

CHAPTER 7

‘GAME TIME’

Top of the first inning.....

In the outfield- Hoagie and Cindy’s team stood at their assigned defensive formation, while Hoagie himself stood in the pitcher’s location. The team was ready for some kickball action with their mouths firmly sealed, with Cindy at first base- and Alexis playing deep deep right field. First up to kick was Big George the Beast, who stepped up to the plate with ‘GA’ ‘GA’ ‘GRINDING’ teeth.

“**LET’S GO B-G!KICK IT OUT OF THE PARK!**”, cheered Louis- from the dugout.

Hoagie wound up the kickball with a ‘WOO’ ‘WOO’ ‘WHOOSH’- rushed forward and released one of his trademark Scorcher Balls. As the ball crossed the plate with perfect timing, Big George kicked a powerful pop-fly up-‘HA’ ‘HA’ ‘HIGH’ into the sky. He then took off running for first base.

“**I GOT IT- I GOT IT!**”, shouted Brent- the right field shortstop- as the ball made it’s descent within his direction.

Big George rounded first base as the ball came feet from Brent’s open arms. He braced himself for the impact of the falling ball, yet- it never came*it never came!*

“**OUT!**”, yelled Hoagie- as the team rejoiced and Big George halted his feet near second base.

Brent raised his empty hands up to his eyes, but there was no ball within them. He looked to his left- and then to his right, but the ball was nowhere in sight. Upon spinning around to his rear, he spotted the ball- he did! Alexis stood a yard or two from Brent's rear- you see, with the kickball raised high within her gloved hands like a championship Kick Ball trophy. Brent 'STA' 'STA' 'STARED' at her in confusion- wondering how in the world had she made his catch.

"WAY TO GO ALEXUS!", praised Cindy- from first base.

Brent turned back around and gazed about the field for a few, before turning back to ask Alexis a question -or two. To his surprise- when he turned around to face her, she stood far far back within her original outfield position- she did!

Second up to kick was Stuart- the team's co-captain. He kicked a slider ball straight to Brent, who 'SCA' 'SCA' 'SCOOPED' it right up and tossed it to Cindy before he could reach the base. It was the second out- it was!

For the third pitch to Louis- Hoagie released a Kangaroo Ball that 'BA' 'BA' 'BOUNCED' for home plate. Louis rushed forward and strategically 'KA' 'KA' 'KICKED' the ball, sending it shooting low toward third base! The ball fell from the air and 'BA' 'BA' 'BOUNCED' into the arms of the girl at third base -named Rosalita, as Louis 'RA' 'RA' 'RACED' for first base with the speed of a young cheetah! Rosalita rapidly 'RA' 'RA' 'ROLLED' it toward Cindy at first- while shouting out a call, but Louis had already made it to the base- before she could even get her hands upon the ball! He was- *SAFE*- he was!

"GOLLY GEE- MUST I DO EVERYTHING!WAKE UP- SLOWIE JOEYS!", wailed out Alexis.

Fourth up to the plate was another power kicker- it was Mike P, so Hoagie pitched the slowest ball in his arsenal- which he called the Bumble Bee. Mike P rushed for the plate with timed perfection and booted Hoagie's pitch into the far left outfield direction.

The small crowd 'RA' 'RA' 'ROARED' with excitement as the ball fell from the sky and 'BA' 'BA' 'BOUNCED' to a stop near a far away fence. The game was picking up and the action had gotten MUCHO intense!

A slow boy in deep left field gave the ball a slow slow chase, as Mike P rounded second- and Louis headed for third base. **"HURRY UP AND GET THE BALL- YOU MUST!YOUR SLOWER THAN A BABY SNAIL IN A PAIL- YOU ARE!"**, wailed Alexis- quickly losing her patience.

The slow boy stopped before the ball and bent over to pick it up slower than an old man with a cane, as Louis reached third and Louis headed home- which drove Alexis quite insane. The slow boy reached for the ball- his hands he did extend, but to his surprise it had vanished- faster than the 'SWA' 'SWA' 'SWOOSHING' of the passing wind. As he headed for home- Louis decided to 'JA' 'JA' 'JOG' backwards like the show-boater he was, 'WA' 'WA' 'WAIVING' his hands wildly in the air- doing those showboating things that an arrogant show-boater does. Following a few seconds of showing off- he spun around toward the back, where he was met with a surprise- that stopped him dead within his sneaker tracks! Alexis stood on home plate with the ball held out inches from Louis's chest- she did!

Without a seconds' thought- Louis did instinctively reverse his direction and race back toward third, as Mike P headed back for second!

Alexus ran behind Louis- giving him a really good chase, before she abruptly stopped pursuing him and tossed the ball to Rosalita over at third base! Louis instantly put on the brakes and swiftly reversed his direction before it was too late- steamrolling right through Alexis, knocking her down into the dirt- as he headed back for home plate!

“THAT’S DIRTY YO!”, hollered out Cindy.

With all eyes on him- Louis **‘SLA’ ‘SLA’ ‘SLID’** across the ground kicking up large clouds of dirt as he raced for home plate! The dirt cloud traveled so high that it completely concealed Louis from view!

[*Suddenly*] Rosalita felt a strong wind swoosh past her, before she looked down into her hands instantly realizing that the ball was gone! Everyone watched in silent suspense as the obstructing dirt cloud began to settle, exposing Louis on the ground with his left Super Dunkman sneaker rested an inch from the plate! Seconds later- a ginormous black boot came into full view! To everyone’s surprise- Alexis reached downward with the ball in her hands and touched it to Louis’s sneakers!

“OUT!”, hollered Hoagie- instantly causing his teammates to **‘CHA’ ‘CHA’ ‘CHEER’** and head for the dug-out.

“But-but- butHow could you?”, muttered Louis- as he gazed up at Alexis’s naturally frowning eyebrows and smirking lips.

Louis turned his eyes to the rear and quickly measured the distance from her last laying position. Surprisingly- upon turning his eyes back toward home plate, all that remained was the resting kickball. He *swiftly* **‘LA’ ‘LA’ ‘LOOKED’** around for her, but she was nowhere to be found! He was shocked- he was!

“Maybe it’s all just a dreamYeah- that’s it! Soon I’ll wake up to mom’s peanut butter pancakes and scrambled eggs with bacon bitsYa-ya- yeah”, he reasoned to himself- as he rested flat upon his back and stared up at the sky. He **‘SNUH’ ‘SNUH’ ‘SNIFFED’** at the air, placed his thumb into his mouth and curled up into the fetal position. **“.....I can smell it now- YUM!I’m coming ma- I’m coming!”**. He **‘GA’ ‘GA’ ‘GIGGLED’** and **‘SA’ ‘SA’ ‘SUCKED’** his thumb- he did!

“What in the world are you doing Bro?”, questioned Big George- while casting a giant shadow over Louis.

Upon hearing Big George’s voice- Louis’s shocked eyes immediately **‘POP’ ‘POPPED’** right open, as he quickly sat up from the ground! He quickly yanked his thumb from out of his mouth and began to **‘SHA’ ‘SHA’ ‘SHAKE’** it about! **“AH-AH- AH!It’s my hand!I-I-I uh- jammed my thumb!Look- that’s the only reason why I had it in my mouth!It’s not like I sleep with it in my mouth or anything!”**, chimed out Louis.

Awoken to reality- Louis pushed his hands firmly against the ground, arched his back into a bridge- and did an acrobatic handstand back onto his feet.

.....He did- DAMAGE CONTROL- he did!