

Legends 561

Chapter 561: Who is The Best? I

{Evanilson reaches it first!}

{GOAL!!!}

{Three!!!}

{Three goals for him and three hat-tricks in this game!}

{The fans can't even be angry with their team's loss anymore! The Oporto team has put up a fight that any fan would be proud of!}

{If only it were enough! If only!} the commentator shouted excitedly as Evanilson got up from the ground, unable to hide the smile on his face despite his team still losing the game.

At this point, Evanilson could proudly go to the locker room after the game and tell his teammates,

"That sh*t was not my fault, y'all are trash,"

"In fact, y'all are so trash that I'm gonna call your names and then call you trash just so you know I'm talking to you," and then he would proceed to name the people he thought were trash.

Of course, he wouldn't actually do that, but he felt like he had the right to do it and get away with it.

Instead of doing that, he just headed back to his team's half while clapping his hands and applauding himself, unable to celebrate wildly despite having scored a hat trick.

On the sidelines, Mylo squeezed his bottle tighter and gritted his teeth harder than before after seeing Evanilson do what he wanted to do.

'Fuc*in bi*ch!' he cursed internally but closed his eyes and stuffed his water bottle into his mouth to help him swallow whatever wanted to appear from his mouth.

"That guy's good," Ronaldo said to Jason as they watched Evanilson score a third goal against their team.

"I guess, I'm surprised as well. He joined Oporto in the summer transfer of last window and hasn't really played much," Jason nodded, not mentioning that it was mostly because Mylo had begun to perform like a top striker, hence the manager did not give the new guy enough chances on the pitch.

Surprisingly, the manager's annoyance with Mylo's performance in today's match had shown the manager that he had a lot of good options on the bench other than Mylo.

If Mylo didn't step up after this then his game time would inevitably reduce and with reduced game time comes an increased chance of falling into disfavour in the team.

With Mylo's wastefulness, if he came off the bench in a couple of important games and wasted a few clear goal-scoring chances the manager and the fans wouldn't swallow it silently.

'Who knows what will happen then?'

'I wish him the worst though,' Jason snickered internally and continued watching the game with their minds completely at peace.

Pirlo on the other hand wasn't at peace.

He knew for sure that his team had qualified, but conceding three goals in ten minutes was not something any manager wanted to see happen, even if they had scored a hundred goals in the game.

It was clear that the players had lost their focus and had allowed the same guy to get past them three times in just over ten minutes.

If a player scored a goal, and he wasn't put on the watch list by the defenders until he scored two more goals within ten minutes, it only left the manager wondering what his players were looking at.

Of course, one could argue that the player was simply that good, but there were only a few players that the Uventus manager would agree to accept as being that good, and one of them was seated on his team's bench.

Even if they had been playing against someone like Jason, he wouldn't accept it as the kid was still far from being termed as a natural catastrophe that was impossible to stop.

Only someone with a record as extensive as Ronaldo would allow the Uventus manager to reduce his annoyance due to the inevitability, and the only other player like that was in Spain and not on the pitch currently.

However, despite his annoyance, he stayed quiet and observed the match, trying to pinpoint whether there was a hole in the team's defense, or if it was a problem with the tactic.

Unfortunately, he couldn't observe for long as the referee's whistle blasted sharply four times to end the game.

{There goes the final whistle, it is over!}

{An eleven-goal thriller, something we would love to see happen again and again!}

{Normally, with as many as five goals, one could overturn almost any first-leg result, but this time, Oporto have failed to do so because of the impressive display put out by their opponents, Uventus!}

{Coming from behind early on in the game to take a four-goal lead, solidifying their promotion, and killing all resistance was what Uventus had done, but Oporto put up a fight!}

{Unfortunately, it was not enough for Oporto and they would have to try again next season if they have any dreams of lifting the Champions League Cup!}

{Jason Bolu... He put out a man-of-the-match-worthy performance with a hat trick and a further two assists and it is clear to see why he ends up with the award even though there are three players going home with a match ball from today's match!}

"You got the first hat trick, but we both get match balls and I get the man of the match award... that's even scores man," Jason whispered to Ronaldo.

"You wish," Ronaldo laughed.

"You have a long way to go before you can talk about even scores with me. I'm the best player in the world," he said smugly.

