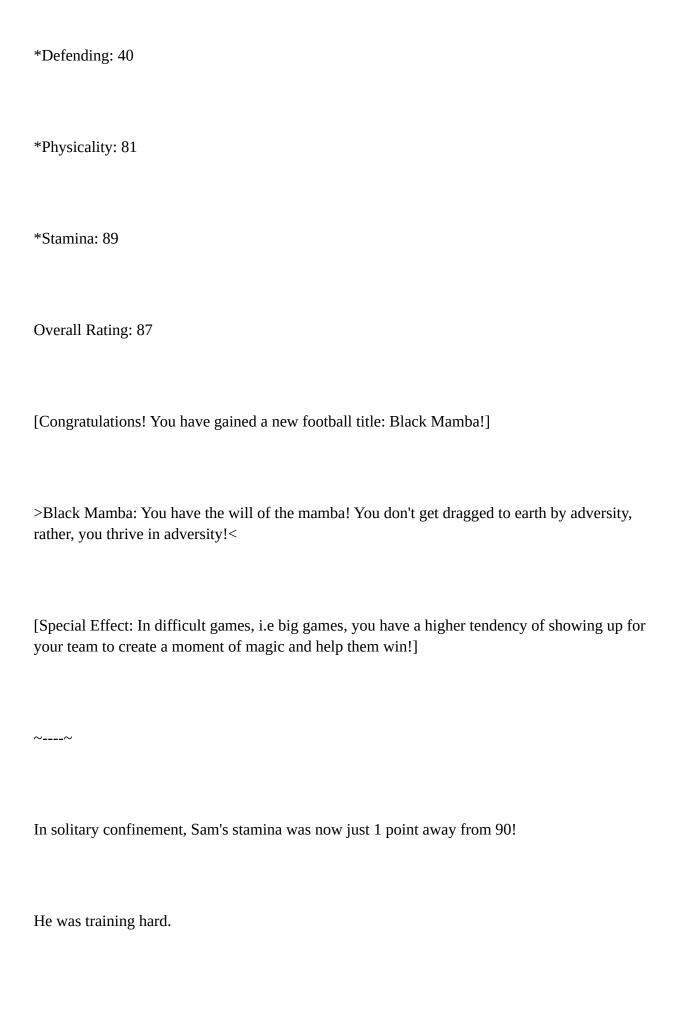
Football God 311

Chapter 311 A scandal [5]
The narrative changed.
From just prosecute Sam, uncertainty began lingering into the hearts of those who followed the blockbuster news.
What if Amaka was lying?
What if she was after Sam's money all along?
What if she was just ruining the career of the promising young Nigerian footballer who was tipped to lead Nigeria to glory for the first time in the FIFA World Cup?
That uncertainty was what broke the one-sided momentum.
The massive hate that Sam was receiving online reduced as a direct result of the scene that Mrs. Moses caused in Amaka parents' home.
Clever now, those who followed the news decided to stay patient and calm, not jumping to conclusions as they decided to wait for conclusive evidence to be found by the court and investigating authorities first.



~~
[You have completed Daily System Quest: Mentality Monster!]
[You have been rewarded with a low-grade physical conditioning elixir!]
[Your stamina attribute has increased by +2]
Player Attributes:
*Pace: 86
*Shot: 87
*Pass: 85
*Dribbling: 84

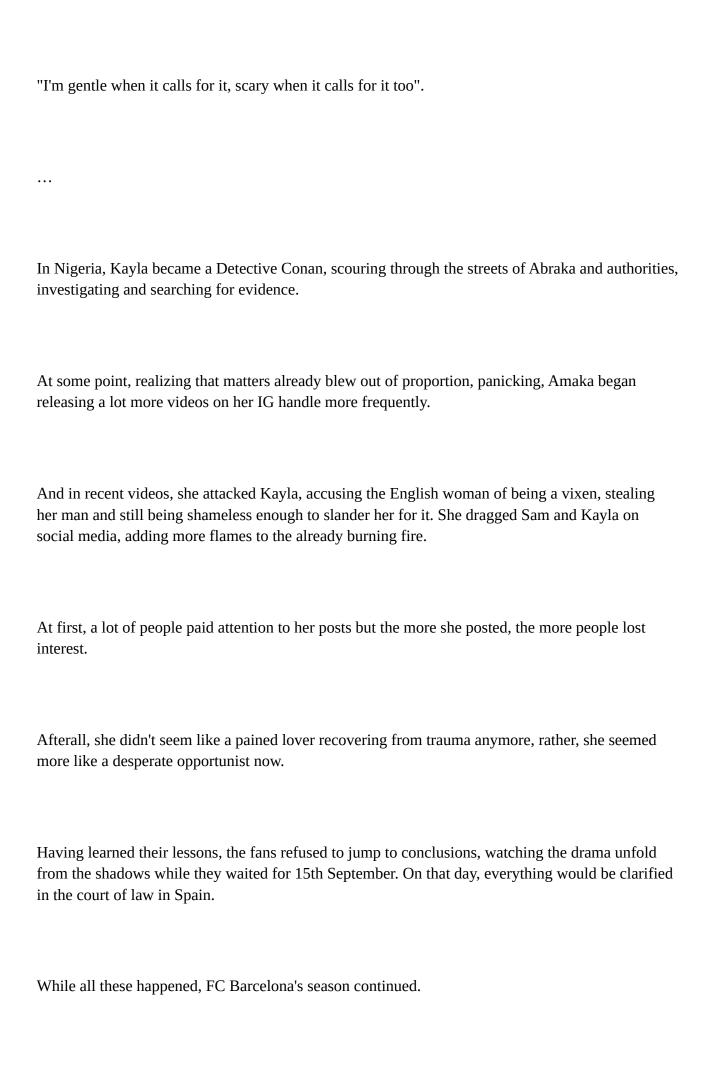


2 more days passed, and then FC Barcelona played its next league game, it's first without their new signing, Samuel Moses.
The scandal was truly affecting Sam's career.
In a show of support for their teammate who was in police custody and confinement, for the home game at the Spotify Camp Nou for matchday 5 of the Spanish La Liga season, the FC Barcelona players wore coveralls spotting images of Sam and a support message.
(We stand with Sam!)
This was the message of FC Barcelona.
They believed in their player, and they would support him despite the negative impact that this scandal was having on the club as a brand.
Unlike a certain club like Manchester United who failed to have the back of their player who went through a similar situation in Mason Greenwood, FC Barcelona took a different approach, not shying from supporting him despite the negative consequences that it may bring.
It was not just the players and the club board who supported their player, the fans also showed solidarity towards their young player.

The fans approached this game with massive banners embedded with Sam images and different supportive messages.
Before the start of the game, they paraded these banners in the stadium.
In that game, as if to motivate Sam, the FC Barcelona squad played at an elite and imperious form against their opponents in the Spotify camp nou.
They shipped 7 goals past their opponents, winning 7-2 by fulltime.
Lewandowski got a hattrick, Raphinha got 2 goals and 2 assists, while Lamine Yamal got 2 goals and 3 assists; an electric display from the FC Barcelona front trio.
The midfield was also electric, having an almost perfect game.
Gavi substituted for Sam perfectly at the attacking midfield spot. Behind him, Marc Casado and Pedri equally had solid games as both midfielders got an assist each. It was an all-round impressive display from FC Barcelona.
From this game, it became clear that Lewandowski still had the quality, just the legs were no longer there.
Give him the ball in a dangerous spot and the Polish striker still had the sight for goal, and the lethal instincts to score.

But to do more, he no longer had the legs to do more.
For now, he was still barely a passable option for the Catalan giants but it was clear that they needed a replacement as soon as possible for the Polish striker.
With that display at home, FC Barcelona bounced back to winning ways in a statement victory sent to the rest of the Spanish La Liga.
1 day later, the Supreme Court of Spain finally released news.
(BBC News:)
(The Supreme Court of Spain have finally released an official word. The hearing for Samuel Moses' case has been scheduled to take place on 15th of September at the Supreme Court building!)
(Stay tuned for any further news on the case:)
15th of September, that was 15 days after Sam's last game for FC Barcelona on August 31st.
In that time frame, he was guaranteed to miss at least 3 games.





