

Harley Shows Encouragement

A STORY ABOUT QUIET LEADERSHIP, LEARNING TO LISTEN, AND THE COURAGE TO SUPPORT OTHERS.



by Christopher Hudson

BOOK ONE IN THE HARLEY SHOWS... SERIES
MINI-STORIES TO IMPROVE WORKPLACES

This is Gemma.

SHE'S CONFIDENT, ORGANIZED, AND ALWAYS HAS SOMETHING TO SAY.



**WHETHER IT'S A SCHOOL PROJECT
OR A GROUP DECISION,
GEMMA MAKES HERSELF THE
LEADER.**

**SHE ALWAYS CARRIES SOMETHING:
A CLIPBOARD, A PHONE, OR A
BAG.**

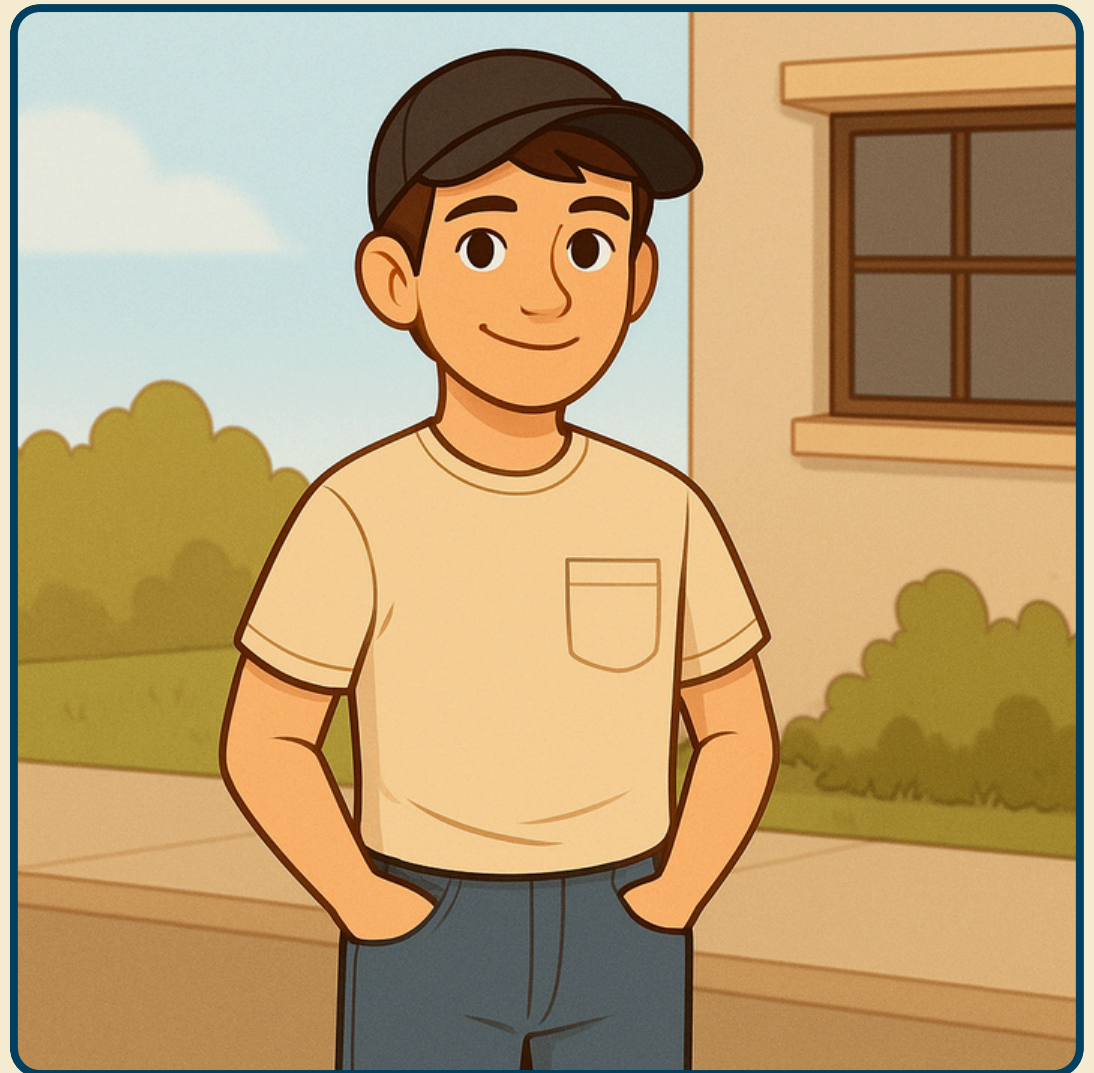
IT MAKES HER FEEL READY.

