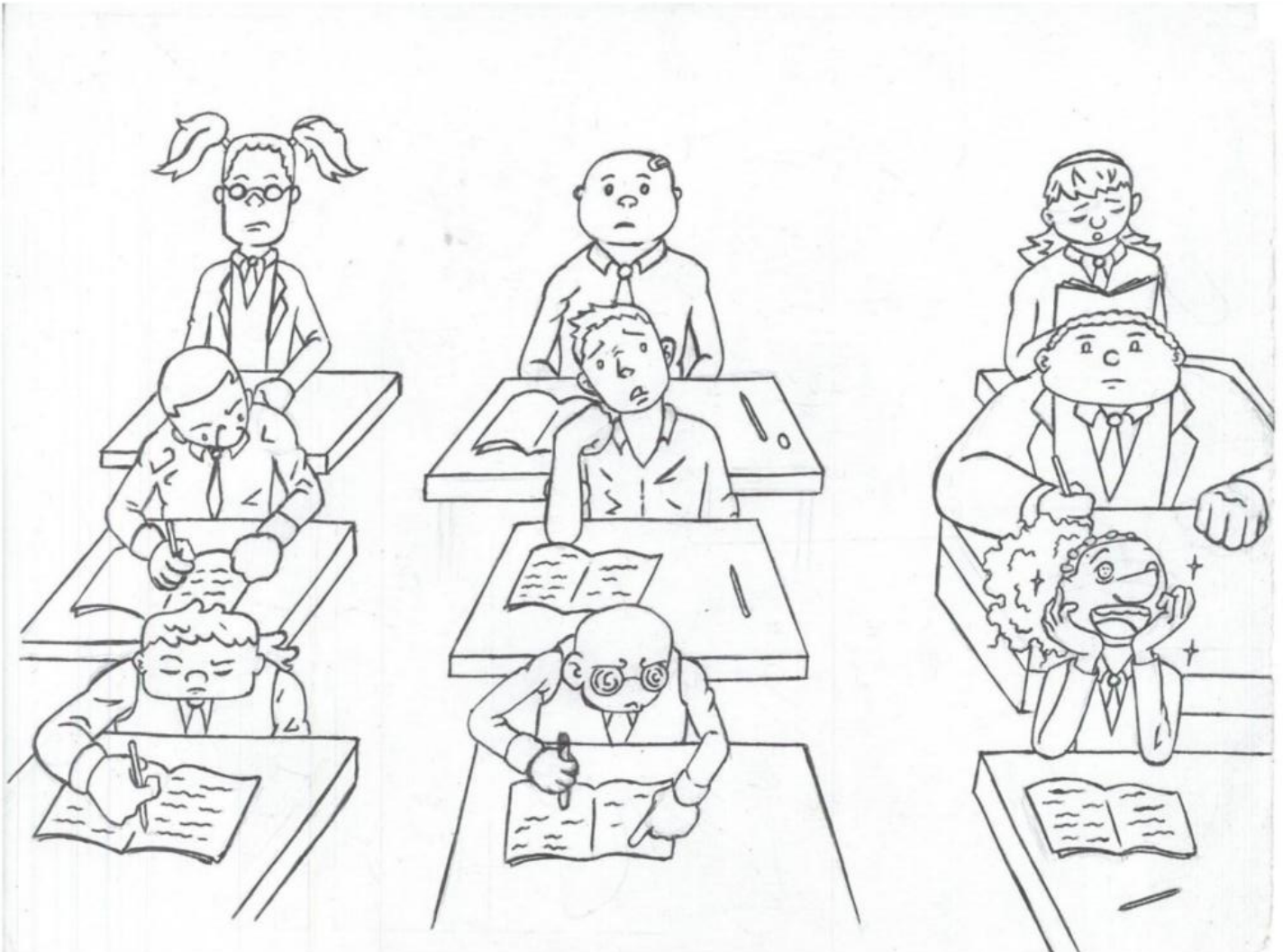


Chapter 1

"Eish! Ayanda mara!"