"The man in Spain doesn't agree with that though," Jason laughed at Ronaldo's egoistic words.

"What Messi? He's good too..." Ronaldo admitted.

"Good that you kn-..." Jason was saying when Ronaldo interrupted.

"But I'm better. I'm the complete player. I can shoot, I can score with both foot, I can score free kick, I can use header to put ball in the back of the net. Come on now," Ronaldo shrugged after like the answer was obvious.

"But you can't defend," Jason replied immediately leaving Ronaldo stunned for words.

'What does defending have to do with this?' Ronaldo wondered in confusion.

Chapter 562: Who is The Best? II

"It's all a matter of perspective, to be honest," Jason said as they got up from the bench.

“Since football is played by many people and watched by many people, many people have different opinions of the sport and they are biased to their opinion,”

“Someone who believes and enjoys football that is fun, entertaining, and full of dribbling will probably consider someone like Neymar, Hazard, or even someone not many know like Adel Taraabt to be the best,”

“On the other hand, if there is someone who enjoys playmaking, tactics, efficiency and those kinds of things would think someone like Messi, Reus, Kroos, or Iniesta is the best player,”

“And then there will be people like you who are simple and stay true to the original objective of football as a game which is scoring goals. Those kinds of people will think someone like you or Lewandowski is the best,” Jason said all in a single breath.

“But then football is about scoring goals, no? I mean you have to score if you want to win,” Ronaldo replied to Jason.

He knew this much, but the truth was still the truth, wasn't it?

“The objective of football is indeed scoring goals, but at the same time that's not all there is to football,”

“We may have been the only ones from our team that scored today, but without the performance of the others, we wouldn't have been able to do that. Everyone pulled their own weight,”

“The point is, in the end, football is still a form of entertainment,”

“You like to win and are obsessed with winning, but there are some who are just entertainers, not because they don't love the sport, but because they get more joy in other parts of the game apart from winning,”

“You also used to be like that at Man Utd, falling over the ball and all that,” Jason snickered.

“... Yeah, but that was before I chose to be more efficient with the ball. I used to think entertaining and winning were two different things,” Ronaldo replied after a little pause.

“Used to think? Are you saying you don’t think like that anymore?” Jason asked him.

“No... I don’t,” Ronaldo replied, glancing at Jason.

“But that being said,” Ronaldo continued, seeing that Jason wanted to say something.

“Who do you think is the best footballer in the world?” Ronaldo asked Jason with a curious look.

“...”

“Come let me whisper it in your ear,” Jason said after a pause.

Ronaldo drew nearer and Jason cupped his mouth with his hand, came closer to Ronaldo’s ear and whispered,

“... Me,”

“This brat!” Ronaldo scrunched up his face in mock disgust as he looked at Jason, wanting to burst out in laughter.

“Hey, a man’s gotta have dreams. If I don’t have dreams, then what do I have?” Jason shrugged.

“A handsome face, a Ferrari Stradale, a beautiful girlfriend. Kid, you have everything I wanted when I was your age,” Ronaldo rolled his eyes at Jason.

“... Good point, but I still have things I want to achieve, you know?” Jason replied and shrugged again.

“Just go take your award,” Ronaldo pushed Jason away and went to meet up with his fellow countryman, Pepe.

Jason also hollered at some of the Oporto players but didn’t get too close as they were in a sort of grieving mood and he was the one who put them in that mood.

He instead went to receive his match ball and the Champions League MOTM award.

Just after taking the award and taking a few pictures, he was dragged off to an interview and he was once again facing the CBS Champions League Tonight Crew, but this time on a monitor just like the first time he met them.

“So Jason, how did it feel to serve a steaming hot dish of ice-cold revenge,” Micah was the first one to speak, getting a word in before Kate could even say anything.

“There are so many things wrong with that statement man,” Jason laughed.

“Serving a steaming hot dish of something ice cold? Also revenge?”

“Come on now, I’m not a petty person like that. It was simply a football game where we won and they lost,”

“My heart goes out to my former teammates and also the fans, but I was simply doing what I was expected to do. I mean I am being paid to play well, aren’t I?” Jason said, but everyone just stared at him for a few seconds, his words ringing in their ears.

First, he said he wasn’t petty... Who in their right mind would believe that after what they just watched?