IT MAKES HER FEEL IN CHARGE.

This is Harley.

HARLEY DOESN'T NEED TO BE IN CHARGE.

HE WANTS THE GROUP TO WORK WELL TOGETHER.



HE DOESN'T TALK THE MOST, BUT WHEN HE DOES PEOPLE LISTEN.

HARLEY NOTICES THE SMALL THINGS.

LIKE WHEN SOMEONE NEEDS HELP, OR SOMEONE'S FEELING LEFT OUT.

"I'll be the director!"

THE SCHOOL PLAY WAS ANNOUNCED, AND THE WHOLE PLACE WAS BUZZED WITH EXCITEMENT. IT WAS THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR. EVERYONE WOULD HAVE A ROLE.



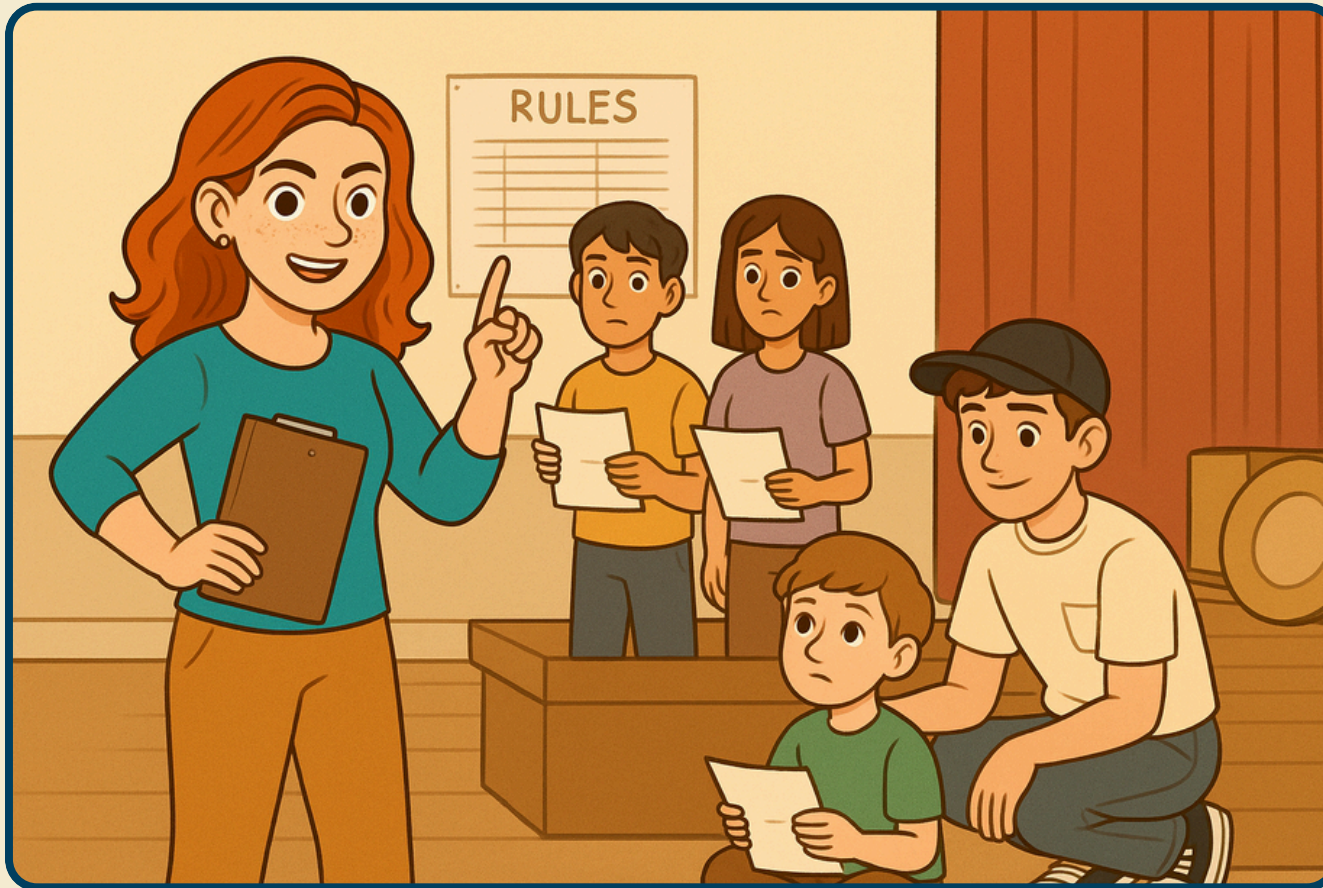
GEMMA DIDN'T WAIT.