"And that is why we use an adjective there".

Mr Sithole was still teaching my class and I made sure to pay attention. English was my favourite subject and Mr Sithole was my favourite teacher. As I was writing in my English book, I saw a small paper get thrown on my desk.



I looked to my left and the boy with the big glasses sitting next to me, Daniel, whispered:

"It's from Ayanda."

Just next to Daniel, my best friend forever (BFF) Ayanda poked her head excitedly and smiled.

"Tell her I'll chat to her at break."

Daniel (looking up from his work, annoyed) whispered back to Ayanda.

A few minutes later, another small paper was thrown on my desk. I looked up and Daniel didn't even look up at me. He just kept writing and pointed (irritated) at Ayanda.

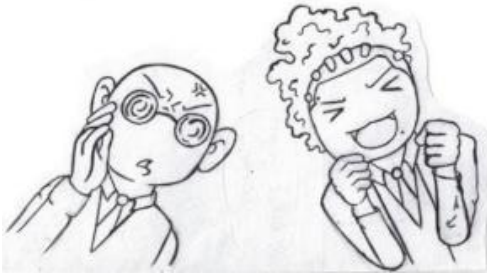
Ayanda whispered "Open it!"

I thought to myself, "Eisha Ayanda mara!" as I opened the letter.

"CHOMEE, DO YOU THINK WE MADE IT?!"

I quickly wrote back, **CHOMEE! WE WILL TALK AT BREAK!"**

I gave the letter back to Daniel. He just tossed the letter back to Ayanda. I heard him whisper to her: **"Stop sending letters, I'm not you're post man!"**



Thing is, Daniel is the top student in the class and hated being disturbed while he worked. I would talk to Ayanda later.

After a few minutes I looked to the side and saw Ayanda whispering, trying to give Daniel **ANOTHER** letter! Eish Ayanda...

And then immediatly Daniel raised his hand

"Sir! Jade and Ayanda are sending letters and disturbing me!"

Instantly Mr Sithole turned around from the board and looked at us: **"Again! Every period you two are passing letters! Go and face the wall! Both of you!"**



I sadly got up and walked to the wall. Ayanda followed after me. By the wall at the back of the class, she whispered again to me.

"Chomee! Chomee! Mxm Daniel is is so irritating ne ...?"

"Like really...?" I angrily whispered back to her.



CHAPTER 2

MY BFF

AT BREAK...

Ayanda and I were walking through the corridor. I could see how happy my friend was and to be honest I was too. Today in the beginning of first period there was an announcement:

"Will all under 16 1st team netball girls please go to the board to see who has been chosen in this Saturday's East League Netball match."

Well my name is Jade Booyesen. I'm 15 and like most girls my age I like fashion, cooking and chilling with my chomees. My favourite colour is Purple...and my favourite snacks are This and That biscuits. But the one thing I love more than anything else...is netball.



Yho! I could talk for days about netball. And I'm actually very good at it! At all the schools I've been to I've always been 2 things: either a Goal shooter or Goal Keeper and I've always been in the first team. I'm short and chubby but I can shoot that ball into the net from anywhere. My BFF, Ayanda, always says I could shoot a ball and hit someone in another Province!

