

Conquer and destroy

By Maya Robinson

Ever since I was a little girl all I did was dream to run. I would run around the house for hours from one place to another. My mother never let me go outside until I was 3 years old, so that's why I ran so much. That's all I would do is run. People would say "that girl is going to be a track star". At the age of three I never knew what they meant by that, but I would just smile and continue running.

As I got older I started running in little events at my school and every time I would get first place. I even beat boys running and they just couldn't catch up to me. My gym teacher at school told me one day that I had a gift and one day the whole world would know too. I was in elementary school when I was told that and all I could do was smile and be proud of myself. At the same time I didn't know that this wasn't even the beginning of my journey for running. I couldn't wait for field day to come because I knew that there would be a race.

My parents never knew that I was into running until I went to middle school. That's when I knew everything about track and field and how everything worked. I signed up as soon as I heard anything about it. I didn't know that when you're in middle school in order for you to run track you have to stay after school to practice. Also I was part of a team with other people running . So I would go to practice every day to show dedication. I was going to do whatever it took to be number one. I also found out what I specialize in running track and

that was the 100 meter dash. I was pretty fast to be so young in middle school. I was also good at the high jump. My coach saw something in me. My coach thought that I could qualify and run for district and place. I had one problem which was that my mother didn't have away for me to keep practicing after school and going to the meets because her car was broken. I felt so sad and depressed because I wanted to run so bad. My coach wanted me to run so bad that she picked me up and took me home every day and to the meets just so I could run. I never felt so humbled in my life. I'll never forget one meet we went to was the district meet and all the schools from Austin were there. I was scared and terrified about what would happen and I just didn't know why. All I knew was that I had to win this race. The 100 meter dash was next, so I warmed up to be ready to race. I'm standing at the start line taking deep breaths waiting for that gun to fire. Then BAM. I start running and realized once I raised up and faced forward that I was in the lead and stayed in the lead all the way to the finish line and won first place!!! I couldn't believe my eyes that I won. From that day on I knew that I truly had a gift and I let the whole town know that I'm a track star.

Once I got into high school my father trained me every day of my freshman year. I was so ready for my first meet in high school to see what it would be like. My dad kept me so focused and prepared and ready for my track meets and I came home with a good medal every time. My father taught me so much about track that I fell in love with it and wouldn't let anything come in my way. But that all changed when I became a sophomore in high school.

Everything was going good with track. I had people coming to my meets just to see me run and then I met a guy who became my boyfriend. I didn't think at the time I would have a boyfriend because all I worried and care about was my family and track. We were together for six months and when we were on our back and forth break ups I started to change. My body was changing. I was having a bad attitude toward my parents and I would faint every time during track practice. Then I started having stomach pains and thinking I had a virus so I took medicine for it, but the pain just got worse. So after I had qualified for the state meet my father took me to the hospital to see what was wrong with me. The doctor told me that I was 2 months pregnant. I was so shocked and terrified. I was speechless and trying to tell the doctor that "can't be true." I was crying my heart out because everything I had done is was going down the drain. Can you believe a girl like me having a baby inside her at the age 16? My father didn't even say a word to me. I was so scared that he was going to yell and shout. But he didn't. He was so calm and relaxed and that even made me feel worse. I had to disqualify myself from the state meet and tell my coach why I couldn't run any longer. My mother was so in shock that she yelled at me, screamed and hit me because she knew what I had going for myself and I just threw it away. So after I got home I called my boyfriend to tell him that I was pregnant and he just said "well I'll talk to you later, I'm playing basketball". I was so hurt and couldn't believe he said that to me. I knew the only right thing to do was get an abortion because I knew that I couldn't raise a child right now and that my babies' daddy would be no where around. Not one

time did he say he was sorry for not being there for me. I was all alone and felt worthless to everyone. I couldn't go to school for 8 weeks because of the abortion and because I had to be very careful about this operation. This abortion was the most painful feeling I had in my entire life. After that I went into a depressed mode to where I wouldn't eat and wouldn't talk to anyone. I would just stay in my room and cry and cry over and over again. Not only did I let myself down, but I let my family and fans down. They believed in me and all I could ask was why this had to happen to me. What did I do so wrong to deserve this. So then I put myself in what I call a black hole. My heart was completely gone and so was my spirit. I isolated myself from everyone for 6 months straight. From that day on I knew that the old loving and caring and happy Maya was gone. She had disappeared and was never coming back. As time went by my mother would tell me to "conquer and destroy Maya". I would just think what does she mean by that?

As time passed on to the end of my junior year I started coming back to myself and getting back to what I loved the most. I took it piece by piece to make it to who I am today. I was getting back to what I loved and I knew I would be very successful. My senior year I ran track and I got a scholarship to Chicago, Illinois. I was so happy and thrilled, but it was not easy to get there. I worked 3 times harder than I ever did in my life. I began to start being in the newspaper for running track and signing autographs for little kids who looked up to me. I never thought that the pain and hurt I went through would come out to something great. I just had to believe in myself again and show the people

who hurt me that they were really missing out on something special. So now I know what my mom meant by conquer and destroy. No matter what happens you can put up a fight and get your life back on the right track.

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