Also, ‘former teammates?’... Henry wanted to remind him that he was only on loan and would be going back to Oporto by the end of the season so technically, the Oporto players weren’t his former teammates yet.

However, this could be taken as a declaration that Jason was putting Oporto behind him even if he was going to be going back to them in the summer transfer window.

Finally, for someone who wasn't petty... why would he mention that he was being paid when he had literally just beaten up the team that was paying most of his wages?

'Petty... very petty,' Jamie noted in his mind and internally made another note to not mess with Jason.

"Another hat trick for you in today's game, is this going to be a regular occurrence from you from now on, do you think? Seeing as you're learning from the one and only Mr. Champions League," Kate put away her thoughts and resumed the interview with a question.

"I wish it could be, but frankly speaking, I don't think it is. I'm not even a striker and sometimes my duties may not be as attack-minded as the manager needed me to be today,"

"But I can say that I will always strive to put forth more than a hundred percent whenever I'm out on the green, you know. I owe that to myself, the club, and the fans," Jason replied, scratching his head a bit, not forgetting to put some blame on the manager for his performance in the game.

Chapter 563: Perspective

"Currently, the other teams that have qualified for the next stage of the Champions League, the quarter-finals include, Man City, Bayern, Chelsea, Liverpool, PSG, Dortmund, and Royal Madrid. Among these teams, do you have anyone you're hoping to go up against in the quarter-finals?"

Kate asked Jason.

"I don't think anybody would be able to make a choice with that kind of line-up man. There's not even a side I can call weaker. All of them are top teams that could the Champions League if given the chance and quite a few of them have done that before and more than once too,"

"I'm just going to pray that we can keep going, but I can't deny, this is a very tough one," Jason couldn't even make a choice.

“What he said Kate, what he said. All those teams are top teams and it’s already for sure that all the matches from now on will be classics in their own rights,” Micah reinforced Jason’s opinion.

“Look at that lineup man. Bayern won the Champions League last year, Man City has been tearing up the premier league and Liverpool and Chelsea aren’t that far behind either, PSG as always are looking very impressive and they managed to beat Barcelona so they’re not one to look down on either, and then there is Dortmund and Madrid,”

“Dortmund may be a bit out of their element, but they are also a top-quality team and could prove to be a dark horse, but Madrid,” Jamie was saying when Jason interrupted.

“Madrid’s just different man,” Jason cut in.

“In the last decade, they’ve probably been the biggest name in the Champions League and though we now have Ronaldo on our team, Madrid is still almost as strong as they used to be before he left... well almost,” Jason laughed a little.

“But hey, I have hope in our chances and as long as the manager keeps giving me a chance, then I’ll keep doing my best to help the team towards victory, after all, who wouldn’t want to lift the Champions League title at least once?” he said with a shrug.

“I like your confidence,” Micah nodded happily at Jason.

“I gotta do what I gotta do,” Jason smiled back at him.

“I think that will be all for today I guess. Thank you for your time,” Kate said.

“Thank you for having me,” Jason replied and headed off to join his teammates to celebrate the win with the fans who didn’t show any signs of wanting to leave the stadium yet despite it being just about an hour to midnight.

Jason also was in no rush to leave as he was still ecstatic at his win, his performance, and the fact that he had not only one upped Mylo, but also watched him make a fool of himself.

If Jason was the type who visited clubs, then he would have partied till dawn, but unfortunately for the clubs, they wouldn't be getting him to join them as he would be more focused on a less time-wasting way of enjoying himself and celebrating his victory.

Sleeping for one was better than clubbing to Jason as he couldn't understand why a bunch of grown people would go to a place filled with annoying loud music and drown themselves with alcohol which was a depressant and would only end up giving one the worst of headaches after it wore off.

And then all they would do there was move their bodies atrociously in movements that couldn't be called a dance, wasting time, energy, and sleeping time.

But then, Jason knew better than to say this opinion out loud as he couldn't exactly force his opinions on other people just because he wasn't wired similarly to them.

For all he knew, he could be the problem.

Of course, he knew he wasn't a problem and neither were the others, people just enjoyed doing things differently.

Perspective, as they would always say.

Putting all his thoughts aside, he focused on celebrating with the fans until it was time to leave the stadium after which he left for home.

10th March 2021

Jason woke up as early as he usually did on days after a match which was a little later than he would wake up when he didn't have a match.