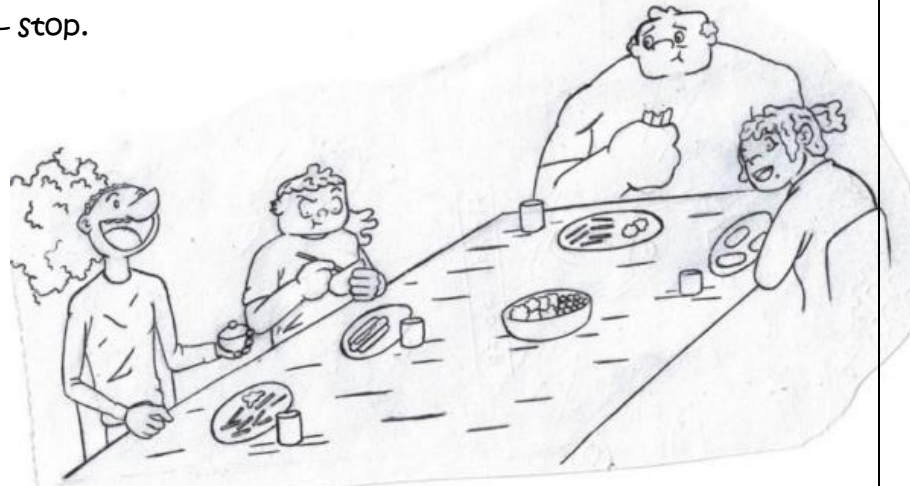
I met Ayanda when I moved from Nulke City two years back. I started attending Paradise Park High and I've been friends with her since Grade 8.

Where I'm short and chubby, Ayanda is tall and skinny. She's actually the tallest girl in class. Come to think of it...I'm very sure she's the tallest girl in Grade 9.



She's often smiling, enjoys baking and drawing. Though I love her she can get very impatient and very excited over things. VERY excited. And when she gets excited ...she doesn't stop talking.

At our last sleepover ...Ayanda was excited to meet my father and my older sister and of course...she talked non - stop.



And then while we were washing the dishes

AGAIN, Ayanda kept talking.

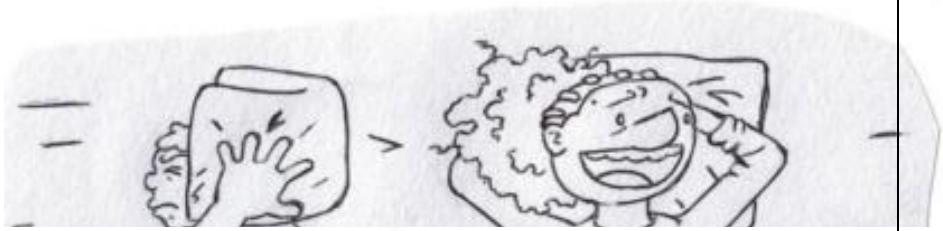
Even when it was time to go

to sleep...that's right...

my chomee was talking!

She may talk a lot, mara I love

her lots!



CHAPTER 3

THE BLACK BOARD

As Ayanda and I got closer to the black board in the corridor we saw a group of girls around it. Most of the girls were my team mates from netball. Some in A team others in B Team. They were talking excitedly busy checking to see if they were chosen for the latest match. Ayanda and I looked at each other.

This was it...



Our school, Paradise Park High, had been competing in the East League Netball tournament. We had qualified for the next round but because some of my team mates hadn't played well. Coach Sarina told us that she would be changing the squad for the next game. Everyone from A team and B team was scared.

Even the 2nd coach was scared she wouldn't be chosen to attend. Coach Sanila was not playing.

Ayanda and I walked to the board. Since Ayanda was taller than everyone else she just stood at the back and looked over the board for our names. All of a sudden she started hopping from one foot to the other.

Instantly I knew we had made it! Ayanda only jumped like that when there was good news. But I still wanted to see for myself (and I wanted to see something else too).

Before I could do anything Ayanda picked me up and started waving me around (and I was kicking all the girls around me by mistake.)

"We made it chomee! We made the team!" Ayanda screamed.

"Yes Chomee! I'm happy too! Can I just see which school we are playing...?" I replied. Ayanda set me down in front of the notice board. As she was talking excitedly with our other team mates, I looked up at the board. And when I saw which school we were playing...I was shocked.

Root net High! Root net High!! Out of all the schools in Azania, why oh, why did we have to play against Root net High?!

It wasn't the school that I didn't like. It was one person in the school that I didn't like; my ex best friend: Lucy Vermeurlen.

