

Watch My Back

(Carrie and her big brother Tim are walking down the hallway before school.)

Tim: Hi Carrie, you look depressed, what's up?

Carrie: *(Sobbing)* Go away, it's nothing.

Tim: Hey, it's me, your bro. What's bothering my little sister?

Carrie: Don't call me little sister, especially here at school; I don't want my teammates to hear that. They might start calling me "Sissy".

Tim: Ok, you know I will always watch your back, but what's going on?

Carrie: I'll tell you if you promise not to tell mom!

Tim: Ok! I promise.

Carrie: I made up my mind. I'm quitting cheerleading.

Tim: No way! You can't do that. You love cheerleading.

Carrie: I do, but nobody seems to like me. Yesterday at practice, I heard the girls talking about me. I didn't really hear what they said, but it made me uncomfortable. Then, the captain wouldn't let me do the high jump. I wasn't included in any of the fun routines.

Tim: Did you get to do any practice at all?

Carrie: Yeah, but the captain made me stay at the bottom of the pyramid. Tim, I can go to the top with no problem. I explained it to her but she just sighed and walked away. Afterwards, the other girls were talking about me. They don't like me, probably because I'm new and I'm an outsider too.

Tim: Nah, you're overreacting. It's just practice Carrie, just be friendly.

Carrie: I think they know that I'm a Christian, so they don't like me! They're mean!

Tim: You don't know that. What if they're believers too? Just stay with the team and make friends, and don't worry about it.

Carrie: Why should I stay if they don't like me?

Tim: Did they tell you that they didn't like you?

Carrie: Not really.

Tim: Why not pray about your situation? I'm sure God will help you. Also, don't be scared. Jesus will be watching your back all the time, and so will I.

(Tim winks at Carrie and walks away. Then Carrie closes her eyes and says a short prayer.)

* * *

(Lauren, the captain of the cheerleading team and the other teammates are practicing some cheers. Carrie comes walking up to join the practice.)

Lauren: Hey Carrie, there you are! Come join us! How do you like our uniforms?

Carrie: *(Shaking her head in disbelief)* I guess I missed the message about wearing uniforms today. Actually, I don't have mine yet. Can I be excused?

Lauren: *(With a mischievous smile)* It's okay. Don't you like our uniforms?

Carrie: *(Pretending not to be embarrassed)* Yes, they are really cool. I hope I get mine soon. So what do we do now?

Lauren: Since you are a new member, we have a special surprise for you. Come here and close your eyes. Whatever you feel or hear, don't move.

Carrie: Why should I trust you?

Teammates: *(Laughing)* Because you're on our team now!

Carrie: *(Speaking in a soft voice)* Okay Tim. Remember that you and Jesus are supposed to be watching my back. I need you now more than ever.

Lauren: What Carrie?

Carrie: It's nothing. Well, here I go.

(Carrie closes her eyes. The teammates kneel on the floor side by side. Then Lauren stands behind them holding Carrie's uniform above her head. Note: for safety reasons, do not form an actual pyramid.)

Teammates: Hey, no peeking! Okay, you can open your eyes now.

Carrie: What's going on?

Lauren: *(Standing behind the other teammates holding Carrie's uniform.)* You have to earn the right to be on top of the pyramid. In order to have that right, you need to be able to climb to the top without ruining the formation and get your uniform.

Carrie: That's it? If I make it to the top I'm, like, cool with you guys?

Lauren: *(Waving Carrie's uniform)* You have always been cool with us. We just wanted to surprise you with our little ceremony to welcome new members. We were hoping you wouldn't quit when we were pretending to ignore you. So come on Carrie, I'm getting tired. Come up here and get your uniform!

Carrie: You guys are awesome, scary at first, but really awesome.

Teammates: Go Carrie, go Carrie, go, go, go!

(Carrie laughs as she climbs to the top of the pyramid to get her new uniform.)