He quickly got up, did a little yoga and went to have his bath and changed into training clothes as he would be heading to the training ground for a recovery session.

Before that though, he jumped into the kitchen and tinkered with some ingredients to quickly prepare a meal before he headed out of the house and jumped into his car.

Before he drove off, he pulled out his phone, set a delay for a picture and positioned the phone the dashboard and put his hand on the wheel waiting for a picture to be taken.

A few seconds later he heard the shutter click and he picked up the phone to check the picture.

It wasn't screaming professional photographer, but it didn't look bad and Jason quickly posted it on his social media accounts with the caption, "Back to work I guess".

He added a few emojis and pressed post and went to look for music he would play on his way to the stadium but he had barely made it to the music playing app when his phone turned into a vibrator thanks to the continuous notifications.

Quickly backtracking to his social media apps to once again turn off all notifications from the apps as he wasn't a bald doctor/plumber/pizza delivery guy who needed this kind of feature on his phone for his job.

He headed back to the music player app, selected a song, and started the car.

"Woah Kenny, hey look,"

"You know my life is crazy look in my DMs," he sang along to the song beginning to play as the car began ambling down the driveway.

“Yeah, buss her a** one time, now she acting like my BM,”

“Yeah battling demons, they were sleeping like a Tylenol PM,”

“Sending my prayer up to the sky cause I ain’t even know what God to believe in”

Jason bobbed his head to the song Moonwalk by Rexx Life Raj until he got out of the gate and began pressing harder on the accelerator to increase his speed and enjoy a little bit of the need for speed before he reached the Continassa for today’s recovery session.

Less than an hour later, Jason had arrived at the Uventus training center, ready for the recovery session, but he had obviously arrived a little too early.

A couple of hours too early, but that was all part of his plan as he had wanted to get a little light training done before the recovery session began.

The training center wasn’t empty as the youth players and a few players from the senior team who hadn’t featured in the match the previous night were there as well so Jason joined them in their training.

While Jason was doing training, time quickly passed and after a while Jason was getting ready to leave the field and get a little rest, but then he noticed the manager standing by a side of the training ground with his back facing the field and a camera pointed in his face.

He seemed to be in a conversation with the young woman in front of him, but with the mic she was holding to his face, Jason could easily tell that it was an interview with the manager.

It happened occasionally and Jason didn’t pay it any attention and started walking off the field, wanting to head to the shower rooms to clean up a bit before the recovery session began.

A recovery session usually consisted of some light training and stretches and then a recreational activity/fatigue-reducing activity/muscle-relaxing activity like a massage or swimming and only when

Jason was almost at the sidelines did he remember that he shouldn't be cleaning up yet as he would still do some light training after.

He was about to turn back when he suddenly saw a ball flying powerfully his way.

His first reaction was to ignore the ball as it would still miss him by quite a bit, but just a little in front of him was the manager and the reporter and the ball seemed to be headed directly for the reporter.

'Who has accuracy that bad?' Jason wondered, but he was already moving to intercept the ball as he couldn't allow the ball to slam into either the manager or the reporter.

It wasn't difficult to jump into the path of the and catch it on his leg midair, perfectly recreating the bundesliga logo and then coming back down to the ground with the ball.

Not paying any attention to the people he had just saved, Jason was more focused on not allowing the ball to touch the ground as he juggled it a few times, did a few tricks and then hit the ball at the goal from the side of the pitch.

The ball flew into the air powerfully and curled at the goal before slamming against the crossbar.

'Tch, I missed,' Jason clicked his tongue internally and just continued walking off to sidelines past the manager and the reporter and went to sit on the ground nearby, not aware the camera had been trained on him the whole time.

Chapter 564: Aura Infinity

A few seconds earlier, the female reporter who had been doing a quick interview with Pirlo which was to be part of a news segment later that day.

It was supposed to be one that recorded the manager's thoughts towards qualifying for the next round and how they planned to play going forward as well as their hopes for the next part of the competition.

While the interview was going on, it wasn't too difficult to notice Jason who seemed to be walking their way, but when Jason had burst into a run, she had been slightly startled only to realize what was about to happen.

Her reaction had caused both the camera man and the Uventus manager to turn around to see Jason jumping into the air and catching the ball on his leg mid air.