Oooh! Let me tell you how our drama started ...

7 YEARS AGO ...

Back when I was 7 or 8 years old Lucy was my BFF. Even at that age all I loved doing was playing netball...and Lulu (that's what I used to call her) was the exact same way. The love we



had for netball was so serious. We called it "The Heart Of The Game". We went to the same Primary school together...and even our fathers were friends.

Even though we were amazing netball players ...there was always this one group of jealous girls who were jealous of how good I was at netball. They even used to call me a name I hate! **JADE THE JUDAS!**



But Lucy had always been more brave than me.

She would always put her arm around my shoulder, look at the girls and yell: "Its fine! After school is after school!" And vele, after school...she would fight them. I think I became confident because Lucy was so confident!

Things changed though when papa told me that Lucy's father had gotten a big promotion at work. All of a sudden Lucy was carrying better lunch AND had money for the tuckshop snacks. Even worse. You remember those same girls who used to bully us?

Suddenly they wanted to be Lucy's friends! And Lucy was chilling with me less and less. One day I told Lucy that those girls were no good. You know what Lucy did?

She pushed me and said that I was just being jealous! Jealous because she finally had real friends. After some time her family moved to the city of Root net. And eventually I moved to Paradise Park.

CHAPTER 4

PARADISE PARK HIGH VS ROOT NET HIGH SCHOOL

It was Friday, the day of the match against Paradise Park and Root net High. We were all in school transport (a Gumba Gumba, which is a bus but it's pulled by a buffalo) and the rest of the team were chatting excitedly.

Another of my team mates, Brenda, came over to where Ayanda and I were sitting.

"Girls, its going down today! I heard Root net won their last three games."

"Oh for real ..." I asked.

Brenda replied **"For real. Apparently they have a strong Goal Shooter ...I think her name's Lucky or Linda or something."**



As soon as she said those names I knew exactly who she was talking about. Ayanda and I just looked at each other. I'd told Ayanda everything about Lucy last year so she knew why I looked nervous.

Coach Sanila looked back at everyone from the front of the Gumba Gumba.

"Alright, girls. Everyone get ready. We've arrived. I want excellent behaviour ne?!"

"Yes Coach!" We all replied.

Instantly there was more excitement in the transport. The girls spoke excitedly and started pointing out the window. Ayanda poked me in the side:

"Chomee...like wow..."

Root net High was absolutely beautiful! You could tell it was a private school. The building looked amazing. The ground was well kept and already there where a group of students who were cheering and singing ready to welcome us.



As soon as our Gumba Gumba stopped and we got out. The Rootnet choir started singing to welcome us officially. With all the attention I instantly felt like a super star.

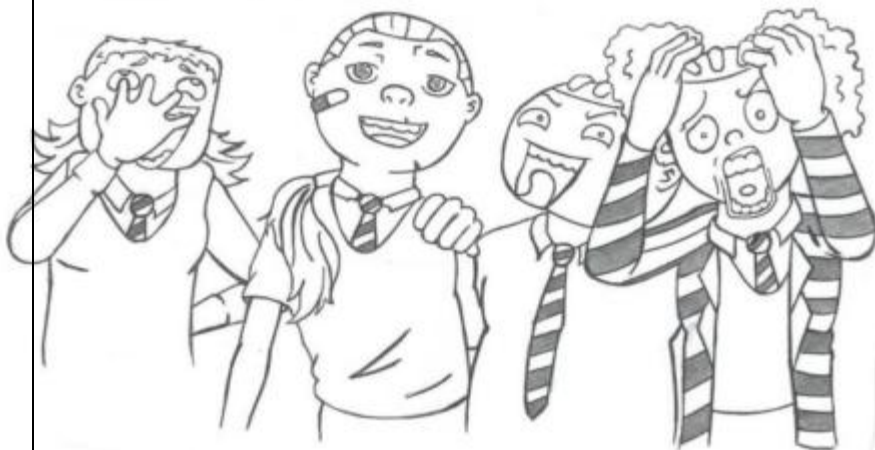


The Root net choir sang for us and clapped loudly. It was so special. Coach Sanila walked forward and shook hands with the other coach. As they were talking amongst themselves ... I heard a voice that made my heart drop...

