

Football 49

Chapter 49 Curiosity And The Cat

"Hey, don't be such a sore loser let's go look for the games room," I told him as I climbed out of the pool. Although I've only been in the pool for half an hour at most, but I have no interest in staying in here any longer. Something about the chlorine in the water makes my skin itch the longer I stay in the water.

"Wait for me I'll definitely beat u in a game of ping pong" He shouted as he followed after me. We quickly walked out of the pool area leaving behind our friends whom we had totally forgotten throughout the whole conversation. It didn't take us long to get to the showers and start washing up. Walking out of the changing room I was dressed in a black Nike tracksuit with a towel over my head to dry my hair.

"So where is this games room?" I asked the group of boys as I was still drying my hair. Although I wanted to go to it, I don't actually know where it is since I've not really been anywhere else except my room and the gym.

"Just follow me I'll lead the way," Yunus said as he walked off down the hallway. The funny thing though was that none of us followed him. The reason I didn't follow him is that I didn't trust his sense of direction. It seems that was the right call as I watched Giovanni walking in the opposite direction of him.

"Hey, Yunus you are going the wrong way," I shouted at him as I followed after Giovanni. His face was a little flushed when he reached the group. You could tell he was embarrassed about his slight blunder by the fact he just run ahead of us.

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Arriving at the game room we were greeted by a lounge with different games scattered throughout the hall. It seemed more like a lounge designed to help you relax, and according to Giovanni, this area is for the jocks to hang about between competitions. Athletes do really get special treatment in the states, The football team's locker room is big enough to fit a class with fifty kids in it.

"Let's play round the world at the ping-pong table," Yunus said as he walked over to the table tennis table. Following suit, we all grabbed a ping-pong racket from the box underneath the table. The game was pretty simple you hit the ball and you would run anti-clockwise to the other side of the table to join the line. The first person to miss the ball or is unable to hit the other side of the table on their turn is out until only two remain.

In the first few rounds, Yunus ended up destroying us since he was familiar with the game. But once the rest of us managed to get a handle on the game It was a lot more fun. Surprising Dest was actually quite good at the game. Much to my dismay, he kept smashing the ball every time it was my turn to hit the ball back. I guess he was still salty I chose Ben over him as a Teammate. I did end up getting back at him by smashing some shots back at him.

We spent the rest of the night playing games in the lounge simply relaxing and just chilling. It was the first time I got to hang around with kids my age and if I was being honest, it's the most fun, I've ever had.

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[Next Morning]

"Wake up we are leaving for some yoga" I shouted at the three still-sleeping boys in the room. It was around six in the morning and the sun was already up ready for another day. I had told them to get ready for some Yoga when I went for my shower twenty minutes ago. However, like the lazy kids, they are they went back to sleep without batting an eye.

"Be quiet I was just about to lift the world cup" Yunus shouted at me as he tried to get back to sleep seemingly wanting to re-enter the dream world. Not letting him get back to sleep I decisively pulled away his blanket which caused him to fall out of his bed.

"Never mind the world cup, get a team to sign you first," I told him as I started leaving the room. The other two seemed to be smarter than Yunus and immediately got up from their bed when they heard him fall out of his bed. Guess they didn't want to experience my rude awakening, it's their loss since I deliver satisfactory service.

"I'm defiantly getting singed by a team, not just any team but one of the best" Yunus shouted as he jumped up from the floor having seemingly forgotten who caused his fall.

"You won't if I tell them your lazy and can't even wake up for simple yoga in the morning," I told him increasing my steps as I walked down the hallway.

"Don't you dare? I'll haunt you forever if you do," He shouted as he stormed out of the room as he was still dressing mid-run. The scene is honestly funny as he had his shoes on whilst only wearing his boxers and his bottoms were strung over his shoulder.

"Ok, I won't let's just go," I told him as he arrived next to me, not bothering to point out that he wasn't wearing his bottoms. The other two soon caught up to us looking still half asleep as they glared at me. Not minding their glares, I just lead them down the stairs until we bumped into coach James.

Seeing the stern coach who stopped in his track once he spotted us was a remarkable sight. He looked to still be tired but that didn't mean he wasn't still as perceptive as ever. His eyes visibly twitched once he glanced at Yunus almost dropping his coffee mug.

