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## El Roi: God Sees!

*Jaye Sawyer*

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**Jaye Sawyer : El Roi: God Sees!** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised El Roi: God Sees!:

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My children always ask me what my life was like when I was a child. They seem to have the idea that I was born into a home filled with riches! I know that they are correct, however, I also realize that they are not expressing the term “filled with riches” the same way as I interpret it. It was this type of thinking that prompted my use of free time during retirement to write my autobiography. However, I ran into a stone wall at first, because I did not know where to start! There were no images that came into my mind at first; however, there were a lot of memories. Each memory seemed to prompt a place in my life, which included a particular environment. The sounds, the sights, the individuals all flooded into my mind. It was all prompted by the fact that as a family, we kept moving from place to place! In all those scenes, which took place in that little town, I was growing up, as well as the little town. Our family moved so many times that I will leave it up to the reader to keep count! My brain surprised me, as it seemed to have no difficulty dragging out even smells in some cases, whose odors still make me feel nauseous! Dialogue seemed to come to me in such a way that I felt as though I were an onlooker instead of a storyteller! Was all this real, or was it a storyteller's device? Was I perhaps dreaming? However, there was one constant in all the moving from place to place. There was one incessant that made the whole disorganized movement worthwhile: the presence of God! As I tried to relate my story, I found it just could not be amply told without mentioning God's presence. It brings to mind the song sung by Gladys Knight and the Pips. God is certainly “the best thing that ever happened to me!”

About the Author After graduating from Yale Divinity School, Hartford Seminary, and raising five children, starting a street ministry, and pastoring for almost eleven years, Jaye began to reflect upon her humble beginnings, all of which showed the presence of God in her life. From the incubator to her present location in a town in Georgia, so similar to where her life actually began in Connecticut, she realizes that she owes so much to the Norwalk community, yet even here in her new home, there is the feeling of *déjà vu*. There have been many setbacks and disappointments, yet as Jaye looks back, she realizes that she can say, without a doubt, “El Roi: God sees! Within the vicissitudes of fortunes, coupled with a parental background that many would never mention, political exigencies, ways of life, monetary or financial standings, and possibly any other term that Webster's Dictionary might impose on circumstances in general, it is by the grace of God that we are who we are. What we do with those factors, these events, seem to be honed by what we employ in order to produce a clearer focus. Jaye believes that the fine edge comes from keeping our lives in line with the Word of God, wherein we begin to understand the circumstances of this life, no matter how distorted they may have seemed at that moment. How they are filtered causes the placement of those items behind closed doors, wherein they become the skeletons, which she calls nightmares. Though this endeavor was primarily written for Jaye's immediate family, she hopes that others will be able to embrace their own past experiences that make them family, no matter how painful at times and shameful those experiences might be. It is these experiences, this thing called life, that shows the uniqueness of each of us, yet God is aware of all our circumstances.