"Ow! Jade the Judas!"

And there she was, standing among the other Root net players. My ex - BFF ... Lucy. She had gotten taller since last time I saw her, though not as tall as Ayanda.

Speaking of Ayanda, my BFF instantly turned and looked



up and down at Lucy.

"My name is Jade, Lucy. Don't call me Judas...I dont like it." I said to Lucy face to face.

Lucy looked around, then looked at me with a smile, and replied, **"The only thing I don't like is your hairstyle!"**

Immediately her team mates erupted:

YHOOOOOOOOO!!!! As all of her team mates laughed at me, my face started turning red. Ayanda stuck her tounge out at Lucy. Coach Sanila came back from talking to the Rootnet Coach. **"Alright my babies. Enough chatting. Go change into your uniforms."**

As we walked away I heard Lucy yell after me, “I show you the heart of the game Judas! I’ll see you nou nou!”

CHAPTER 5

THE GAME BEGINS!

“And then... what’s her problem?” Ayanda asked me as she was tying her takkies.

Tina, our Wing Defender, also nodded and commented. “I know right? I mean that was rough...”

I kept quiet and fixed my netball uniform. All I was thinking about was Lucy.

I felt betrayed ... after all this time. Even though I didn’t do anything to her. She hated me.

I felt embarrassed. She called me the one name that she KNEW I hated.

But mostly. I felt ANGRY.

I could think of only one thing: REVENGE!

While coach was talking, giving us the game plan, I just kept thinking of crushing Lucy and her team. As our team made our way out of the girl’s toilets in our Green and Gold uniform...I was ready to show her what Jade could do!



Root net High was already on the court. They were dressed in their Orange and black uniforms.



The Root net High students were on either side of the court, on some grandstands. They were cheering and singing songs to encourage their school team.

As my team walked onto the netball court, I heard Tina shout from behind me, "Look at their uniforms. They look like burnt carrots!"

I smiled as some of my team mates yelled loudly "YHOOOOOOO!!"

The coaches shook hands and we went to our separate positions. Ayanda wrapped her arm around my shoulder before we began.

PRRRRT!

The referee blew her whistle and the game started. Root net High managed to get the ball. They passed the ball quickly around and we did our best to defend. Just like when we were younger, Lucy was fast and quick. She was taking our hair pieces. Ayeye!



In netball, when you are beating the other team we call it taking hair pieces. We don't actually take their hair ... it just means that we are beating them.

Lucy was fighting...hard...for her school.

So I had to take Root net High hair pieces myself.

PRRRRT!!



It was half time.

Paradise Park was leading 6 – 2. We were winning!

As I wiped the sweat from my face I looked around for Lucy ...I wanted to see the look on her face. I wanted to see her be sad because we were beating them! But Ayanda and my other team mates led me toward the benches by Coach Sanila.

“Well done my babies!” Coach Sanila was saying to us, as we sat on the bench **“Good! Let’s keep it up ...”**

As Coach Sanila was giving us a motivational talk, Root net High coach on the other side was doing the same thing. I saw the Root net Coach talking to her team. Then she whispered something in Lucy’s ear and put something in her hand.

