

# Get Up or Stay

On the day of the 1st of December, 1955, seven-year-old DeShawn Brown and his mother Ms. Brown were excited to visit their Ms. Brown's parents. Last year, Deshawn's father died of lung cancer. It was a tragic death, but DeShawn's family was getting through it thanks to the grace of the Lord. DeShawn wanted to go visit his grandma since it was her birthday. He had a birthday card for his grandma. His mom, decided to ride the Montgomery, Alabama bus since she wanted her son to get the feeling of riding on a bus. Ms. Brown wanted DeShawn to understand what blacks go through to ride the bus and how it's segregated. DeShawn was jumping with joy after hearing the news that he would ride the Montgomery, Alabama bus for the first time.

On the day of the 1st of December, 1955, eight-year-old Hunter, and his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, were ready to drop Hunter off at home with his older brother Jack after a long day of business work. Hunter's parents hadn't always been around, and his brother always picked on him. He prayed to God about a change for the family to be more loving towards each other. Hunter didn't want to go home with Jack since he knew he would just be a slave to his older brother. His parents didn't care how he felt when it came to his brother or his personal life challenges.. His parents decided they would ride the Montgomery, Alabama bus after a long day at work. Hunter wanted to ask his parents why blacks and whites had to be separated on the bus, but he knew they wouldn't answer since they were always too busy for him.

The time for Deshawn and his mother to get on the bus was 4:00 p.m. It was only 3:55 and he was asking Ms. Brown when the bus was going to be here, and complaining that it was way too windy. The bus arrived just on time, and DeShawn dashed into the bus so fast until he saw the looks of all the adults already on the bus but especially from people in the front of the bus. The bus was very tremendous. The front was alluring and very colorful while the back of the bus looked a little dirty and seemed very dark and old. He stood in dreadful fear. There were adults whispering to each other and giving striking looks towards him and his mother since DeShawn had been so loud. Ms. Brown lightly moved him to the front row of the black seats. She told him not to draw too much attention to himself DeShawn listened to his mother, but felt like he was being stabbed by knives while a few whites kept staring at him. The seats felt a little uncomfortable and sort of hard. He couldn't wait to get off the bus.

The time for Hunter and his parent to get on the bus was 4:10. It felt like it was 55 degrees outside and the wind blew dramatically. Both his parents were reading their notes and he was standing straight up in deep thought. He was thinking about his parents having a decent conversation with him and laughing with him. The bus came to the stop and they got on not knowing Hunter was still standing there. His dad yelled at him to get on the bus. Hunter

shivered, and quickly sped towards the bus. The bus looked delightful as usually but... There was a boy that stood out to him that made feel a touch of joy. The boy was talking and laughing quietly with his mother. He felt like if he tried hard, he would get that same affection from his parents. A woman said hi to him and asked him if he would like to sit with her? It was a black woman and she looked pretty young, maybe in her early forties. She was wearing a nice coat, a weird wavey and feather hat, a plaid dress, glasses, and carrying a small black purse. When he came close to sitting with her, his parents stopped and his dad directed him to a seat in front of them. He looked back at the lady who was staring at the window. He thought she was thinking about something, but he didn't know what. He heard his parents say that lady should be arrested for trying to get a white person to sit with a black. Hunter felt like he should have sat with her either way. He felt a special connection to her and it felt tangible.

Several people were getting on the bus, but the bus was too full and blacks had to transition back even further into the bus. The driver moved the sign back so, whites would have more room to sit and be comfortable. Hunter and DeShawn saw many people move. The driver was coming towards DeShawn and his mother while they were talking to a woman named Rosa Parks across the seat from them. He couldn't stand how they would have to move further into the back, and be flattened. Rosa said they should stand up for their rights as black people. The driver sent two black people to the back of the bus. The driver came to Ms. Brown's and DeShawn's seat and told them they had to move in the back. Hunter heard this and wanted to see how it would play out. Though, he felt like he should say something to help support the other kid, but he knew his parents would be furious with him.

DeShawn yelled at the driver, and said he wanted to stay in his seat since this was the seat that his dad used to sit in. The driver didn't care and told them to move or they would be arrested. Ms. Brown's looked at her son and Rosa Parks came to their aid, but Ms. Brown was surprised when she suggested that they should get off the bus. Rosa told her to leave so that she can spend time with her family and shouldn't risk getting arrested. Ms. Brown understood what she was being advised and told DeShawn that they had to get off the bus. DeShawn wasn't happy, but he stood up.

