

MALALA

TALIBAN SHOOT 15-YEAR-OLD SCHOOLGIRL



It was October the 9th, 2012. Fifteen-year-old Malala walked out of her school in Mingora, Pakistan, and onto the bus. As it drove her home through the busy streets of the city, she talked with the other girls on the bus about the test at school that day. Then they started singing a song.

When they were about five minutes from Malala's home, the driver stopped. There were two men with guns in front of the bus. They had long white clothes. They were Taliban!

The men walked onto the bus and shouted, 'Who is Malala?'

The girls said nothing, but some gave Malala a frightened look. That was enough for the men.

One of them walked close to Malala and shot her in the head.

CHAPTER 1 A GIRL IN SWAT VALLEY

When Tor Pekai Yousafzai had her first child, her friends were sad for her. The child was a girl. It was 1997 and Tor Pekai lived with her husband Ziauddin in Mingora, the biggest city in Pakistan's beautiful Swat Valley. When there's a new little boy in Swat Valley, the father asks friends and family to a big lunch. People give the baby clothes and money. But when a little girl arrives, the father doesn't tell anyone. It's a sad day for the family.

Luckily for Malala, her father was different from other men in Swat Valley. He was very happy with his daughter. A son, Kushal, arrived two years later, and a second son, Atal, five years after that. But her father always loved talking to Malala and teaching her things.



Children playing on the streets in Mingora

A lot of girls in Pakistan didn't go to school.

'They're going to cook and clean for their husband when they're older,' said their fathers. 'They don't need an education.'