The scene of him jumping into the air and catching on the ball with an outstretched foot was clearly captured on the video and the effect of that image on the three people who were the closest involved varied greatly.

The camera man was surprised, but over ecstatic to catch something like that on camera, while Pirlo nodded to himself, impressed by his players and proud to have something like that caught on the camera.

The female reporter was the most impressed as her brain circuits were seemingly unable to figure out what she was seeing and she almost instantly fell in love at first sight.

Jason however wasn't paying attention to all that and as he came down to the ground, he flicked up the ball again, not allowing it to touch the ground.

He juggled it a few times and did a few tricks like throwing his leg over the ball and then catching the ball before it hit the ground, and then he did it in reverse.

After that, he flicked the ball a bit farther up and jumped, throwing his two legs over and around it, before catching the ball before catching it once again before it fell down and then flicked it higher up before volleying it at the post.

The ball flew powerfully and crashed against the crossbar which wasn't Jason's intention at all, but since he didn't show it on his face or say anything, everyone instantly assumed that hitting the crossbar was his original intention as that was more difficult to do from that far out.

Jason went to sit by the sidelines, looking bored and totally unaware that he had been caught on camera, unaware that it was intentionally spiking up his aura moment.

“As I was saying, we have the quality in our team and though the coming matches would be challenging, we dream of going all the way,” Pirlo suddenly began speaking to the mic that the reporter still had trained near his mouth in her daze.

The fact that he wasn’t acting surprised impressed the female reporter even further and she even started wondering if Jason pulled off things like what she had just seen, in the Uventus training sessions so many times that the manager was already used to it.

As a professional though, she was able to recover from her shock quickly enough to react appropriately and move on to the next question, glancing at Jason every now and then.

Unfortunately, she didn’t receive permission to get an interview with Jason for that day so they could only leave after her interview with the Uventus manager was over.

After waiting for a while, the other players finally arrived and the recovery session began.

Just like Jason had expected, they began with some light exercises and did quite a few stretches before they went to clean up and began to get massages in-turn.

The recovery session turned to a team bonding session as well as the players laughed and joked around while playing some games as they waited for their turn in the massage rooms.

While the Uventus players were doing their own thing, the reporter who had come to the training ground earlier had submitted the recording of the interview and her boss had been so impressed that she and the cameraman almost gotten a raise, but the boss caught himself in time and gave them a little bonus instead.

The reporter and the cameraman were happy for even that much though.

The boss immediately passed the video along to the sports news department and allowed the professionals to take the video.

A decision was quickly made not to tamper with the original video for the interview segment that would be airing later that night, but they would later post the videos on the internet after doing a little editing.

Of course, all this happened with Jason being unaware, but the next morning when Jason woke up to check his social media accounts, he discovered another alarming amount of taga and wondered what was going on.

Surely, Adele hadn't gone after Mylo's sorry a** again and exposed him even further?

Was there even still anything to expose?

Thinking about it there was, but that much wasn't his business though, he wondered but still went ahead to check what he was being tagged for and he soon found the video.

Watching himself catch the ball in mid-air, juggle it, do some tricks, and then hit the ball on the crossbar, even he was impressed, and he would have been even more impressed if he didn't know that his original intention was to score from that side of the field.

'Why do I keep hitting the crossbar for this kind of thing though?' he wondered as he remembered that this same thing had happened when he had first arrived at the Portugaia for training with the Oporto team as well.

It wasn't caught on camera that time, but he had hit the ball from far out and the ball had ended up hitting the crossbar instead of ending up in the back of the net.

"If good luck and bad accuracy was a thing," he snickered and got up from his bed.

The team had focused on recovery yesterday and he was feeling pretty relaxed this morning, so it was time to put that into training.

Chapter 565: Cagliari I

14th March 2021

The next matchday for the Uventus team had arrived and they had travelled to Cagliari for their match against the Cagliari team.

Just like usual, they had to put their all out for this match, but this match was a little different as the Inter Milan team had lost their game the previous day which meant that as long as the Uventus team won the game, they would take the position of the first team on the table.

Previously the Inter Milan team had one point more than them so winning this game would put the Uventus three points ahead of the Inter Milan team and the Uventus players couldn't deny that they were looking forward to it, especially now that the season was already winding down.

There was only a little over ten games left so it was the best time to take the lead on the table.