Hunter was saddened by the boy leaving. He wanted to walk out with them, but somehow he felt like he should stay and watch over the lady he was talking to earlier. The driver asked Rosa Parks to get out of her seat, and she refused. People were whispering about the situation and Hunter knew the lady shouldn't give up her seat. He wanted to let out an infuriating scream, but he didn't want the attention on him. He felt bad for the lovely lady who was just minding her own business. The driver called the cops to come pick up Rosa Parks since she was going against the law. The walk to grandma's house felt like a hour in the unbearable wind. He had a shirt on, a jacket, and a hat. His mother had wore a nice long coat on, a hat, and a nice pair of boots. Not

even his clothes could keep him away from the insufferable wind. DeShawn and Ms. Brown walked less than 1/16 of a mile and she saw many cop cars racing towards the direction of the Montgomery, Alabama bus. DeShawn ran the same direction of the cop cars and Ms. Brown dashed after him afraid of the trouble he might get into. DeShawn saw Rosa Parks being taken out of the bus. Ms. Brown had dragging face of sadness. The friend she just made was being arrested by four cops. Hunter couldn't believe his eyes. Everyone was smiling when she was being taken, but Hunter couldn't take it. He felt furious with the four cops. His own parents were smiling and laughing about this dilemma.

He stormed off the bus right after Rosa Parks was taken away. His dad gave him a stern look of disappointment. His mother's mouth moved as if she was saying, don't go. Hunter left anyway, not minding his parents' moods. Hunter told the cop, Officer Mixon, to move so that he could get to Rosa Parks. Officer Mixon stood there not moving with a serious look on his face. Hunter managed to squeeze past him to talk to Rosa Parks. She noticed the boy running toward and she gave him a small smile and made a gesture that meant leave. Hunter understood what she meant he went the back to the bus knowing she would be ok. Hunter didn't know what to do after she made the gestures to leave. After a brief moment he thought that she might be the person that could solve most of his problems. His never gave him a smile and she did. He felt joy for the first in his life. He would have someone actually smiling at him and giving him confidence to talk to his parents.

DeShawn saw Rosa Parks being forced out the bus. He sprinted towards the scene and right past the officers. Officer Days threw the boy at his mother. Ms. Brown stared at the cops for throwing her child like he was some sort of rag doll. While the majority of the cops were distracted by his mother, only one named Mixon was watching Rosa Parks. Deshawn asked officer Mixon to please move so that he could talk to the lady. When officer Mixon didn't budge, he said that was his friend who was very important to him. Mixon was ready to punch DeShawn, but was stopped by Rosa Parks, even when she was in handcuffs. DeShawn gave her his mom's phone number and placed it in her purse. Rosa Parks told DeShawn he was a sweet boy and that he should look out for his mother, and keep hoping to live equally. She also told him that they would meet again soon. She gave the boy the kiss on the cheek and a warming hug. DeShawn left with on smile on his face because he knew he did the right thing.

He slipped past officer Mixon and stopped just in front of Hunter. Even though Hunter and DeShawn didn't known each, they gave each other a hug since DeShawn also cared about the lady who seemed special. DeShawn gave Hunter his phone number too. They agreed that they would meet with each other someday and save Rosa Parks from the corrupted cops.

DeShawn ran with his mother after she stared furiously at the cops. DeShawn grabbed his mother's hand and started walking forward. She gave the cops an even more stern look when she left and gave DeShawn a heartwarming kiss.

Hunter went back on the bus and everyone started staring at him with disgust. Even his parents, but he didn't care. He felt as if he did the right thing and couldn't wait to get home. Even though he was angry with his parents, he felt joy through Rosa Parks' heart.

After 10 minutes of walking, DeShawn and his mother wished Ms. Brown's mother a happy 54th birthday. DeShawn gave his grandma a huge hug and kiss. He gave her the birthday card that had a super grandma on it. His grandma and it opened it and it says, "Grandma, I love you so much. You're like another super mom, but an old one. Thanks for being a hero for me." Love DeShawn. His grandma and grandpa said they loved him very much. Everyone seemed so excited to eat the marvelous chocolate cake that grandpa prepared. DeShawn was full of overflowing joy. Even his mother had a huge smile on her face to see that her mother is still living, and God has kept her all this time. After a few years, he got a hold of his mom's house phone and called Hunter. He was finally ready to set Rosa Parks free from jail.

After Hunter's parents got home, they sent him to Jack's room for being a burden on the bus. They told Jack what happened on the long bus ride home and told him to deal with it in anyway he can. They left the house again to go on another business trip, but gave Hunter a stern look before leaving. Hunter was intimidated by his older brother. He was bigger, stronger, faster, and smarter than him. Hunter felt like his brother would put him down mentally and physically. Hunter started showering down a few tears, and started wiping them off since he knew his brother would make fun of him. His Brother walked towards with a funny smirk on his face. Hunter was ready to get punched, yelled, or even thrown to the ground, but instead he felt arms around him. He was scared to open his eyes, but it was his older brother giving him a hug. His brother told him he did the right thing, but if he does it again, he would do it with, but the smart and right way. This made Hunter happy and he gave his brother a hug for the first time. After a few years later, he got a hold of his parent's house phone and called DeShawn. He was finally ready to set Rosa Parks free from jail with his best friend.

