



JOI WALKER

'Owdy! My name is Joi Walker. I am the age of 12 and in the sixth grade. I grew up without my biological parents. I am a great freestyler and a Libra all day, okay?

I NEVER KNEW

Based on a real story

“I just couldn’t help it,” I said angrily, fussing to get through the door. “He keeps *bothering me! Let me go!*” I shouted. The boy kept making faces at me like he was constipated or lost. As every moment progressed, anger hit me by the minute. While the anger cycle happened, it felt like Godzilla was over my soul. My strength was like an ape. The circulation in my fingers went away. I felt pain in my stomach as if I’d been punched back to back, and I stopped breathing.

Teachers all at one time tried to calm me down. Then I went down on my knees and just started crying constantly because of the pain in my stomach and all my own yelling. I never knew I had it in me. I’d never seen this side of me. I was very scared.

“Y’all can’t stop me, and I ain’t going to quit!” I yelled. Getting up, I saw my crush, blushed, then got back to anger. Fought my hardest to get through the teachers, but they were too strong.

Then the officer came. That’s when I stopped. He walked me toward the office. Put me in a room for me to calm down. I was alone and saw nothing but walls, grey, hard carpet, a window, and one chair.

“Can I call my Grandma?” I asked as a tear rolls down my eye. Wondering, *What’s taking them so long to let me call my parent?* I was very angry. I started to think to myself, *I just lost my mind.* Didn’t know who I was at that moment.

“Can I speak to the counselor?” I asked the lady at the front desk impatiently. I went back to see the counselor, but still ain’t talking to her. She was busy and told me to go to class and get my food. I did, and then I had to stay with another teacher all day working on a math packet until she took me back to the office.

Again, I waited. About one hour later, the counselor talked to me, asked if I could let it go.

“I don’t know,” I responded.

She stated that she was going to suspend me if I didn’t let it go, so I decided to say, “I’ll let it go.”

Of course, I’m upset as can be, but I’m better off not being around foolery. I never knew I had it in me.