

Malala the

The true story of a teen girl who almost died for her right to go to school

BY KRISTIN LEWIS

October 9, 2012, was an ordinary afternoon in the Swat Valley in northern Pakistan. Malala Yousafzai [yoo-suf-ZEYE], 15, was on a school bus waiting to go home. Suddenly, two gunmen in masks appeared.

“Who is Malala?” one of them yelled.

A feeling of terror filled the bus. Then the gunmen opened fire. One bullet hit Malala’s head. Two of Malala’s friends were struck in their arms. Then the gunmen ran off, leaving Malala to die.

It might be difficult to understand why anyone would try to murder an innocent girl on her way home from school. But some people in Pakistan did not view Malala for what she was: a bright and kind teenager. They saw her as a dangerous threat to their way of life.

Malala had been fighting for the right for all girls to go to school—work that made her famous around the world.

It also made her a target of an evil group of **terrorists** called the Taliban.



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PAUSE AND THINK: Why were people trying to kill Malala?



▶ ONLINE EXTRA

Get inspired with our video all about Malala!