In Sam's absence, amid 2 more La Liga games, the Catalan club finally kickstarted their champions league campaign for this 2025/2026 season.
Imperiously, FC Barcelona dominated, winning the next 2 La Liga games that they played but in their champions league debut game for this new campaign was where they finally stumbled.
They started against Benfica.
Against the infamous club from Portugal, FC Barcelona faltered, Robert Lewandowski's age once again laid bare against a solid and formidable opponent.
Lamine Yamal dazzled this game, eventually winning the man of the match award after an electric dribbling display but in the end, the game ended in a goalless draw as Lewandowski's struggles in front of goal proved costly to the Catalans.
Raphinha had a good game but he was also shut out by the Portuguese team.
Last season, FC Barcelona started their champions league campaign with a loss. This season again, they stumbled, starting the new campaign with a draw against Benfica; the Catalans seemed to have a thing against winning their first champions league games.
After that game, Sam's hearing at court was to commence in 3 days and a day after the Champions League game, he was visited by his friends.
Led by Lamine Yamal, a group from the FC Barcelona squad comprising Yamal, Pedri, Gavi, and Alejandro Balde visited Sam in his confinement home.





'I need to keep on improving!'
He returned to training.
Like this, time moved fast and in no time, 3 days already passed.
The D-day, was here.
On 15th September, 2025, Sam was finally carried to the building of the Supreme Court of Spain for his court hearing. Chapter 313 The hearing [1]
The D-day was here.
15th September, 2025, Sam's hearing took place in the Supreme Court of Spain in the Spanish Capital City, Madrid.
It was a big occasion.
Afterall, it was a damaging scandal involving one of the recent big names of Spanish football, one of FC Barcelona's superstar players.
The media already fanned the flames for weeks, and now it all hit a crescendo, setting the stage for the showdown in the court.

Having arrived in Spain already, hours before the court hearing, Amaka Glimz released one final video to her fans.
The young Nigerian lady had a disbelieving look on her face. "I can't believe it got to this level".
"I honestly don't know what Sam is thinking," she sighed, expressing great pain. "To think he would hurt me and not feel remorseful at all, to still push me to this extent, I fear there's nothing more I can do".
"The evidence is solid against him; there's no way around it".
"Alas I gave him a way out of this".
She looked at the camera, a look of determination in her eyes. "Sam, if you're watching this, know that I gave you a chance to resolve this amicably but you refused my goodwill".
"I'm not at fault if this ends up affecting your football career".
"I tried my best".
"Now, let the law take its course".

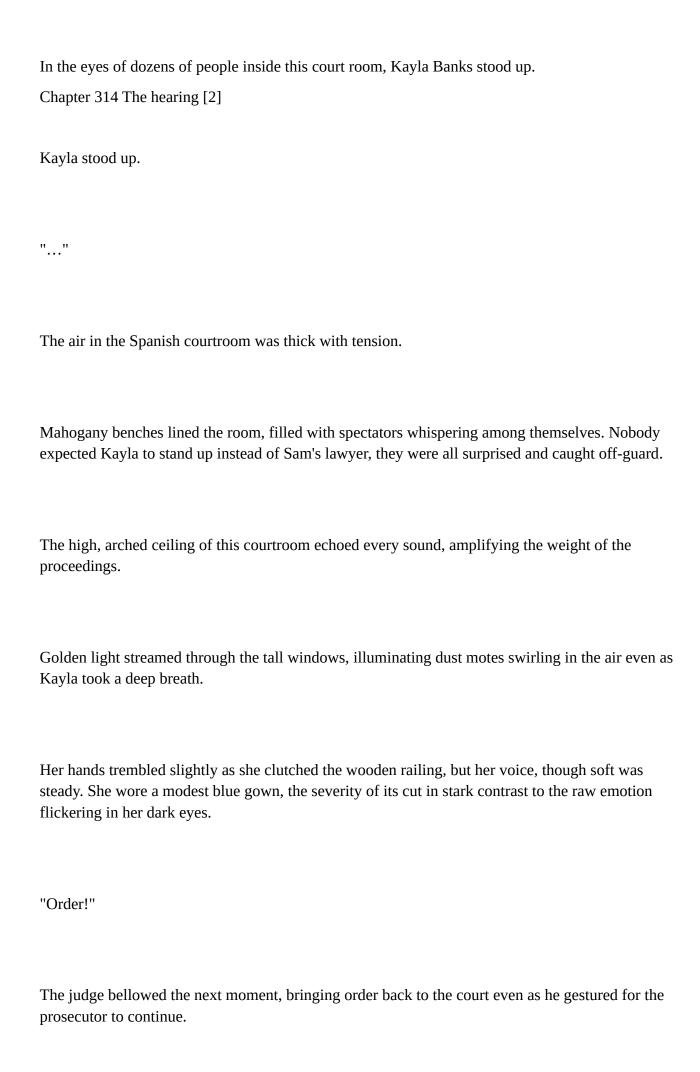
The video ended there.
This video fanned the flames online that surrounded the hearing in Spain even more, causing a frenzy of discussion by fans online.
Some supported Amaka, a few diehard fans supported Sam, while majority of the viewers stayed neutral, refusing to jump to a conclusion till the court hearing finally came to an end and the judge gave his verdict.
The D-day was here, now came the time.
The hours rolled fast and in no time, it was 10:00am in Madrid.
Whoosh!
Luxurious cars rolled to the occasion, stopping at the entrance to the Supreme Court of Spain as numerous esteemed individuals attended to the occasion where Sam's fate was to be decided by the court.
From high-profile lawyers to high-profile celebrities, there was no lack of esteemed faces today as majority of the world's attention turned to this hearing.

Among the high-profile faces were those from FC Barcelona.
Pulling out in their luxurious cars for their teammate, Pedri and Gavi pulled to the occasion dressed in neat black suits.
Lamine Yamal and Alejandro Balde also arrived in another luxurious car. Of all of them though, the most high profile was the arrival of the legendary Polish striker, Robert Lewandowski who graced the occasion.
"I can't believe it!"
"All these people came out for Sam?!" People gossiped in the background.
"Are they just being biased because he's their teammate, or its because they believe that Sam is innocent?"
Amid all the gossip, another luxurious car pulled up to the occasion, a GLE 53 AMG and from inside, one of the main characters of today pulled out.
Almost 1 month without football
Almost 1 month of a damaging scandal, almost 1 month of being exposed to scary amount of online abuse, almost a month of being held in police custody

A lot of people expected Sam to be depressed by the whole situation. At the very least, they expected the toil from the abuse to show on his face and body but when Sam stepped out of the car, none of that showed.
He didn't look emaciated and malnourished at all.
Rather, all that showed was undaunted confidence and unmatched charisma.
Thud!
He stepped down from the car.
Sam's black shoes gleamed like the smooth surface of obsidian glass as they touched the pavement, the perfect accentuate for his all-black attire.
His black trunks, his long black cloak, and the dark shades that added an extra layer of seriousness to his demeanor today, all of it made Sam look like a secret CEO of some big ancient family.
Click! Click!
The cameras quickly started flashing, letting out clicking sounds as the alert cameramen took pictures of the famous footballer.
No matter the outcome of the hearing today, these pictures were clearly going to sell for big prices as news company clamor to milk the impact of today.

As soon as Sam came down, he walked, and then they followed.
Following behind him was his personal lawyer, his girlfriend, Kayla, and his best friend, Ian. Together, they walked confidently into the court of law, into the maws of the judiciary.
Mr. Moses pushed to attend this hearing in Spain but Sam was against it. He didn't want his parents to be dragged into the heat of this scandal.
About a minute later, another car pulled up and Amaka walked out. She was dressed in a neat blue gown. She walked in with her lawyer.
Once they entered the court of law, the massive doors were slammed shut even as the hearing was scheduled to start.
Inside the Supreme Court building was filled with lots of high-profile faces.
3 minutes after the door were shut, the judge walked in.
As soon as he sat down, he went through a few of his documents that were on his table before finally starting the hearing.
After saying a few customary words, he commenced the main event.

"Let the plaintiff present his case before the jury".
In a court of law, there is a defendant and a plaintiff. The plaintiff is the party that brings the case against the defendant.
In normal circumstances in a court of law, the plaintiff and their witnesses present evidence first.
The outcome of the case depends on whether there is a jury or not. The judge decides the outcome of the case after listening to evidence from both sides.
As soon as the judge demanded it, Amaka's lawyer stood up, eloquently presenting the case before the judge.
"The accused, Sam assaulted my client physically and sexually".
Starting from that, this lawyer flexed his trained eloquence in front of the judge, presenting the case perfectly and putting Sam out as the villain before eventually supporting his claims with solid evidence, the videos and images.
Silence reigned in this court of law as soon as Amaka's lawyer presented her case. Calmly, the judge acknowledged them before moving on.
"Now, let the defendant defend his case".



Before Kayla, the prosecutor, a stern woman in a crisp black robe arched a skeptical brow as she
looked at the English woman. "Senorita Kayla," she said, her voice laced with doubt. "Are you
telling this court that despite the testimonies, despite the evidence, you still believe in your
boyfriend's innocence?"