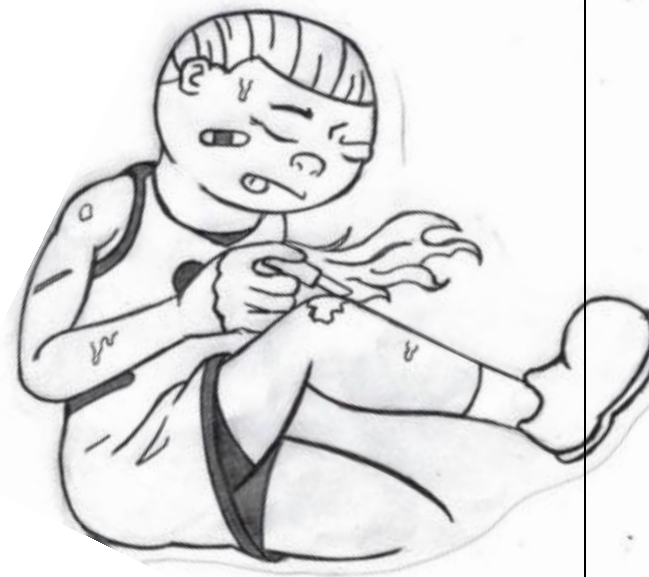
Then Lucy started walking toward the girls' bathroom.

I don’t know why but I asked coach if I could go to the bathroom. I don’t know why but I slowly started following Lucy.

I waited by the door a little bit (eish I didn’t want to be weird) and then I entered the toilet.

I slowly entered and as I got in: you won’t believe what I saw ...

Lucy was rubbing lipstick on her knee.



I asked her ...

After she said none of my business, she just pushed past me and left. I was like ...”yho”. And then...

CHAPTER 6

BLACKMAIL

I came back to my team, confused.

Ayanda called out to me and went straight to her and my team. As coach Sanila was talking. I whispered to Ayanda what I had seen Lucy do, because coach was still talking – Ayanda waited – and then after some time whispered back **“Chomee! Don’t stress about her. We’re taking hair pieces today. That’s all that matters.”**

Ayanda looked so relaxed, so confident. I immediately felt relaxed too. Why stress? We were leading. And if we kept it up ... we were going to win. I just nodded and said **“Of course Chomee”**. then listened to the rest of the coaches plans.

The referee stepped on the court because she was there all the players started stepping on the court. We got into our positions.

As we were about to start, I looked over at Lucy and could see her smiling. It confused me but PPRRRRTT!! The whistle blew and it was time to play.

As we were playing I happened to go near Lucy (If you play netball then you’d understand) and I covered her. Suddenly she pushed me and pulled my hair!

As soon as she pushed me ...I was so angry I pulled her hair and we were having a full on fight!



The referee called the game and both our team mates came to separate us. As they pulled us apart, the referee asked why we were fighting. Immediately Lucy started crying, saying that I skinned her knee. She showed the coaches and referees her knee (the one with lipstick on it!) and then she started crying!

So THAT'S why Lucy put that lipstick on her knee!!

Mxm! I tried explaining to my coach. Even Ayanda was shocked. The coaches believed Lucy. Coach Şanila looked at me with disappointment in her eyes.

"Go sit on the bench, Jade."

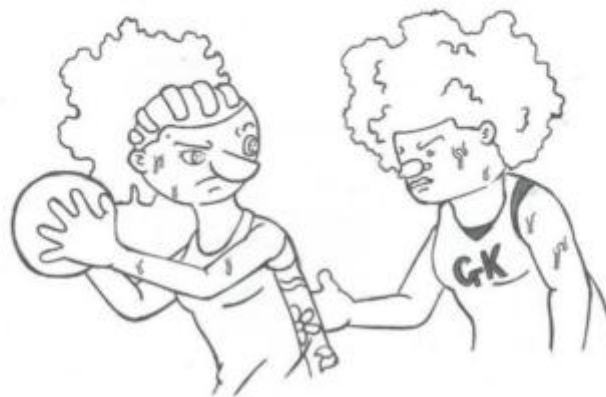
As I walked off I looked to the right and I swear ... I saw Lucy looking at me. And she was smiling.

But what happened next was even crazier...

As I looked at Lucy and she smiled, I felt a hand on my shoulder. My sadness started disappearing when I looked up ...and it was Ayanda.

