My Hijab



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Illustrator: Kawthar Hassoun Once upon a time, there was a nine years old girl whose name was *Malika* who lived in France.

Malika is a fourth-grade student, she is a veiled girl, and she wears her hijab every morning before she goes to school.



She arrives at school, and sits as usual alone, with no friends talking to or playing with her while she is watching them from far away playing with each other and having fun. This made Malika very sad.





She knows her friends avoid playing with her because she wears the hijab. There was a group of girls who would mock her and laugh at the way is covering her head, and just stay away from her, telling her with their looks that she did not belong to their group. She can hear their words. One says: "Look she covers her head!" Others say: "She is so weird!" Still, others bet that she can not academically achieve and say: "I can see that

because she is covering her head, information can not enter her brain," They would laugh hysterically. But she never thought of getting rid of the hijab



One day Malika and her friends at school had an exam that the teacher told them will be very difficult and the one who gets a high grade will win a certificate on the school's stage.



Malika was so excited to win the certificate. Even though Malika would hear discouraging words from the girls around her, she insisted on studying, getting a good grade, and proving all wrong sayings about the hijab.



The day of the exam came, Malika did her very best and went back home.



After two days, the teacher distributed the exams, and sure enough, Malika was one of the students who won the certificate on the stage the next morning.



However, that group of girls was surprised and at the same time embarrassed. After the award ceremony, they got together and went to apologize to her. She accepted their apologies very quickly and they all decided to become best friends.



Malika likes to act, so she decided to become an actress. She studied hard, in order to achieve her goal.



Years later, after she finished university,
Malika started searching for work in many
companies, but... unfortunately, many rejected
her because of her hijab. They all said the
same, "You know that we cannot hire a girl who
is veiled..."





She seemed to give up because no one is accepting her, but she never thought of her hijab as a barrier to her career and so never thought to get rid of her hijab!!

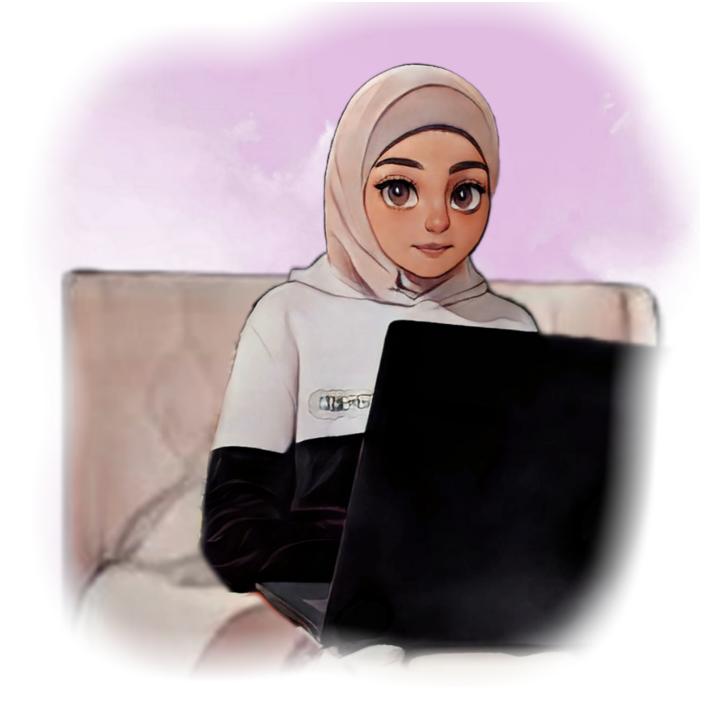


One day when her mother was preparing dinner, Malika sat sadly, thinking of a solution. While they were eating, her mother looked at her with compassionate eyes and asked her, "Why are you sad Malika?" Malika is silent for a while, then she decided to tell her mother what happened to her during the day. While Malika is talking and sharing her problem with her mother, Malika's mother was thinking and shaking her head. Then she told her daughter,

"No worries darling, everything is going to be okay."



Night came, Malika is sitting in her bed, opened her laptop, and searching for work.



When suddenly she jumps out of her bed screaming, "I found it, I found it!!"
Malika's mother heard her screaming and came quickly to see what happened.
"What did you find Malika, and why are you screaming?!" said Malika's mother.



Malika replied, "Sorry Mama I scared you, but I found the solution!"
"GREAT!!! I told you..." said Malika's mother with a big smile on her face.



Malika decided to continue her master's degree in acting. So she went the next day to the university to register for the courses neede.





During this time, Malika fall in love with a friend with her at the university, and they decided to study together, and help each other achieve their goals. His name was Hassan a Lebanese guy, who loved Malika because she is unique, wearing the hijab in that country where all refuted the hijab she is wearing. He promised to stay by her side and her help her succeed in what she is planning to do.



After Malika finished her master's degree, she decided to creat her own private business. With the support of Hassan, she achieved her goal!

Days passed, and Malika became a successful actor and director. She wrote her own series, and many people were pleased to work with her.







Malika thought that although everyone rejected to work with her as an actor, she is able to do what she always dreamt of, through her hard work. And by holding on to her veil tightly, she was able to overcome these obstacles that stood in to front of her and her hijab.



As for her relationship with Hassan, they got married and always supported each other, and lived happily ever after.



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This is the story of, Malika a hijabi girl who faced obstacles in her life starting from school and throughout her career life. Will Malika give up?