A murmur rippled through the audience; this court hearing was taking an unexpected turn but Kayla stayed composed.

Lifting her chin, she faced the prosecutor and smiled. "Yes," she said firmly. "I know my boyfriend. He would never and could never do what he is being accused of by the plaintiff".

She slightly inclined her head to look at Amaka; her eyes gleamed with concealed malice. "There are inconsistencies in the accusations".

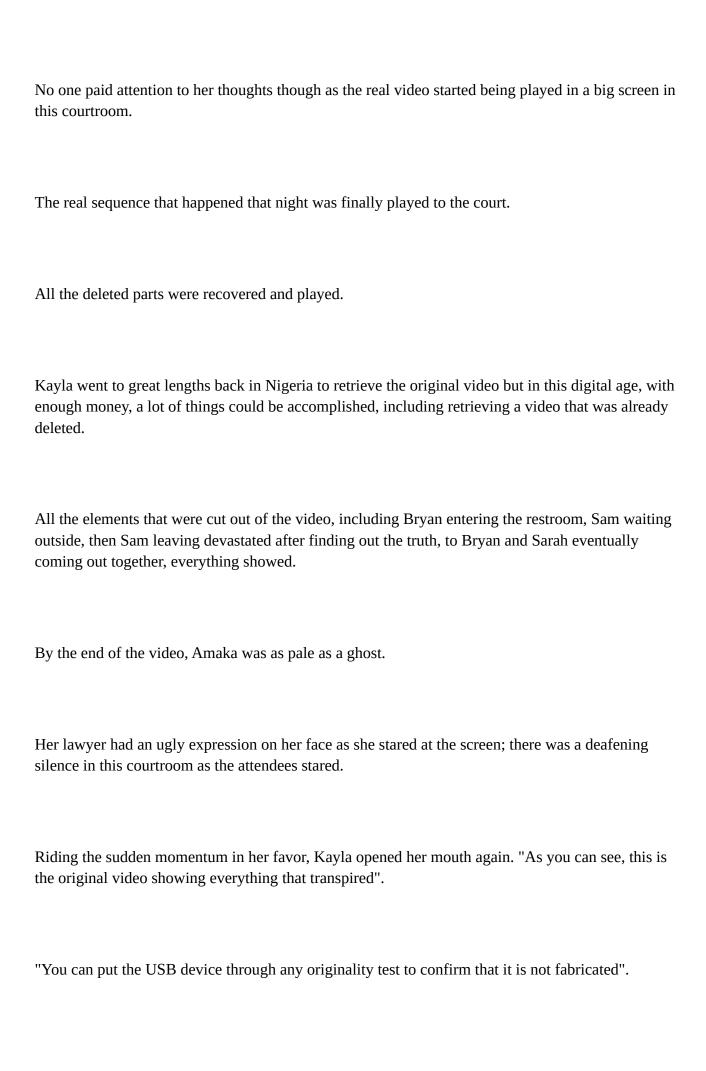
"...!"

Now, things were getting interesting as everyone perked up.

Kayla faced the judge. "Her evidence; the videos, the images," she took a deep breath. "They were fabricated".

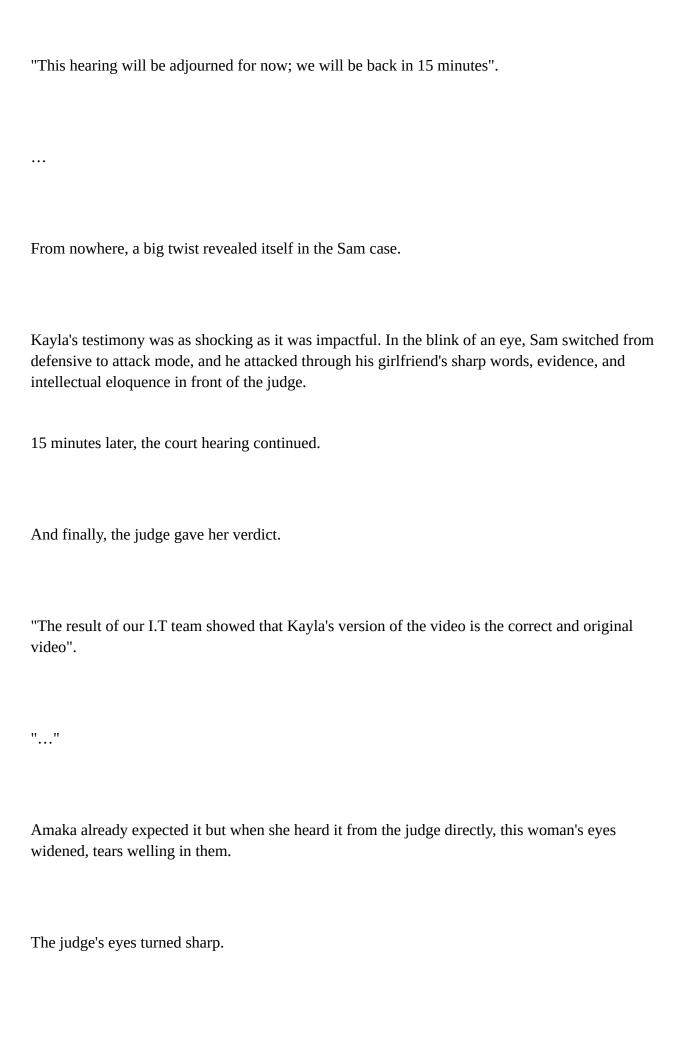
The judge stared at the young Englishwoman. "Are you saying that all of this was fabricated? Our specialists checked and everything correlated. What evidence do you have that supports your claims?"





