

## Scene 1

**BELLE YARDLEY's** under-15 five-a-side team – **BELLE, PRISHA, LEXIE, MAYA** and **SALMA** – are on the local playing field after a training session. The coach, **BELLE's** dad (**MR YARDLEY**), stands in front of them. **BELLE** looks at him proudly.

**MR YARDLEY:** Well done girls. That was a great session today. You all worked incredibly hard.

**PRISHA:** *[Fake groaning]* Tell me about it! My legs are really hurting now!

**BELLE:** I enjoyed it today. It feels like we're all getting faster and stronger.

**MR YARDLEY:** I agree. This team is improving all the time. Word is getting out that we are the ones to watch.

**LEXIE:** Not everyone thinks like that. Have you heard what the boys have been saying about us?

**MR YARDLEY:** *[Frowning]* No, what's being said this time? Those boys need to concentrate on their own football rather than gossiping.

**SALMA:** Just the usual stuff. That girls' football isn't as good as boys' football.

**MAYA:** *[Stops juggling the ball and controls it neatly under her foot]* They're just jealous of us. Ask Belle if you don't believe me. I'm sure her Mason will know lots about it.

*[BELLE blushes and glares at MAYA.]*

**BELLE:** *[Hisses]* Shut it, Maya.

**BELLE:** Yeah, I don't know why she did that.

**LEXIE:** You know she probably doesn't mean it. She just likes to tease.

**BELLE:** Yeah, I know.

**PRISHA:** Has Mason said anything to you about him or the boys being jealous?

**BELLE:** *[Laughs]* No. Of course not. He thinks it's great that we are doing well. He's really supportive. Anyway, if some of the lads on his team have an issue with us playing football, that's their problem.

**PRISHA:** Exactly! And now we are taking on Green Heath! That's exciting, Belle. We are playing top teams now.

**BELLE:** *[Nodding slowly]* Yeah, it is good...

**SALMA:** What's wrong with you, Belle? You don't look as happy as I thought you would be about it. This could be our big chance!

**BELLE:** Yeah, I know.

*[BELLE looks back at her dad who is still packing up the training equipment. She smiles weakly.]*

**BELLE:** I know Dad is really pleased to get the match. He's been trying to arrange this for ages.

**LEXIE:** So why are you looking all stressed?

**BELLE:** I guess I'm just a bit worried about *who* is playing for Green Heath. Last I heard, Ruby Malone was their captain.

**PRISHA:** Oh yeah – you two used to play together, didn't you?

## Scene 1

*It is a Saturday afternoon after a five-a-side football match. The home team is gathered by the sidelines. It is made up of **MASON, HASSAN, JERMAINE, TEDDY** and **OSCAR**. The coach, **MR REYNOLDS**, is speaking to them and looking angry.*

**MR REYNOLDS:** Lads! That was a shambles today! I don't know what you were thinking. You were all over the place. Mason, I thought you were meant to be a striker?

**MASON:** *[Quietly]* I am, coach!

**MR REYNOLDS:** You looked like you had two left feet! And Hassan! What was going on with today? You let in at least two easy shots.

**HASSAN:** Sorry coach. My head wasn't in the game today.

**MR REYNOLDS:** It was like you were all switched off! This is our sixth loss in a row.

**MASON:** To be fair coach, they were a good side. They were all over us!

**MR REYNOLDS:** *[Steps towards **MASON** and roars loudly in his face]* So you just give up then, eh? Is that what you do?

**MASON:** *[Looking at the floor again]* No, coach. I'm sorry.

**MR REYNOLDS:** *[In a nasty tone]* I'm sorry Mason. I can't quite hear you. What did you say?

**MASON:** *[Getting red in the face]* I said I was sorry.

**MR REYNOLDS:** Yes! I should think you are! Call yourself a footballer? You're an absolute joke.