BEFORE ANYONE ELSE COULD SPEAK, SHE STOOD UP AND DECLARED THAT SHE WAS THE DIRECTOR.

NOBODY VOTED.

NOBODY OBJECTED.

IT JUST... HAPPENED.



GEMMA SET THE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE, MADE
A CHART FOR ROLES, AND HANDED OUT RULES.

Lots of rules.

SHE TOLD EVERYONE WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO STAND, AND WHEN
TO SPEAK. GEMMA WAS IN CHARGE. NO ONE DOUBTED THAT.

BUT NOT EVERYONE FELT HEARD.

HARLEY WATCHED QUIETLY.

AND WHEN SOMEONE STRUGGLED, HE OFFERED HELP WITHOUT MAKING A
BIG DEAL ABOUT IT.

SOMETHING FELT OFF.
PEOPLE FORGOT THEIR LINES.
SOME STOPPED COMING TO REHEARSAL ON TIME.
NOBODY WAS ENGAGED AND ALL THE EXCITEMENT WAS GONE.

So Gemma tried to fix it.



"IF EVERYONE WORKS HARDER, WE'LL HAVE A PIZZA PARTY!" SHE ANNOUNCED. BUT HARLEY KNEW IT WASN'T ABOUT PIZZA.

HE KEPT SHOWING UP.

HE KEPT HELPING.

AND SLOWLY, PEOPLE STARTED TURNING TO HIM.

Things started to change.

REHEARSALS BECAME QUIETER... BUT KINDER.

HARLEY PRACTICED HIS LINES WITH A CLASSMATE WHO HAD TROUBLE REMEMBERING THEIRS. ANOTHER STUDENT BROUGHT EXTRA PROPS. SOMEONE EVEN MADE A BEHIND-THE-SCENES CHART TO HELP KEEP THINGS ORGANIZED! PEOPLE WERE COMING TOGETHER.



GEMMA WATCHED AS THE TEAM HELPED ONE ANOTHER.
NOT BECAUSE THEY WERE BEING TOLD TO,

But because they wanted to.



AND FOR THE FIRST TIME...

GEMMA DIDN'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS.

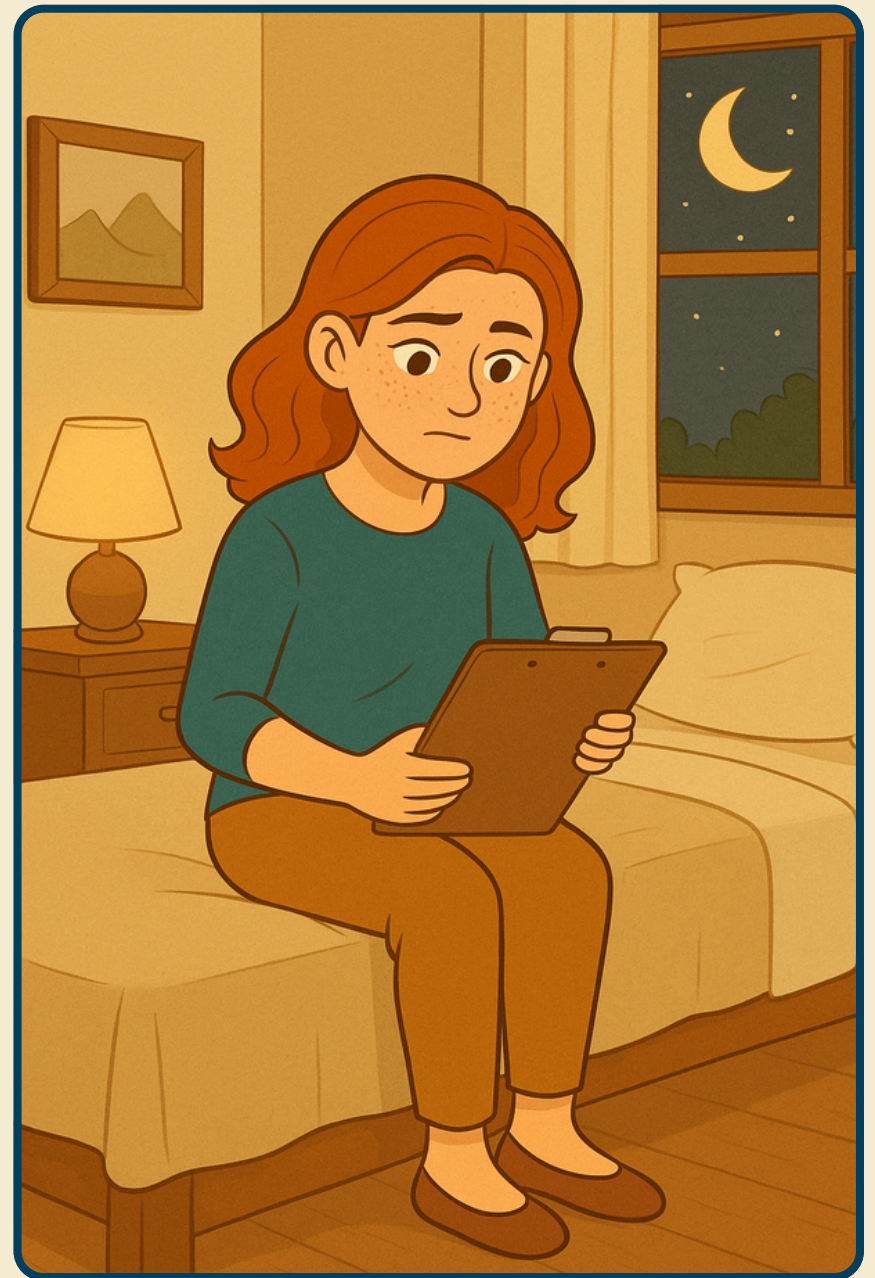
THAT NIGHT, GEMMA COULDN'T SLEEP.