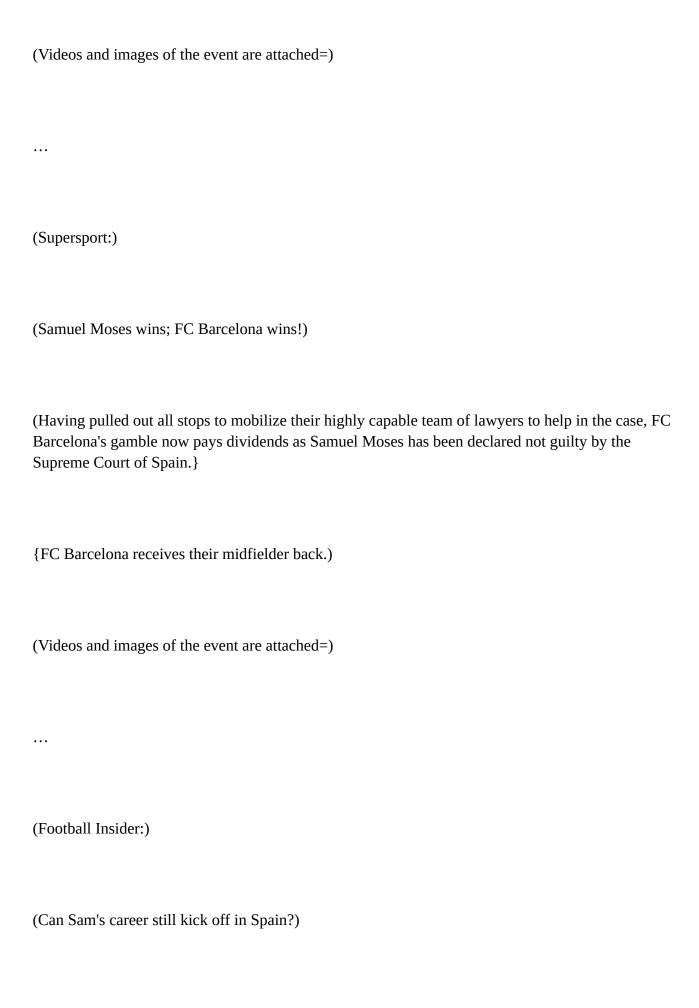








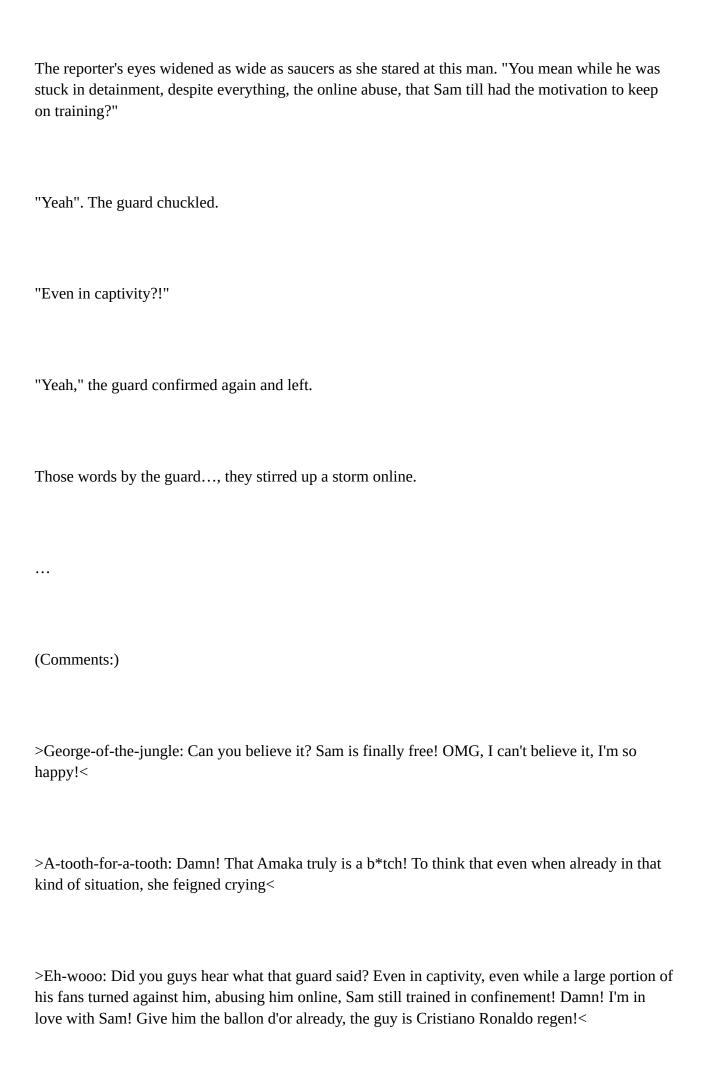
(BBC News:)
(Who is Samuel Moses really?)
(A big twist in the Sam scandal: It turns out that it was the girl who was after his mother in the first place, harassing Sam and defaming him.)
(After a court hearing by the Supreme Court of Spain, Amaka Amagada has been subjected to 4 years in prison and a monetary fine of 18 months of her daily earnings which is to be paid to Sam as compensation for damages.)
(Final verdict: Sam is not guilty!)
(ESPN News:)
(FC Barcelona midfielder, Samuel Moses has been proven not guilty!)
(After a court hearing in the Supreme Court of Spain, Samuel Moses has been declared not guilty by the judge, absolving him of all charges. The plaintiff, Amaka is the one accused of defamation and sentenced by the Supreme Court.)

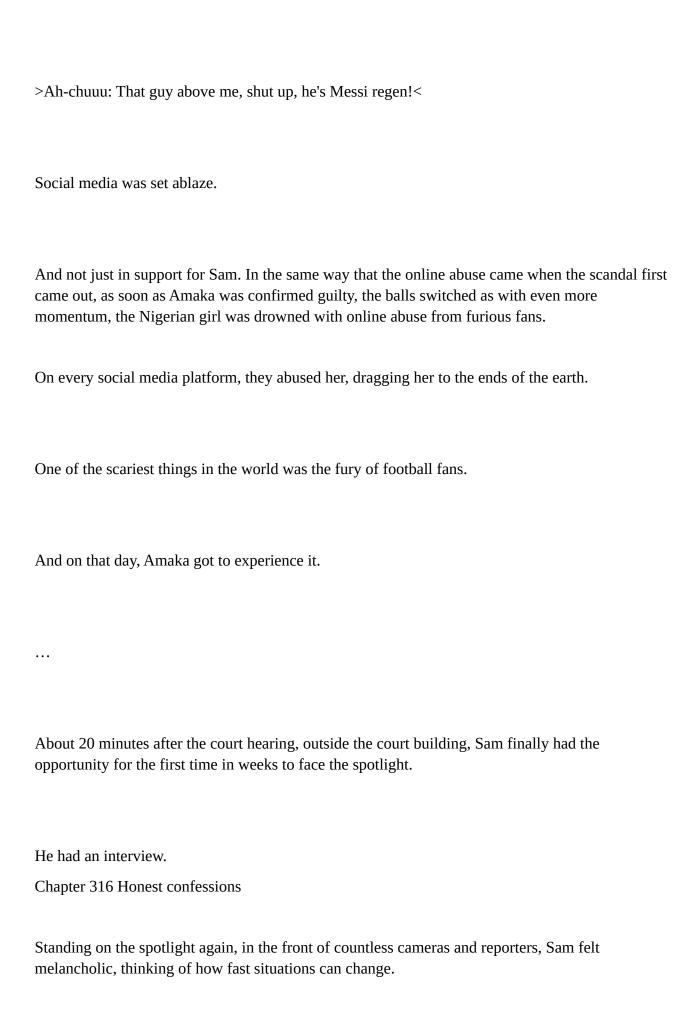


(Due to the scandal, the young Nigerian midfielder's life in Spain have gone through a truly bumpy start. Can the young Nigerian turn his situation around, turning adversity to blessing after being proven not guilty?)
Just like expected, mere minutes after the end of the court hearing in Spain, prominent news platforms, mostly football news platforms became active as they spread the news like wildfire burning in harmattan.
Hours before the hearing even started, they were all already prepared for this moment and none of them lagged behind.
Across the world of football, there was a lot of speculations, what would become of Sam if he was proven guilty?
Guess the football world will never know.
Due to the sheer amount of publicity that surrounded the scandal and the number of esteemed individuals who came for the court hearing, outside the court building was already turned into a press conference hall by popular media organizations.
They were eager to have interviews with the esteemed individuals who were present during the court hearing.
The reporters did not hold back, going on a hunting spree as they trapped big names like Robert Lewandowski and Pedri, making them answer a question or 2 regarding the result of the court hearing and what they thought about it.

Lewandowski's reply was crisp.
"I may not be too close to Sam but I know that he's a good brother, I believed that he didn't harass a girl and why I stood up for him".
"The result of the court hearing just proves that I am right".
"Sam is innocent".
When it came to the trio of Pedri, Gavi, and Lamine Yamal, the 3 Spanish players echoed their sentiments in relation to the situation.
Their answer was even simpler than the Polish striker's.
"Sam is disciplined".
"He wants to become the best player in the world, I don't believe he would sacrifice all of that because of a girl named Amaka".
"This is why we believed in him".
Who is Samuel Moses?

"Since I'm already here, I would just like to use this opportunity to ask for an apology," he looked at the camera. "We sincerely hope Mr. Samuel understands and find a place in his heart to forgive us".
The female reporter smiled. "Mr., please one last question, who is Samuel Moses?"
"Huh?" The guard stared at the reporter, confused.
The reporter explained. "I mean Sam as a person. A lot of his fans are eager to know more about him, and since you stayed with him and guarded him for so long, we thought maybe you knew something about him that we don't".
Hearing that explanation, the guard finally understood as he smiled. "Sam, let me say he's an eccentric person".
"What do you mean?"
The guard chuckled. "I don't know much about him yet but during the time of his detainment, I noticed something strange and peculiar".
This guard smiled for the first time in this interview as he seemed to recall a specific memory. "Throughout his time in detainment, a day never passed that Mr. Samuel failed to train".
"!"







