

ZERO TO ONE FIGHTER

Written by

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INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY. - DAY

LEONA (15), in hoodie and long dark hair with her headphones on, walking to a classroom. BRITTANY (16), the Instagram model with long wavy hair and fashionable outfit see Leona across the hallway and stands in her way.

Leona takes off her headphones.

LEONA

Excuse me.

Brittany stands still.

LEONA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry but I need to get to class.

Leona attempts to walk pass them and Brittany blocks her.

BRITTANY

Not so fast, Leona.

LEONA

What do you want, Brittany?

BRITTANY

What do I want? I want you out of Noah's life!

LEONA

I'm not dating him --

BRITTANY

YET! That's what homewreckers say! We're just talking. Yeah right.

Leona puts her hands up to her chest, almost like she is surrendering and backs away from Brittany.

LEONA

Look, I'm really sorry. I understand you two dated or whatever, but from what I know you two already broken up and it's all history.

Brittany grabs Leona and pushes her against the wall.

BRITTANY

Who the fuck do you think you are!?! Talking to me like that!?!

Leona looks terrified at Brittany.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)

That's right. Fear looks great on you. Don't fuck with me you hear me?

Leona is speechless to this whole incident. Brittany releases her and leaves. Leona takes several deep breaths before she can gather herself together.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY. - AFTERNOON

School bell rings. Students are leaving. Leona carries her backpack walking out and sees a Women's Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu CLUB POSTER.

INT. LEONA'S ROOM.- NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Loud banging and shouting. Leona's parents are fighting and her father is beating her mother again. Leona hides in her room, turns on her laptop and puts her headphones on. As she types in "music to sooth anxiety" on the search bar, she sees a video of RONDA ROUSEY in UFC Women Championship.

Leona clicks and watches the video, fascinated by Ronda Rousey's armbar and grappling Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu fight style. She searches more about her and stumbles upon a Ronda Rousey quote that says, "You have to fight because you can't count on anyone else fighting for you. And you have to fight for people who can't fight for themselves. To get anything of real value, you have to fight for it."

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY. - AFTERNOON - BACK TO PRESENT

Leona stares at the Women's Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu CLUB POSTER.

LEONA

I have to fight for it. For me, for mom.

Leona takes the MMA CLUB POSTER and leaves school.

INT. WOMEN'S BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU CLUB. - AFTERNOON

Leona walks in the Women's Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Club and sees a group of girls warming up following the coach, LINDA (30). Leona recognizes Brittany and her best friend KIMBERLY (16) on the front row. Leona subtly backs away to avoid them.

LINDA
 Hey new girl, where are you going?
 What's your name?

LEONA
 ...Leona Li.

Brittany and Kimberly turns to look at Leona. Brittany rolls her eyes.

BRITTANY
 Why is she everywhere?

KIMBERLY
 Just leave it Brit, you're better than this.

BRITTANY
 You're telling me to back down to someone not even on my league?

KIMBERLY
 I'm just saying she ain't worth your time and energy.

BRITTANY
 I can't stand her.

Linda gestures Leona to join the girls.

LINDA
 Girls, this is Leona. She's new and a beginner so be nice! Help a sister out.

Leona timidly joins the girls to warm up.

LINDA (CONT'D)
 Brittany, why don't you go help Leona? Show her some basic moves.

Leona takes a deep breath. A friendly girl next to Leona talks to her.

GIRL
 You're so lucky Leona! You get to fight with Brittany! I've always wanted to be paired up with her. She's really good.

LEONA
 ...That sounds good to me. Maybe you will get to fight her next time.

Leona leaves and walks over to Brittany.

BRITTANY

Here you are. I've been waiting for you.

Brittany in position, right leg in front of the other. Leona imitates her position. Brittany puts both her hands on Leona's shoulders and gesture her to do the same.

LEONA

Hey...am I doing this right---

Brittany stumbles Leona, Leona struggles to maintain balance and trips. Leona attempts to break away from Brittany. Brittany grabs Leona's hand and armbars her.

Leona SCREAMS. Kimberly notices and goes over to Brittany with Linda.

LINDA

Brittany! You're going too far. Let her go!

KIMBERLY

BRIT!

Brittany refuses to let go. Linda breaks up the two of them.

LINDA

Brittany! Stay back after the session. This is unacceptable. Leona, are you ok?

LEONA

(hard breathing)
...I'm Ok...

Brittany stands up and Kimberly pats on Brittany's shoulder.

BRITTANY

Fine. I'll stay back.

Brittany glares at Leona and leaves.