Though Ayanda is impatient, she was always cool, calm and collected. I knew that she would calm down the situation – but instead she did the complete opposite.

Quickly Ayanda started going crazy.



I was so happy! Ayanda was really taking hair pieces for me! The coaches and the referee didn't feel the same way. Ayanda was playing so rough, bumping Rootnet players with her elbows, the way she was so angry. Eventually the referee told Ayanda to sit on the bench with me...

We both looked at each other: both happy and sad. As the referee rang the whistle, Root net went in playing strong.

.....

Ayanda looked at me.

"Chomee...I didn't know it would be like this. I didn't know that girl, Lucy, would cheat like this. Mara its fine. I'll stand by you chomee".

CHAPTER 7

THE TRUTH IS TOLD

As the game continued, slowly but surely Root net High was catching up. One after the other, Lucy were scoring goals. It hurt me to see Lucy scoring, especially because she had made me and Ayanda get out of the game.

After some time Ayanda went to coach and asked if she could go drink some water. Coach Sanila said **"You know what? I was going to send you to fetch water. Take all the team bottles and quickly go."**

Ayanda took the bottle rack of the team's bottles and made her way to the taps.

What happened next comes straight from Ayanda, so I'll let Ayanda tell her story.

AYANDA

Blessings! This is Ayanda! I'm so excited to tell you MY part of the drama! This next part was **SUPER CRAZY!** Watch this!

I left my chomee, Jade, and was walking towards the taps. I was just thinking to myself:

This is crazy! We taking hair pieces and now these girls are speaking lies! Like really?! And worse...they are lying about my chomee..! Mxm...but its fine.

I took the team water bottles and made my way to the taps. I was near the corner and stopped to tie my shoes and heard two loud voices. I peeked around the corner. It was two players from Root net High.



"Girl, I love it when plan Lipstick comes together."

Plan Lipstick? What were they talking about? I know you don't listen in on other people talking so I hurried up tying my takkies so I could leave.

"Me too girl!" the other player replied, **"and it works every time. Just paint your knee with lipstick, start a fight with the other team."**

Works every time? Once I heard Lipstick I remembered what Jade had told me Lucy did. I was very interested in their conversation now.

"I'm just happy that Lucy has the guts to start the fights. Phela I'd be scared to do that."

"That's why she's the captain. Coach trusts her to get the job done. She always does." The two girls kept walking and laughing. I couldn't believe what I'd heard!

Rootnet started fights with other schools during match time. I'm sure they did that when they saw that they were losing!

I immediately went running back to my bench and my team. The game was nearing full time and guess who was taking a penalty shot. Lucy!

I quickly sat next Jade

"Chomee, you were right! They start fights when they're losing!"

Jade looked surprised **"How do you know?"**

"I heard two girls from Rootnet talking. They planned all of this. Lucy was told to put lipstick on her knee. Her coach told her to do it."

I've known my chomee for two years now, and in all that time I have only seen her irritated. But after I told her the news...who. **SHE WAS ANGRY.**

She clenched her fists and started hitting her knees. She gritted her teeth and started breathing heavily. She reminded me of that one super hero. The green one who gets angry quickly.



And as she looked at Lucy shooting her penalty shot. Jade got up and I started yelling at her to come back. Jade kept walking. The other players tried holding her back but she kept on walking. The Root net players also saw Jade get on the netball court and they also tried stopping Jade. Jade just screamed, "LOS MY!"

It was beautiful to watch! I jumped in too and did my best to push other girls off of her. Everyone was yelling and screaming, and everyone on the court saw this. The referee shouted and immediately blew the whistle to stop the game.

Jade had pushed by everyone, had gotten to Lucy and held her by her washing (her uniform!)

CHAPTER 8

JADE HERE. LETS GET BACK TO DRAMA!

As I grabbed Lucy by her uniform, she started screaming "What's your problem, Judas?!" The two coaches separated us and the Root net coach said to the referee that our team should be disqualified.