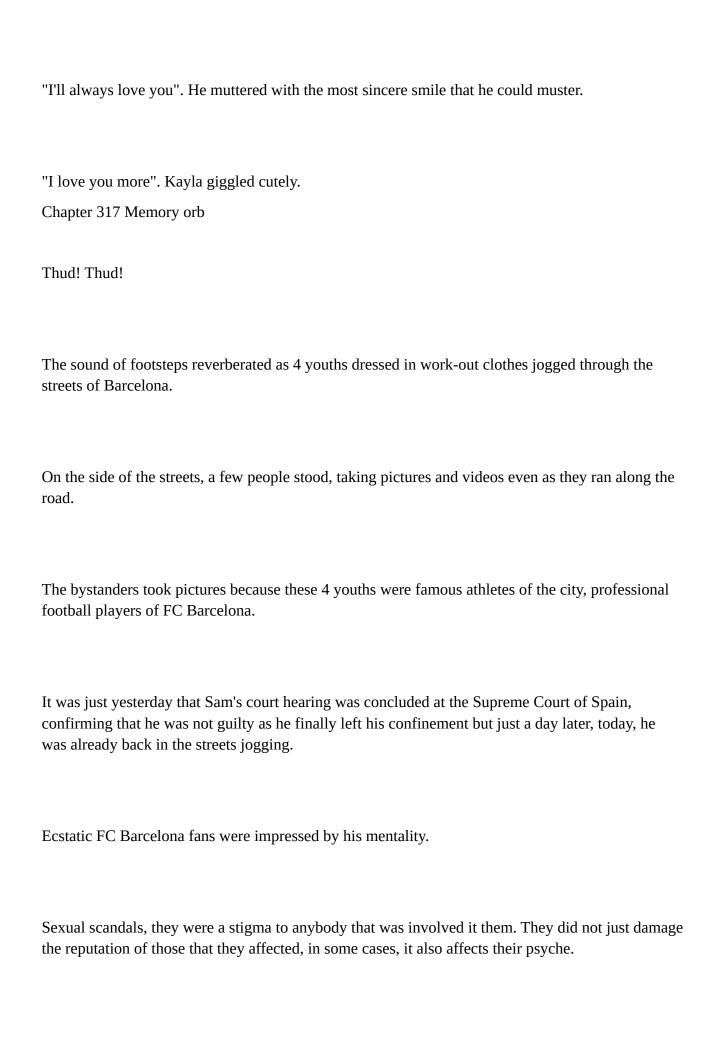




"I want to put it out to you all now," he smirked. "Sam is here to stay!"
"In FC Barcelona, I shall play and forge a legacy for myself!"
"I shall become the best player in the world in Barcelona!"
With that, Sam finally stepped down from the podium.
Adjusting his dark shades, with his girlfriend, best friend, and lawyer following behind him, they trudged out of the Supreme Court with a confident swagger in their steps.
Trust the cameramen.
Click! Click!
They diligently engraved this iconic moment in the annals of history.
After such an explosive honest confession from Sam, surely, the media would have too many juicy news to write and give to the public.

Having sacrificed a lot academically to stay in Spain and support his best friend, that morning after the end of the court hearing, Ian ate at a restaurant with Sam and Kayla before taking the next flight back to England.
As an aspiring Doctor, he could not afford to neglect his learning, he had a lot of things that he needed to catch up on in this small time.
With his best friend gone, including his personal lawyer, Sam had alone time with his girlfriend for the first time in what felt like forever.
Staring at each other at the restaurant, they felt their bodies heating up.
They could not wait to get home; their hormones were getting the better of them after being without each other for so long and going through such adversity together. They say love blossoms in adversity.
In fantasy novels, lovers or friends become even closer after surviving a life and death encounter together.
This may not qualify as a live and death situation, but it was definitely a situation that pushed both of them to the edge emotionally and mentally.
Now, finally getting out of it, their emotions got the better of them.

Too impatient to wait till they got home, as soon as they left the restaurant, climbing into the back seat of Sam's brand-new Mercedez Benz GLE 53 AMG, the 2 lovers let their passion blossom as they went at it at the back seat of the car.
Staring into each other's eyes, all they saw was a gateway to the starry sky, a love encapsulating the essence of their love.
In no time, the sound of clothes hastily being pulled apart reverberated as their lips intertwined in a passionate lovers' kiss.
That afternoon, Sam felt like his girlfriend was even more beautiful than ever before; her body was gentler and more supple than ever before, he could feel his love for her cascading.
The air conditioner of this Mercedez Benz was high but the both of them could not help but feel hot still as they surrendered to their passion.
In no time, bodies intertwined amid gasps and moans of pleasure as they engaged in the primordial ritual of consolidating love right there in the car.
There was no barrier, nothing of the sort was allowed to exist, all that existed at this moment was their mutually shared love and their blossoming passion.
Over a dozen minutes later
At the end of it all, filled with sweat, Sam leaned over his girlfriend, staring straight into her eyes with love-filled eyes.



But despite all the trouble and mental trauma that came with the case, somehow, Sam was still in high spirits, eager to train.
When pictures of him dropped online, once again, it created a storm that was fanned by FC Barcelona fans as they raved about their elite attacking midfielder.
While all of that happened online, jogging towards the Spotify Camp Nou stadium, Sam did not care about the online storm as he engaged in a competition with his 3 partners, Lamine Yamal, Pedri, and Gavi.
Due to the support that these 3 gave to him during the course of this scandal, their friendship grew even more.
And today, they decided that simply jogging was boring.
They decided to turn it into a competition.
During the last 50 meters before arriving at the Spotify Camp Nou, they would engage in a sprint to determine who would arrive first at the stadium.
The winner would receive their respect, while the one who came last in the race would treat all of them to food that morning.
They all agreed to the competition; the contest was on.

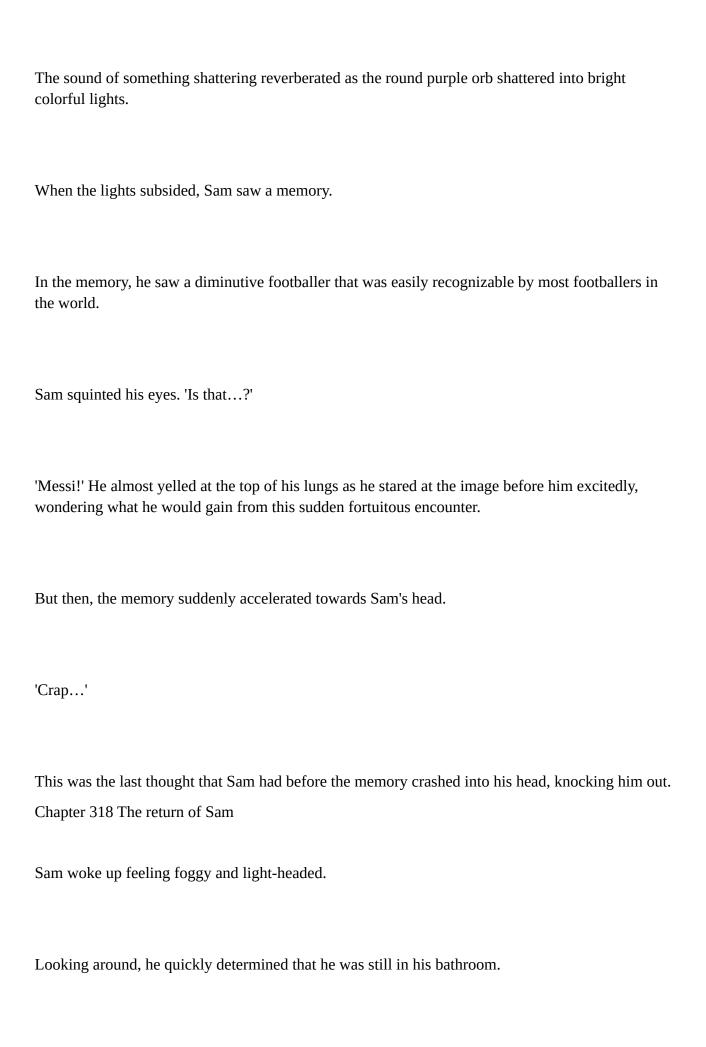
'80 meters'
'70 meters'
'60 meters'
'50 meters!'
Bam!
Digging into his reserves despite the sweat that already filled his face and his ragged breathing, Sam erupted in a sprint.
The 4 of them sprinted at the same time!
When the race started, Gavi's initial explosiveness gave him the edge over the others as he overtook the others, giving Pedri and Lamine Yamal an obvious distance immediately but someone stuck with him, Sam.
Thud! Thud!
Digging into his reserves, Sam accelerated!

