, just as much as the end results.

Joseph had a dream that his brothers would bow down to him someday, but God never told Joseph what he would have to endure while he waited. For twenty-two years he struggled, yet his integrity never wavered. He never wallowed in self-pity or schemed up ways to escape his circumstances. Instead he held tightly to that dream of a new identity given to him by God while giving his best in all that he did, no matter where he was. He was anointed for just such a purpose. *Oh, if only it were so easy to*

## YOU CAN SURVIVE DIVORCE by JEN GRICE

*read about Joseph's anointed life once and keep the faith ourselves in the darkness of divorce.*

Thankfully God doesn't expect us to carry our burdens on our own. Paul told us to share in each other's burdens as a way to obey the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2). When we feel weighed down or crushed by the weight of it all, hearing someone else's story of survival and eventual state of thriving can bring us hope, if we let it. That's my plan for this book.

If you are newly separated, going through a divorce, or recently divorced, I want to encourage you today with hope that you can survive after divorce. Like Joseph, we have no idea of the trials we will face in the future, or when we'll have to flee from sin, but we can be sure that God keeps His promises and will never abandon us.

*We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.*

—2 Corinthians 4:8–10

Friend, I've been knocked down, I've felt the pressures from all sides, and it felt like I might be destroyed by it all. Divorce is a tough-as-nails season of life, but I'm here to tell you I've survived. You can too, and your life may even be better for it. I have faith in you as you journey through your season of divorce, that the path before you will bring you to a better place for you and your children. I have faith in the One who allows divorce to happen, faith that there is some greater purpose in all of this, and that someday we shall all see it.