I yelled out loud "They're the ones that should be disqualified! They're the ones who cheated!" Everyone looked at me in surprise, especially the Root net coach.

The Root net coach replied "That's a lie. We'd never do something like that - "

Even the Root net players started yelling loudly denying what I was saying.

I looked at Lucy. Lucy looked at me. But I could see something change in her eyes.

"Lulu...you know this isn't right. I know about the lipstick. Real players don't



cheat. They win!"

"That is the heart of the game!"

Lucy looked down. It was the first time I saw Lucy look like her old self. Her coach started speaking again, "Ref! Their lying –"

Lucy closed her eyes, let out a small sigh and started speaking loudly all of a sudden.

"It's true, referee. My coach makes me put lipstick on my knee and I start a fight with the other team whenever we ...when ever we lose.."

A short player from the Rootnet Team yelled at Lucy: "Lucy, what are you doing?!"

Lucy continued.

"I'm telling the truth. That's what I'm doing. I've always played for the heart of the game. I told you all that when I came here, and you all laughed at me."

Lucy looked at me.

"But...sometimes someone reminds you why you play the game."

Lucy looked at the referee. "The lipstick makes it look like the other team pushed me extra hard and referees in the past would disqualify the other team and give Rootnet High the win. Ek...ek is jammer."

Everyone from my team gasped in shock. The Rootnet players all looked angrily at Lucy. The referee called both referees to the side and announced that the game was cancelled.

Both teams went to their benches and there was a buzz of chatter.

I looked to the other team, all the players were moaning or shouting at Lucy. Suddenly I felt bad for her.

Lucy's whole team told her to leave them alone...and as she sat in-between our two benches. Alone. I don't know why...

But I felt like crying.

Again I don't know what made me do it...but I slowly got out of my group. As my team mates were asking me where I was going.

I walked over to Lucy, sat next to her and put my arm around her shoulders.



CHAPTER 8

THIS AND THAT BISCUITS

All of Paradise Park was in the Gumba Gumba. All the girls were chatting and singing. The referee had come back and announced that the game would be cancelled.

Root net High was disqualified from the netball competition.

Lucy's team were all so annoyed at her, they totally ignored her after the referees made the announcement. Again, my heart became heavy.

After all the things she'd done to me today: calling me Judas, fighting with me, lying ... at the very end Lucy had come through. She really showed the heart of the game. And even after all that, and all this time: She went and told the truth. I was so proud of her!

I was sitting next to Ayanda in the Gumba Gumba. I heard a light clink on the window. Again there was another clink as a small stone hit my window. I turned and looked through it.

And guess who was outside..?

I was so surprised! Then I quickly stood up. I went to Coach.

"Coach, can I quickly go to the toilet?"

Coach told me to be quick or that they would leave me behind. I got out of the Gumba Gumba and walked quickly to Lucy. Lucy looked at me and before I could talk she started talking:

"Jade. I ...I..."

I just looked at Lucy, put my hand on her shoulder and smiled. **"Its okay Lulu. I missed you too. It was good to see you again after so long."**

Lucy smiled back at me and said **"It was nice...eish...you know how..uh... I get a bit crazy when I play netball. Shows that even after all these years, somethings don't change."**

"But you reminded me why we play netball. For the heart of the game and stuff. My coach was all about winning. That's it. But its fine."

As Lulu kapa'd me back to the Gumba Gumba we spoke quickly and promised to see each other during the holidays. She also handed me something: it was a packet of This and That biscuits. Grape flavour.

"I hope you still like that flavour..." Lulu said to me.



I got on the Gumba Gumba and Lucy stood outside looking at me. As the buffalo pulled off, I opened the window and started waving. Next thing Ayanda poked her head out the window and also started waving.

More hands and heads poked out their window and all I could hear as we pulled off was ...

"BLESSINGS LULU!!!!!!!"

THIS AND THAT

THIS AND THAT