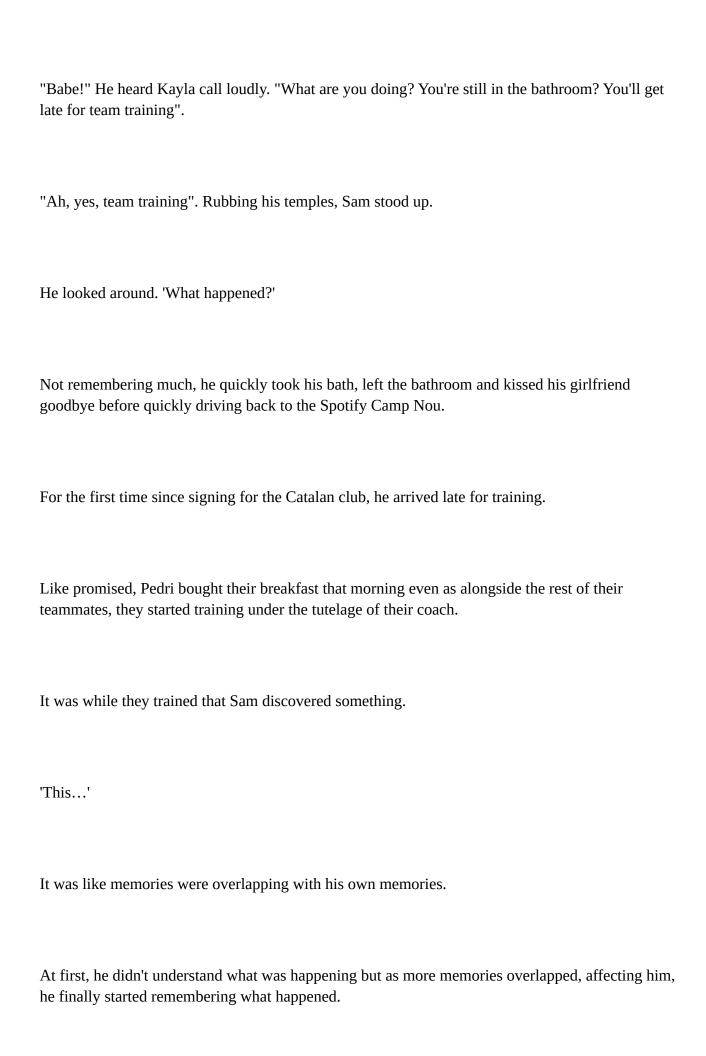


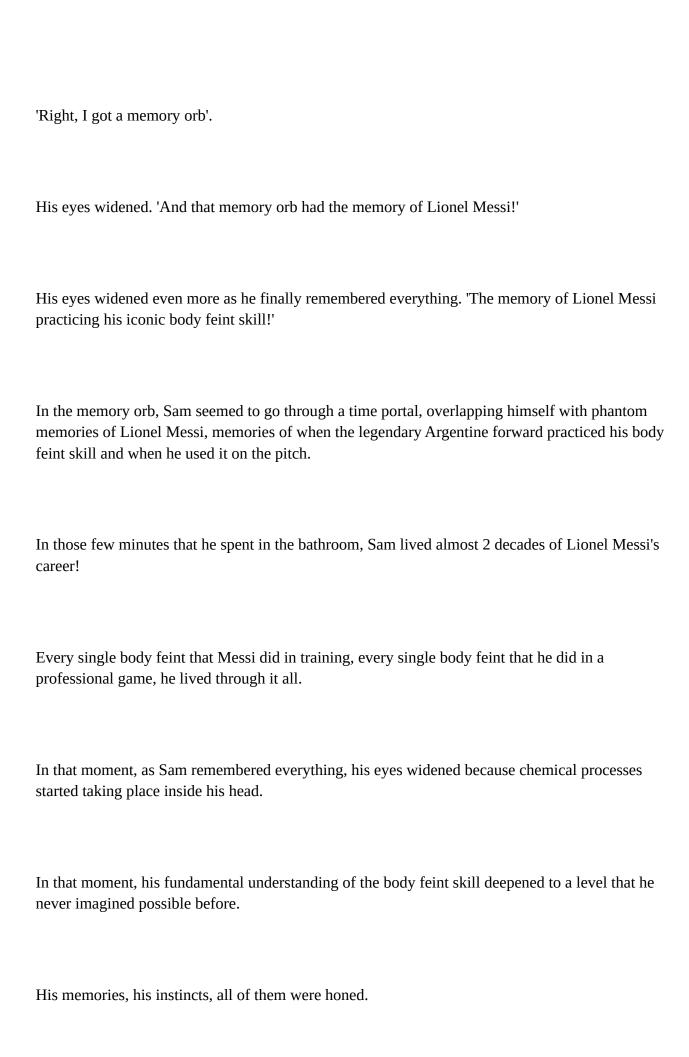


[You have been rewarded with a low-grade physical conditioning elixir!]
[Congratulations! You have completed a hidden system mission: Training Buddies!]
[You managed to convince 4 other professional football players who play for your club to become your training buddies, joining you every morning to complete daily system quests with you!]
[You have received a special reward: Memory Orb!]
[NOTE: A memory orb is a special system reward. It is a memory card that can carry a random memory, mostly a memory of practicing and learning a skill, but it can also be the memory of a legendary footballer.]
[Click to open Memory Orb and know memory type=]
~~
Sam did not click to open the memory orb immediately; this was because he was still in the Spotify Camp Nou with his training buddies.

He was curious about the memory orb though. Afterall, this was the first time that he was receiving such a reward but he was patient.
After bidding farewell to his teammates, setting another contest to see who would arrive home, take their bath, and return for the club morning training session at the earliest, Sam drove off on his new GLE 53 AMG.
Kayla was still at his apartment.
Arriving home, he discovered that his girlfriend was still sleeping.
He tried not to disturb her, entering the bathroom to quickly take his bath. It was in the bathroom where he finally accessed the memory orb.
He clicked on it.
~~
[You have clicked a memory orb, please wait]
Kacha!



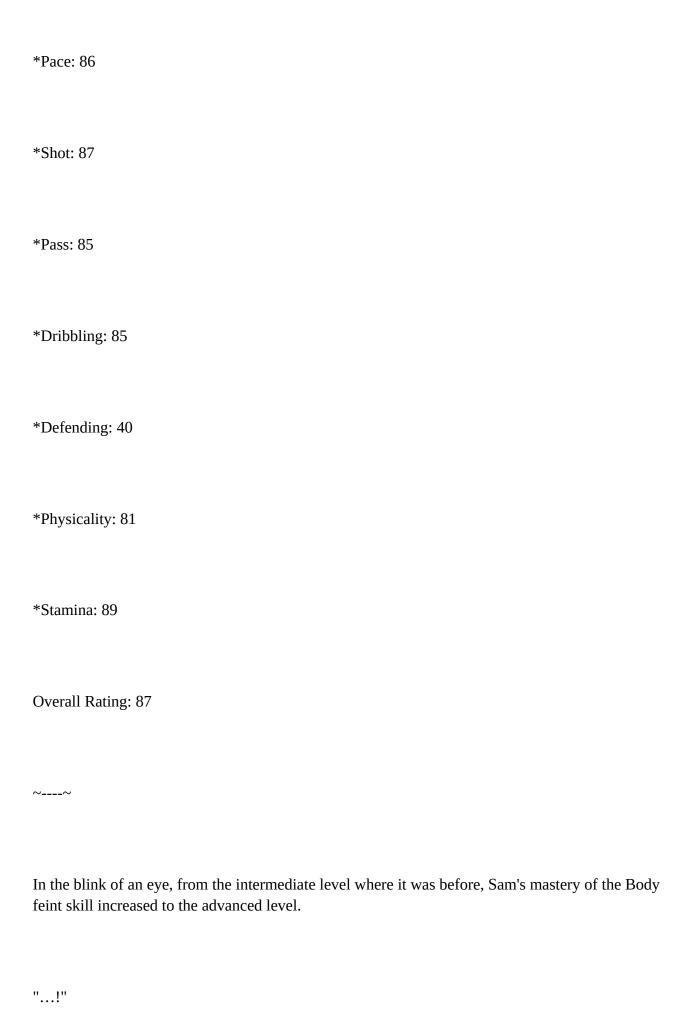


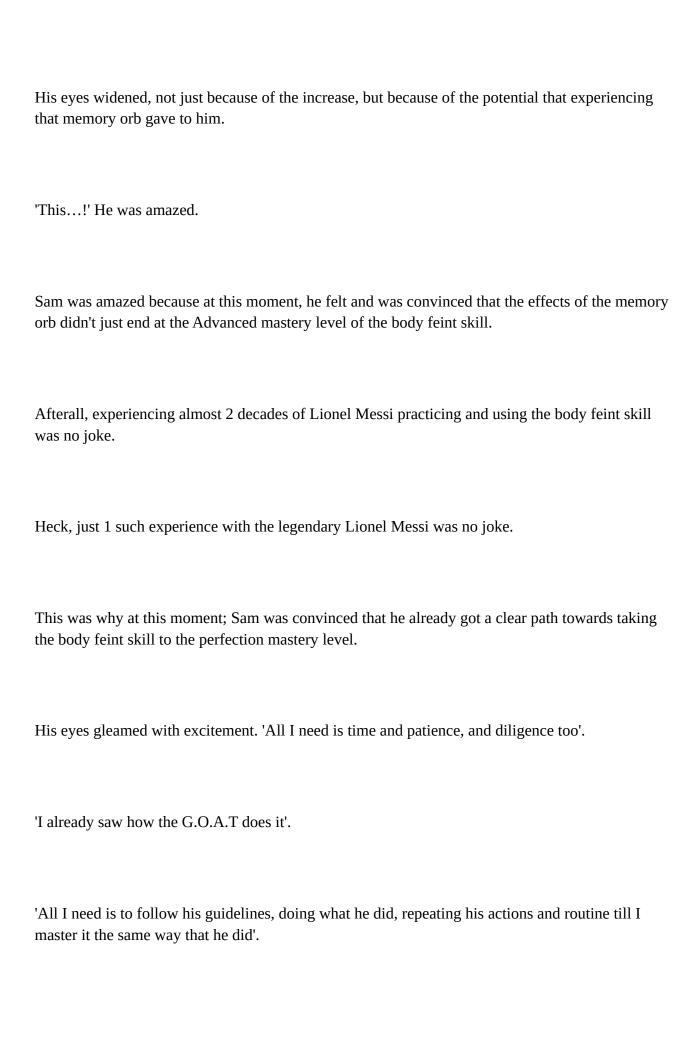


And then, his system finally lit up with a new notification.
~~
[Congratulations! You have inherited a memory orb of the legendary Argentine winger, Lionel Messi!]
[Your mastery of the Body Feint skill has improved to the Advanced Mastery Level!]
[Your Dribbling attribute has increased by +1]

