

The Secret



By Jessica Larsen
Based on a true story

“There is something all can give”
(Children’s Songbook, 236).

“Not Ivy! She’s a *girl*,” Braden
whispered behind Adam.

But Adam was team captain for
dodgeball for the day, and he had
made his choice. “I pick Ivy,” he
repeated a little louder. Tyler, the
other team captain, smirked. Even
Coach Garcia looked surprised at
Adam’s second pick.

Ivy looked surprised too and
then shyly stepped forward. Braden
groaned.

Ivy wasn’t just any girl. She was

the smallest girl in the class. She
didn’t look very fast, and the ball
seemed bigger than she was. “She
probably can’t even lift the ball,”
Braden said as Ivy walked over.

“Maybe she’ll be our secret
weapon,” Adam said, trying to
sound sure. But that’s not why he
had picked her. Ivy had once told
Adam she didn’t like it when they
played sports because she was
always picked last. The other boys
teased Ivy, but Mom and Dad had
told Adam that boys should show
respect for girls. So he picked Ivy. As

he watched Tyler pick the biggest
boy in class, Adam hoped he had
made the right decision.

After everyone was on a team,
Coach Garcia blew the whistle, and
the teams ran to opposite ends of
the court. Coach Garcia handed
Tyler the ball, and Tyler scanned
Adam’s team before he focused on
Ivy. He pulled back his arm and let
the ball fly.

Bam! The ball smacked the
ground and bounced without hit-
ting anyone. Adam blinked. Ivy had
moved just in time. Everyone around

Weapon



Everyone had underestimated what Ivy could do.

him seemed surprised, but Adam just smiled. Maybe picking Ivy had been a good idea after all.

The game continued. Tyler kept trying to hit Ivy with the ball, but she kept dodging and diving out of the way. No one could hit her with a ball. Tyler and some of his teammates were so busy trying to get Ivy out that they didn't spend much time aiming for anyone else. Adam grinned—Ivy's size actually made her *better* at dodgeball because being small and fast made her harder to hit.

At last Adam's team won the game. "Secret weapon was right," Braden said. "Ivy's pretty good."

"Yeah," Tyler said. "Next time, she's on *my* team. We'll win for sure!" Ivy smiled as she walked back to class, surrounded by teammates.

Adam couldn't stop smiling as he followed the group. He had been nice to Ivy, and he had helped the other boys respect girls a little more. The greatest secret weapon wasn't a secret at all—it was just being kind. ■

The author lives in Arizona, USA.



NO ONE IS DESTINED TO FAIL

"Every person is different and has a different contribution to make. No one is destined to fail."

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, "Help Them Aim High," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 60