

LaTesa and the Hallway Lesson

A Story About Respect and Confidence



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≡ Page 1: The New Girl ≡



LaTesa was new to middle school. She wasn't loud. She wasn't flashy. She didn't try to be popular. Every morning she followed her grandad's advice: "Go to school, be polite, learn everything, and go home."

So that's exactly what she did. She found her classes, kept her head down, and tried very hard not to get lost in the maze of hallways that felt bigger than a theme park.

Middle school was... a lot.



Page 2: The Mean Girls



At that school, everyone knew Tiana and Brooke. They walked the hall like they owned it. Hair always perfect. Smirks always ready. Laughter always pointed at someone else. They weren't the smartest in class, but they were experts at making other people feel small. And sadly, that was exactly what they liked doing. *Foto* They called it "joking." Everyone else called it something else.

Page 3: First Contact



One morning, LaTesa was walking to class when Tiana ‘accidentally’ bumped into her. Her books shifted in her arms.

“Watch where you’re going,” Tiana said with a smirk.

“Oh—sorry,” LaTesa replied politely even though it didn’t feel like her fault.

Brooke giggled. “Yeah, be careful.”

And they walked away like nothing happened.

LaTesa stood there for a second, then quietly picked up her books and kept going.

But something about the moment didn’t sit right in her mind.

Page 4: Noticing Things



The next day, it happened again. And the next. Same smirks.
Same 'accidents.' Same laughter.
LaTesa wasn't loud, but she wasn't clueless either. She started paying attention. She noticed how Tiana and Brooke talked to other students. How they rolled their eyes at teachers.
How they picked people who seemed too quiet to fight back.
LaTesa's expression changed just a little. Not angry. Just... aware.

Page 5: The Quiet Plan



LaTesa remembered something else her parents always said:

“Treat people how you want to be treated.”

She wasn't the type to start trouble.

But she also wasn't the type to stay unaware.

So instead of shrinking back,
she started walking a little more confidently.

Still polite. Still calm. But alert.

And she stopped being an easy target.

The hallways didn't feel as big anymore.



Page 6: Day Three



Tiana and Brooke decided it would be funny to try their usual trick again. They whispered and grinned as they walked down the hall, planning their 'accidental' bump. LaTesa saw them coming. She adjusted her grip on her books. And stepped slightly to the side at just the right moment. Not dramatic. Not loud. Just... aware.

☆ Page 7: The Unexpected Moment ♡



The two girls rushed forward expecting the same result as before.
But LaTesa's simple step caused them to lose their timing.
Tiana bumped into Brooke instead of LaTesa.
Books flew. Shoes slid. A backpack spun like it was auditioning for a dance show.
And both girls ended up on the floor in the middle of the hallway.
The hallway went silent... for exactly half a second.
Then laughter erupted.
Not cruel laughter—just shocked, unexpected middle school laughter.

Page 8: The Lesson Spoken



LaTesa walked over. She wasn't smiling meanly. She wasn't shouting.
She just looked down at them calmly.

"You should always treat people how you want to be treated," she said.

"Because it comes back one way or another."

Then she paused. "Enjoy the rest of your day."

And she walked away.

No extra words. No drama. Just truth.

Page 9: The Aftershock



Tiana and Brooke got up slowly. Their faces were red—not from falling, but from realizing something worse: Everyone had seen it. No one was afraid of them in that moment. And LaTesa's words weren't harsh... which somehow made them hit harder. For once, there was no laughter at someone else. Just silence. Later that day, neither girl said much. Something had shifted.

Page 10: A Different Kind of Popular



The next week was different. Tiana and Brooke weren't suddenly perfect—but they were quieter. Less sharp with their words. Less interested in targeting people. And LaTesa? She still went to school, still followed her grandad's advice, still minded her business. But now, a few students started saying 'hi.' Middle school didn't magically become easy. But it became a little kinder. And sometimes, that's how change starts.



About the Story



LaTesa is the new girl in middle school, just trying to follow her grandad's advice. But when she becomes the target of the school's meanest girls, she must find a way to stand her ground without losing her kindness.

Moral of the Story:

Respect is something you give—and something you earn. The strongest lessons are taught with calm confidence and truth.



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