[Owned Football Skills:]
[Passive skill: Stalwart]
[Active skills:]

[Basic mastery level: Step overs; roulette; knuckle shot; overhead kick; rainbow flick; trivela shot, basic penalty technique, scissor kick]
[Intermediate mastery level: Elastico; Cruyff turn; La croqueta; Power header]
[Advanced mastery level: Spatial awareness; Power shot; Body feint]
[Perfect mastery level: Freekick Technique]
•••
[Legendary Inheritance: Elastico]
[Legendary Inheritance: Spatial Awareness]
[Legendary Inheritance: Power Shot]
Player Attributes:





From matchday 2 on, he played for 3 consecutive games for the Catalan club till the scandal brought his career to a sudden halt.
With Sam out as a result of the scandal, FC Barcelona played another league game before finally kickstarting their UEFA champions league campaign in the next game against the Portugal giants, Benfica.
After that, FC Barcelona played 2 more games, both being league games and now, it was matchday 8 of the Spanish La Liga campaign.
FC Barcelona were still very much in the title race alongside Real Madrid at the top, having pulled away from Atletico Madrid already and finally, the Catalans regained the services of their electric midfielder in Sam.
FC Barcelona's next game was an away game against Osasuna.
(La Liga:)
(Osasuna – FC Barcelona)
In the build-up to the game, the question among fans of the Catalan persuasion was would Sam play in the game? And if he would, from what minute of the game would Hansi Flick introduce him after being out of action for a time already?
But when the German coach finally dropped his starting XI for the away game against Osasuna, the FC Barcelona fanbase was stunned.

In confinement, a lot of people expected Sam's skills to become dulled but nothing of the sort happened.
Rather, in confinement, training every day, Sam made sure that he remained sharp and physically fit.
He was preparing for his return to the pitch.
And after just a few days of training since the court hearing, he was able to convince the German coach, Hansi Flick that he was ready to start.
Hansi Flick made the bold decision of starting Sam against Osasuna.
Would this radical decision pay off?
Chapter 319 Osasuna vs FC Barcelona [1]
The atmosphere in the El Sadar Stadium in Pamplona, Navarre, Spain was electric as over 23,000 football fans gathered in this stadium, majority of them being part of the home supporters.
Yes, a big scandal involved FC Barcelona recently, the scandal of Samuel Moses but that was just one tiny event in the Spanish La Liga.
Yes, it was a big deal because the person affected was Samuel Moses, but that did not mean that the world stopped due to him.
The world continued moving, the Spanish La Liga campaign continued.

Among the Osasuna fanbase, there may be some fans who sympathized with Sam due to how much he suffered due to being unjustly defamed but all that sympathy disappeared as soon as the players lined up on the pitch.
On the pitch in the El Sadar Stadium, to the fans, it was all business.
It was either of 2 sides claiming the victory today, Osasuna or FC Barcelona, there was no in between and was why the Osasuna fans didn't give a damn about the fact that Sam was returning to the game after such a damaging scandal.
Heck, they didn't want him to perform in this game at all.
They wanted Sam and his teammates to play awful this game, resulting in their team losing. After that, they could sympathize with him, but before that, all is fair in love and war.
Osasuna started with their strongest lineup.
Starting in a 4-3-3 formation, Herrera stood in between the posts while ahead of him was a sturdy quadruple defense comprising Areso in right back, Boyomo and Catena in center defense, while Cruz started as the left back.
In midfield stood the trio of Moncayola, Lucas Torro, and Oroz while ahead of him stood the offensive trio of Garcia, Barja, and the imposing striker, Budimir.
It was a fairly formidable Osasuna lineup.

As for FC Barcelona, they didn't start with their theoretically strongest lineup as most predictions disagreed with Hansi Flick's decision, staying adamant that Sam was not yet fit to start in a league game.
Hansi Flick didn't care about outside opinion though, he started the young 19-year-old midfielder nonetheless.
FC Barcelona started in a familiar 4-2-3-1 formation. Wojciech Szczesny started in between the posts for the Blaugrana while ahead of him stood a formidable defense of Jules Kounde, Ronaldo Araujo, Pau Cubarsi, and Alejandro Balde.
Ahead of the defense stood the midfield duo of Pedri and Marc Casado, while further ahead of them stood the infamous Barca attack.
Robert Lewandowski led as the tip of the spear, the striker. At either of his flanks lined up Lamine Yamal and Raphinha, while behind the Polish striker returned a familiar face, Samuel Moses.
FWEEEE!
As soon as the referee's whistle sounded, the game started even as the energy of the fans in this stadium rose through the roof.
Like in similar situations in the Spanish La Liga when other top flight clubs take on the big 2 Spanish clubs, Real Madrid or FC Barcelona, despite starting in a 4-3-3 formation, Osasuna employed a defensive strategy against the Blaugrana.

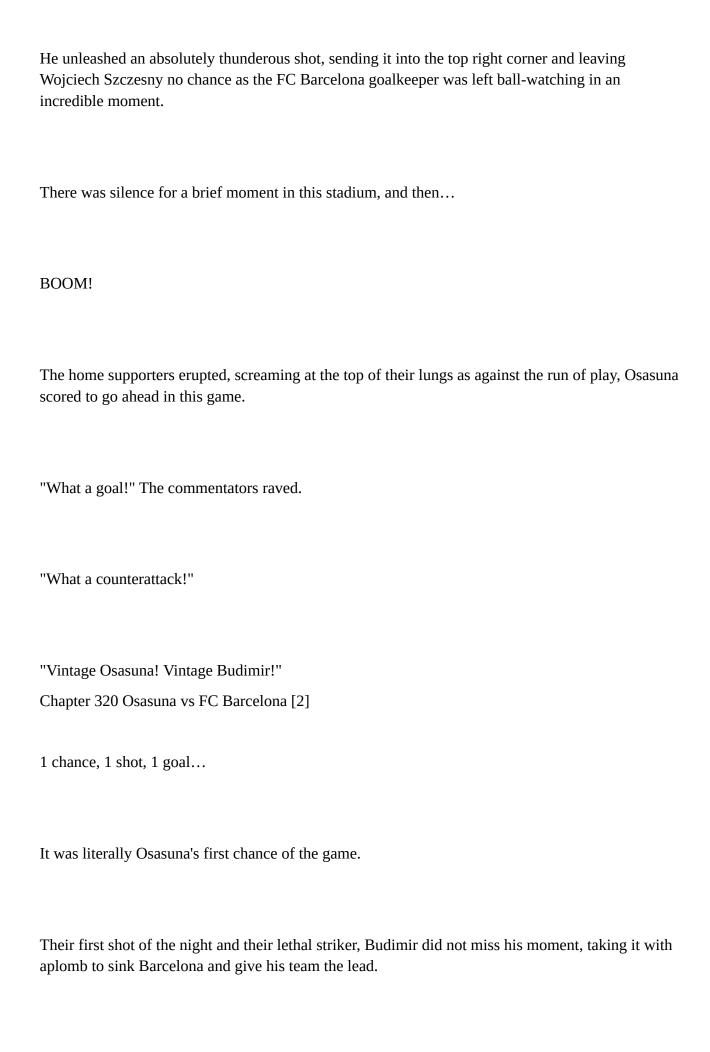
This well-drilled team played in a low block, attempting to weather the onslaught of Barca attacks that would surely come as they hoped to hit the Catalans hard on the counter.
With the strong striker, Budimir upfront, their chances of getting a result from counterattacks was pretty high.
This was the strategy that was employed by the Osasuna head coach.
As for Hansi Flick's strategy for this game, it was the normal one, he gave his team freedom to carve the opponents apart.
And trust Barca, they started.
Bam! Bam!
For the first few minutes of this game, FC Barcelona played fluid attacking football as they dominated possession for large swathes of the first half.
In front of their home supporters, Osasuna was forced to defend desperately and yet despite this display, the Osasuna fans loudly supported their team. This was because of the caliber of opponents they were playing against.
In this game, a few FC Barcelona players dazzled and among them all, Lamine Yamal and a certain Sam was chief.