The players of the two teams had arrived at the stadium and had done their warm-ups and were marching out to the field in their jerseys.

The Uventus team had a mission and the Cagliari team's mission was to do everything to stop them from achieving it.

The match soon began and the match got off to an exciting start as the morale of the Uventus' previous win wasn't washed away yet and they were soon launching attack after after attack while the Cagliari team was barely able to keep them away from peppering them with goals.

The Cagliari team wasn't able to hold on for long as the Uventus soon had their first goal scoring chance.

#10th minute...

The Uventus team had been moving the ball from the center of the field with well placed short passes and Bentacur soon found Ramsey about thirty yards out.

Due to the sudden attack, the Cagliari team had quickly rushed back to defend while not all the Uventus players had rushed forward so there was space to run in behind without one being offside.

Jason immediately took the chance to make his move.

First moving as if he wanted to come short, his marker followed him, but suddenly, he changed direction and ran forward, freeing himself as he made a cutting run forward.

Ramsey swiftly pin-pointed Jason and sent the ball Jason's way and he received the ball just as he stepped into the penalty box.

The nearby Cagliari defenders immediately lunged at him, but this only freed up the other players and Jason sent a pass into the center of the penalty where only Ronaldo and one Cagliari defender.

Before the ball even reached Ronaldo, the Cagliari defender was already lunging at him, but Ronaldo received the ball deftly and avoided the tackle easily, escaping the defenders range and rifling a shot home.

The Cagliari goalkeeper wasn't able to do anything but watch the ball fly into the back of the net.

{Goal! Uventus!}

{In the blink of an eye, they take the lead!}

{A very fluid and quick attack! Cagliari didn't know what hit them!}

{It's clear that the defenders reacted quickly and tried to close down Jason, but he didn't even bother taking them on and just let the ball go to the next person}

While the commentator was shouting, Ronaldo was running to the sidelines and jumped into a knee slide in joy and he was quickly joined by his excited teammates.

The celebrations didn't take too long and the players were soon headed back to their half of the field to resume the game.

#25th minute...

The game resumed quickly and the Uventus resumed their dominant play despite the Cagliari's attempts to break out and take the reins in the game.

Just as the Cagliari team had tried to react to going behind, so also had the Uventus team been bolstered by their goal and they wanted nothing more than to extend their lead at that moment.

The Cagliari team was just as against that as much as they wanted to score an equalizer and were doing their best to hold back the Uventus team, but football wasn't a game where one needed the permission of their opponents to score.

The Uventus team was soon at it again when Alex Sandro sent a pass to Jason from the back.

Jason had faked as if he wanted to receive the ball, but had let it roll between his legs and then chased after it, leaving his marker eating his dust.

The other players on the field reacted appropriately with the Uventus players doing their best to run into open spaces and free themselves while the Cagliari players chased after those players to cut off Jason's passing options while some chased after him to retrieve the ball.

After escaping his marker, Jason's path down the left flank was free, but he wanted to score so he began cutting inside as he ran forward, but a Cagliari tried a slide tackle at Jason from his right and Jason kicked the ball back to the left flank while jumping over the tackle.

The tackle had set him back a bit, but as soon as he caught up to the ball, he once again began cutting into the penalty box quickly doing a one-two with Ronaldo to escape another defender.

Jason raced for the ball after Ronaldo sent it into his path and just as he almost caught up to it, another Cagliari defender came sliding in.

Jason didn't see the tackle on time so by the time he was able to react, it was too late and the defender swept his legs away from under him.

Fweeeeeeeeeee

Just as Jason went tumbling over, the referee blew his whistle loudly and came running over while pointing at the penalty spot.

On reaching the crash site, the referee's hand went into his pocket and he drew out a yellow card that he showed the Cagliari defender who had made the tackle.

{He deserved that yellow card for making such a rough tackle and Uventus have a penalty!}

Jason didn't care about the yellow card and was still in a lot of pain after the tackle because the Cagliari defender had hit his ankle hard.

The pain slowly reduced to a point where Jason could endure it and get up, but he was already very sure that the tackle would at least leave a bruise.

He stepped off the field and sat back down, calling for the medical team while Ronaldo got ready to take the penalty.

Chapter 566: Cagliari II

Ronaldo stepped back from the ball, keeping his eyes on the goal keeper and sending shivers through the unfortunate guy who his teammates were expecting to save the penalty.