SHE KEPT THINKING ABOUT THE TEAM.

HOW THEY HAD STARTED TO SMILE
AGAIN...

HOW THEY WERE SUPPORTING ONE
ANOTHER WITHOUT BEING ASKED.

HOW THEY WERE PERFORMING WELL
WITHOUT ALL THE RULES AND ALL THE
SCHEDULES.



SHE WHISPERED,

Maybe it's not about being in charge?

The big day had FINALLY arrived.

BACKSTAGE, THE GROUP WAS BUZZING WITH NERVES.

SCRIPTS RUSTLED. COSTUMES WERE HANDED OUT.

A FEW OF THEM WERE WORRIED,

"WHAT IF WE MESS UP?"



HARLEY SMILED AND SAID,

This is what we trained for.

We've got this!

GEMMA LOOKED AROUND AT THE GROUP.
THEY WAITED FOR HER TO GIVE THE DIRECTION.
SHE DIDN'T GIVE A SPEECH.
SHE DIDN'T REVIEW CHECKLISTS.

INSTEAD, SHE SAID...

"EVERYONE HAS WORKED SO HARD AND YOU'RE READY!"



Gemma was leading...

BUT NOW, SHE WAS LEADING IN A NEW WAY.

DURING THE PLAY, GEMMA STOOD JUST BEHIND THE CURTAIN.
SHE WHISPERED LINES WHEN SOMEONE FORGOT.
SHE GAVE QUIET THUMBS-UPS WHEN SOMEONE NAILED A SCENE.



Gemma was there to help

EVERY TIME SOMEONE LOOKED NERVOUS.

AND ONE BY ONE, THEY ALL STEPPED FORWARD BRAVER THAN BEFORE.

THE PLAY WAS A SUCCESS! THERE WERE A FEW STUMBLES BUT LOTS OF LAUGHS, LOTS OF CHEERING, AND LOTS OF HEART.

AFTERWARD, THE GROUP THANKED GEMMA AND HARLEY.
GEMMA SMILED AND SAID,

You all encouraged me too.



BECAUSE THAT'S THE THING ABOUT ENCOURAGEMENT:
IT DOESN'T JUST HELP OTHERS TO SHINE,
IT HELPS EVERYONE TO GROW.
EVEN THE ONE HOLDING THE CLIPBOARD.

Thank You For Reading!

HARLEY SHOWS ENCOURAGEMENT

A STORY ABOUT QUIET LEADERSHIP, LEARNING TO LISTEN, AND THE
COURAGE TO SUPPORT OTHERS.



CHRISTOPHER HUDSON HAS SPENT HIS CAREER ENCOURAGING EXECUTIVES TO LEAD WITH PURPOSE, EMPATHY, AND A DECENT SENSE OF HUMOR. WHEN HE'S NOT HELPING BUILD BETTER WORKPLACES, HE'S LIKELY BUILDING SOMETHING OUT OF LEGO BRICKS, QUOTING OBSCURE HARRY POTTER TRIVIA, OR REMINDING PEOPLE THAT PIZZA IS NOT A LONG-TERM PEOPLE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY. THIS IS HIS FIRST 'BOOK' AND IS A TERM USED LOOSELY. HE PROMISES NOT TO DIRECT THE SCHOOL PLAY.

VISIT WWW.CHRISTOPHERHUDSONHR.COM

BOOK ONE THE HARLEY SHOWS... SERIES
MINI-STORIES TO IMPROVE WORKPLACES