From the middle of the pitch to the right-hand side, a deadly partnership blossomed in this game, a partnership between Lamine Yamal and Sam.
Back in the English premier league, with Emile Smith Rowe playing in a similar position as the Spaniard, Sam formed a devastating partnership with Smith Rowe and now, due to his growing relationship with Yamal, he finally developed that lethal partnership with the 17-year-old Spaniard.
Tiki! Taka!
Bam! Bam!
Sam and Lamine Yamal ran rings around the Osasuna defense, trying every weapon in their repertoire to pry their tight defense open.
In the 33rd minute of the game, it finally happened.
After receiving a pass from deep from Pedri, Sam executed an immaculate touch to bring it under control and instantly as the nearest Osasuna player pressed for the ball, Sam staggered and then with a clever Cruyff turn, he left the player for dead, re-arranging his position before playing a diagonal pass to the right.
Lamine Yamal took the ball in his strides with his left foot, one touch, and then with his second touch, he unleashed a ridiculous trivela pass that cut through majority of the Osasuna defense like a hot knife through butter.

Having dropped back to support the build-up and switch things up, Robert Lewandowski was not in the box to poach the ball, instead leaving Raphinha there.
Raphinha jumped but the Brazilian could not beat the tall and imposing Osasuna center backs in the air as they beat him in the aerial battle, heading the ball away but it was not a perfect clearance.
Due to Raphinha's pressure, the ball was cleared half-heartedly, falling in the direction of the deadly Polish striker who was making a recovery run.
"!"
As the ball floated towards him, the Polish striker's eyes widened as his body became adrenaline-infused!
Lewandowski was just outside the Osasuna 18-yard box.
Instinctively, he swung his right foot back, about to unleash an absolutely venomous volleyed shot when one of the Osasuna players jumped in on a dangerous tackle, taking Lewandowski out in midair.
It seemed like he actually aimed for the ball but missing it, he caught Lewandowski's knee instead, bringing him down.
"Arghhhh!" The Polish striker screamed out in pain, holding his knee.

"Ref, red card!" Raphinha and a few other FC Barcelona players quickly rounded the referee, clamoring for a red card but the referee with an impassive expression on his face brought out a yellow card, brandishing it at the Osasuna player.
The FC Barcelona players fumed but there was nothing that they could do.
As for Lewandowski, he remained on the ground, grabbing his knee in pain till the FC Barcelona medical team entered the pitch to attend to him.
About a minute later, the Polish striker finally stood up.
He could continue the game.
FWEEE!
The referee blew for a freekick for FC Barcelona just outside the box.
Raphinha was the one who stood over the ball, about to take the freekick. After a short run, he unleashed a powerful shot that rounded the defensive block, going towards the top left corner only for it to be batted away by the Osasuna goalkeeper's outstretched hand.
"A loose ball!" The commentator screamed, and then
Thud!

The Osasuna attackers reacted immediately, charging out of their 18-yard box as they smoothly transited from defense to attack.
Bam!
Boyomo, the Osasuna center back who got to the loose ball first played a lovely lobbed pass for Garcia, the right winger, taking out Alejandro Balde who was out of position in the process.
Taking the ball in his strikes, Garcia exploded down the wing with speed.
The counterattack was on!
FC Barcelona players scrambled to retreat and defend but the Osasuna counterattack was just too fast. Garcia almost ran the full length of the pitch and just as Pau Cubarsi was to intercept him, he played a pass to the middle where a certain Budimir lurked.
The imposing striker's eyes gleamed as soon as the ball was passed.
Slowing down, he used his first touch to bring the ball under control and then
WHOOP!



Charging towards the corner flag, Budimir slid on his knees in celebration even as the Osasuna fans roared at the top of their lungs, cheering loudly.
That goal changed the nature of this game.
FC Barcelona were stunned by it, after all, it was totally against the run of play but with that goal, the Catalans finally felt some urgency to score a goal.
FWEEEE!
When the referee's whistle sounded to continue the game, FC Barcelona played like men on a mission, pressuring Osasuna even as the home side kept on defending against the Catalan onslaught.
Unlike what most people expected, in this game, Sam seemed even more physically fit than before as he imposed himself on this game from attacking midfield.
He created, won back the ball, and took those occasional shots.
In the 43rd minute of this game, Sam came closest for FC Barcelona, unleashing a thunderous outside the box shot that flew like a missile, homing towards the top left corner of the post.
But once again, Herrera, the Osasuna goalkeeper was on top of his game.



"If we want to retain our La Liga title, we can't afford to falter now. Let's go out there and let's win this game!"
Minutes later
FWEEEE!
The players returned to the pitch and with the referee's whistle giving the signal, the second half of this incredible game started.
Hansi Flick made only a single change for the second half, taking off Marc Casado as he introduced Gavi, intending to make his team even more offensive in this 2nd half to break down the Osasuna low block.
Again, just like the first half, FC Barcelona dominated, torturing the Osasuna players but the decisive goal of this game remained elusive.
50 minutes, no goal
60 minutes, no goal
70 minutes, no goal, and to add salt to injury, Osasuna came close to doubling their lead, the crossbar coming to the Polish goalkeeper's rescue.

80 minutes, no goal, and that was when a certain player's retrospection in this game started.
'I'm playing well, but is this the best that I can give?' Sam's eyes slowly changed as the game reached its dying stages.
'Is this how I want my return to the pitch to end?'
'A defeat?'
His eyes gleamed. 'Unacceptable!'
'I can't let it end like this; it must not end like this!'
'At the very least, it must be a win!'
Sam's eyes slowly changed, from a sentient human's eyes into that of a feral predator whose sole purpose of existence was causing carnage and drinking blood.
Just a few minutes after it started, Sam did it.
Bam! Bam!

Down the right side of the pitch, he played tiki taka passes with Lamine Yamal, another step in their improvisation to pry open the Osasuna defense.
And all of a sudden, Sam erupted in a dash, making a byline back to the middle towards the Osasuna 18-yard box.
Reading his run perfectly, Lamine Yamal played a lobbed pass towards him.
Bam!
Just as an Osasuna player was to steal the ball, Sam controlled it with his lap.
2 Osasuna players followed him in his flanks while another one barred his path. Unfazed, Sam moved forward, calmly jogging the ball with his lap as he moved.
"!"
The Osasuna players were confounded, caught in between 2 minds.
How would they steal the ball without risking a foul?
That moment of hesitation to think was the window of opportunity that Sam needed. Before they could react, after lobbing the pass to Sam and as all of the attention was on him, wary of his threat, no one noticed Lamine Yamal's shadow run from the right in behind the Osasuna defense.

After one last juggle of the ball with his lap, Sam hit it with his head, in-between the Osasuna players and towards Lamine Yamal's path.
The teenager Spaniard just about beat the offside line.
Lamine Yamal took the ball in his stride, charged towards goal and as Herrera charged out again, keeping his composure, he played a perfect ground shot towards the near corner of the post that finally beat the Osasuna goalkeeper.
"GOALLLLL!" The away stands erupted immediately.
"YES!!!" Pumping his fists, Lamine Yamal celebrated excitedly in front of the goal but Sam already rushed into the net, picking the ball and charging out even as he gestured for Yamal to follow him.
Yes, they just scored but they still needed another goal to win.
In the 83rd minute of the game, FC Barcelona finally equalized.
2 minutes later, they got the winner and again, it was Sam orchestrated.
This time, receiving a diagonal pass from Gavi, with an immaculate body feint, Sam left his marker for dead, penetrating into the Osasuna 18-yard box.



Bam!
He threaded a needle pass behind the Osasuna defense, cutting Osasuna apart like they were not there.
At this moment, Sam felt like a Grandmaster martial artist in an eastern fantasy universe who cut the heavens asunder with a mighty sword slash.
That sword slash brought Osasuna to submission.
Raphinha didn't hesitate, the pass was just too juicy and perfectly weighted and so he hit it once on his first touch.
Bam!
Herrera reacted, flailing his arms but it was not enough as the ball squirmed past his grasp and into the net.
""
El Sadar Stadium was silenced.
Only the roar of the FC Barcelona fans reverberated as Raphinha charged towards the corner flag to celebrate even as Sam charged after him, eventually jumping on his back in celebration.



Sam won the man of the match award due to his 2-assists display in his first game since being confined in police custody.
It was a statement performance.
it was a statement performance.