Despite his track record in scoring penalties, Ronaldo didn't think little of the Cagliari goalkeeper and maintained full concentration and determination to score.

Fweeeeeeeeeee

At the referee's whistle, Ronaldo ran at the ball and hit it at the bottom left side of the goal, while the Cagliari goalkeeper dived towards the right.

Without surprise, the ball smashed into the back of the net and Ronaldo wheeled away in celebration.

Meanwhile, Jason who was being attended to by the medical team was asked,

"Do you think you can stay on?"

"Well..."

"I wouldn't advise it though," the medic interrupted Jason before he could even reply.

"It's just a strain on your ankle and isn't a major problem, but if you stay on, that could change," the medic explained, eliciting a hesitant nod from Jason.

"... Tell coach I'm coming off then," Jason said after a pause and was helped up by the medics.

It wasn't a serious injury, but as long as there was a weak point in the muscular structure, then continuous strain on that weak point could lead to a worse injury.

Seeing as how his team was already leading by two goals in the twenty-fifth minute of the game, Jason didn't think there was any point in risking a more serious injury.

For now, it was just a slight pain and it should be gone soon enough as long as he avoided aggravating it.

While Jason was helped off the field, the Uventus fans looked over worriedly despite their team winning the game by a good margin already.

{He looks injured, but we'll have to wait for further information on the injury from Lorenzo to know how serious it is} the commentator said as Jason reached the bench and sat down.

Pirlo quickly arranged a substitution and moments later Mckennie was heading onto the pitch.

Since he was already off the pitch, the medics began to further attend to his injury as it wasn't something so serious that he would need emergency attention.

A simple bandage and some ointment to reduce bruising and stop inflammation would do.

While Jason was sidelined, the match had continued and Uventus had continued on the attack against the Cagliari team that was doing their best to hold on even after going two behind.

#32nd minute...

{Cagliari are struggling}

{They haven't been able to launch an attack since they conceded their second goal}

{It's like Uventus wants to further their lead and they aren't taking no for an answer}

{Here they come again!?!}

{Bentacur to Ramsey, Ramsey to Mckennie, Mckennie back to Bentacur}

{The ball wouldn't stop moving and the Cagliari players can't get a hold of it}

{Mckennie's making a run forward and he's looking over!}

{Bentacur with a pass to find him!}

{A cross to the center!?!}

{Ronaldo's all alone! Header!!!} the commentator exclaimed loudly as Ronaldo took to the air and got his head to the ball, letting it bounce off it with him applying little power, but it was enough to send the ball flying to the top left corner of the goal, out of the reach of the Cagliari goalkeeper.

{GOAL!}

{He makes it three! Hat-trick!}

{Counting in the last Champions League game, that makes it six goals in two games!}

{Just how does he do it!?!}

{At an age where most players would have hung their boots or be preparing to do so, he is scoring back-to-back hat-tricks!}

{He proves time and again that age is just a number!} The commentator, who was obviously a Ronaldo fan could not keep his excitement out of his commentary while the goal scorer himself headed down to the sidelines and executed his trademark celebration.

{Siuuuuuuuu!!!} the commentator and the crowd shouted excitedly as Ronaldo landed with his back to the crowd, showing off his jersey number.

The Cagliari players and fans listlessly watched the Uventus side celebrate a third goal just after thirty minutes into the game.

The manager on the sidelines could not even find the energy to berate his players and started giving instructions to his players to get on the defensive and give up on attacking for the time being.

He wasn't about to allow Uventus to run riot on his team like they did against Oporto in their last Champions League game because unlike the Oporto team, his team didn't have the quality to keep up in a scoring contest against a team like Uventus.

They were already finding it difficult breaking past the Uventus defense and if this continued, their goal difference would drop way too much and the manager had to do his best to avoid a relegation battle.

Even if he had to defend till the last minute to keep the Uventus team from scoring another goal, that was exactly what he was going to do.

The Cagliari players also understood the implications of letting Uventus rack up more goals, and they quickly positioned themselves behind the ball.

When the game kicked off again, the Cagliari team became very disciplined on the ball and did all they could to not lose possession while they slowly moved the ball forward.