"Where might the four of you be off to?" He asked us looking genuinely curious why we were up this early in the morning. Looking at how he ignored Yunus's odd get up he seemed to have come to the conscience not to open pandora's box. After all who knows what kind of life-changing information one might receive when asking a seemingly harmless question? Ignorance is bliss for a reason.

"We are going to do some Yoga since we are not as lazy as the rest of the kids here" I quickly told him holding up a thumbs up to get across my happy mood. Sometimes a bright morning smile is all you need to annoy someone to end the conversation quickly.

"Ehm, well ok have fun" Is all he said as walked past us seemingly wanting to get as far away from us as possible. Not paying him any more mind we continued down the stairs and shortly arrived at the gym. We notice that Yunus was seemingly glued to his spot as stared at the massive mirror. His face went through a variety of different expressions from shock to fear and then embarrassment.

"Please tell me that I'm still dreaming" We heard him mutter with a hit of fear lacing his voice. You could tell by his stunned expression that he was seriously considering if he was actually still asleep.

"You are not dreaming, now hurry up and put your joggers on," Giovanni said not even trying to sugar-coat his words in the slightest. He was seemingly taking out his frustration about waking up early on him. The latter seemed to have been struck by lightning as he immediately stumbled all over the place putting on his joggers.

"So, you are saying that coach James saw me like that?" He asked after finally managing to get dressed.

"Yes, now hurry up and grab a mat so we can get started," I told him as I got into the first positioning that would target the legs. I wanted to loosen my lower body more since it looks like we will be focusing on them throughout the camp.

Some people might think that body condition at an early age isn't as important as training skills, but they would be wrong. When you are young and are still growing it's easier for you to gain control of your body. Thus, allowing you to do more with the skill that you learn later on as your imagination can be fully unleashed. This has been a proven fact as athletes who have greater control of their body and balance tend to excel above the norm. Messi's entire style of dribbling hinges on his superb body control that allows him to change directions and pace at a moment's notice. Let's not even mention Ronaldo who has taken body coordination and control to a whole new level.

For example, if I were to simply focus on working on my ball skill, I would end up hitting a dead end if I hit a sudden growth spurt. This would result in me being out of sync with my body and would run the risk of getting injured easily. You could argue that I could just train my body control then but why should I push off something I can do today and run the risk of an injury later? Now that I am already working on my flexibility and balance at an early age my body will not ever feel like I cannot control it.

"Why didn't any of you tell me that I wasn't wearing my bottoms" He sulkily asked still trying to seek justice for himself. His sentence brought me out of my musing on the benefits of body control training.

"Are you still talking about that, it's basically ancient history now?" I told him as I continued to stretch out my body in what I like to call the lion king stance. You are basically in a lunge position whilst holding your hands up in the sky as if you are presenting Simba to the animal kingdom.

"But it was only like five minutes ago" I heard him mutter as he finally started getting into the stance having seemingly given up on seeking justice. Seeing him accept that he wouldn't get an answer from us I caught Dest and Giovanni chuckling.

Just like that, we continued doing different stances that focussed on stretching our legs and improving our balance. The hour-long session was calming but at the same time, it was quite exhausting. Since we have been doing a lot of leg intensive exercises for the past two days it wasn't surprising that they felt a little sluggish. However, the Yoga session helped session that feeling and made our legs feel just as energetic as usual.

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"That was torture, how can you go through that every morning," Yunus asked me as he was promptly devouring his breakfast. We finished our session at seven o'clock sharply so that we could go wash up before breakfast. Since we had ended up sweating a lot during the session, I was forced to take another cold shower which I didn't particularly mind since it was quite calming.

"It's all about dedication I'm going to be the Hokage after all, believe it!" I told him giving the signature Naruto smile with a thumbs up.

"Stop quoting Naruto or I will unleash my blue eyes white dragon you" He bellowed at me as he put his hands in his pocket as if he was about to pull out a card. Staring at him in the eyes there was a moment of silence between us where none of us moved. After a long staring contest, we ended it by doing the unison sign as we went back to focusing on eating our food.

"You two are just something else" Giovanni mumbled under his breath as he simply went on to eat his breakfast. Judging by the nonchalant look on Dest's face it seems he just didn't want to get involved with whatever was happening.