If there was space, they would attempt a quick counter, and if they lost possession, they immediately regrouped behind the ball and didn't bother counterpressing to hastily retrieve the ball and continue the attack.

They had figured out their limits the hard way and were not interested in pushing it any longer.

With this defensive set-up from the Cagliari team and the relaxed Uventus team, the game gradually became slower with much progress not happening on either sides apart from a few pot shots attempted by the two teams or flashes of individual brilliance from the players of the two teams.

However, if there was one thing both teams knew, it was that any show of individual brilliance from any player must be shut down quickly so till the half time whistle was blown, neither team managed to further their lead in the game.

Chapter 567: Cagliari III

Fweeeeeeeeeee

With the referee's whistle, the second half of the game kicked off between Cagliari and Uventus and with the current scoreline, everyone watching was already a hundred percent sure who the winning team would be.

Even the greatest doubters or the most hopeful people didn't believe that the Cagliari team could somehow make it back from behind to beat the Uventus team.

Not that it couldn't happen or that it was impossible, but even if it was possible, no one believed that it would happen.

The Cagliari fans didn't allow that to hinder them cheering for their players though as they hoped that their team would at least not let the Uventus take home a clean sheet from the game.

After the fifteen minutes of break and a tactical re-adjustment, the Cagliari team came out to the field, took on a new shape and played differently.

It soon became clear that their manager didn't get his position willy nilly as the Cagliari team seemed to be having an easier time in the second half and were able to get past the Uventus defense easier.

It was either that or that the Uventus team had relaxed too much and this allowed the Cagliari team to get past them easier than the first half, but no one other than the tacticians really cared about this factor and everyone else was more interested in just enjoying the game.

With the Cagliari team finally beginning to put some pressure on the Uventus defenders, the Cagliari team finally had something to shout about and the Cagliari players were basking in the support of their fans and gradually pushing forward.

#65th minute...

The Cagliari team was on the attack once again, pushing the Uventus back as they moved the ball from player to player and advanced gradually into the Uventus half of the field.

As the ball was sent down toward the right flank, the Cagliari right winger and Sandro ran towards the ball but somehow, Sandro slipped, giving the winger time and space to get to the ball and dart into the penalty box and unleash a shot that was too much for Sczesny to handle.

{GOAL!}

{Cagliari have one back!}

{Dreadful error from the Uventus left back and his team's paying for it with this one!}

{Will it be just a consolation goal, or is this the beginning of a comeback?}

{The Cagliari fans would be hoping for the latter, but Uventus players will not allow such slip ups again!}

{However, there is still enough time for anything to happen and the fans will be on the edge of their seats for the next minutes leading up to the end of 90 minutes, I'm sure!} the commentator did his job without much enthusiasm or excitement in his voice.

It was clear that it would require a lot more than this to get him excited.

The match continued shortly after and the Cagliari team bolstered by their goal tried hard to get another and they had a few close calls that had the fans jump up in expectation one second and sit back down in agony the next second.

#74th minute...

The Cagliari team had just had another attack that ended with the ball firmly in Sczesny's grasp and the Cagliari fans once again sat down exasperatedly after watching yet another chance go nowhere, but before they could get comfortable, Sczesny stood up quickly and threw the ball forward with shocking power.

The ball flew powerfully to the middle of the field where it was caught and brought under control by Bentancur who sent the ball down the right to Chiesa who dashed forward after the ball, catching up to it and pushing it forward.

{Ugentus is on the counter!}

The Cagliari players tried to block Chiesa's path down the flank and he cut in instead, but he soon realized that even the path through the center was being tightly guarded and he sent a through pass down the right instead when he noticed Ronaldo charging forward.

Chiesa had unconsciously put too much power on the ball and it took a lot from Ronaldo to reach the ball before it rolled out for a goalkick, but he managed to reach it in the end.

However, the time he spent chasing after the ball had given the Cagliari players enough time to crowd around him and block his path towards goal, however, that wasn't going to stop Ronaldo who chipped the ball over the defenders instead of going himself and sent a cross across the face of the goal to where Morata was arriving.

Morata leaped into the air to reach the ball and caught it on his head, sending it towards goal, but,

CLANG!

To the relief of the Cagliari goalkeeper who knew he couldn't reach the ball despite reaching for it, the ball slammed against the top of the crossbar and bounced over the post and out of play.

{Saved by the bar!}

{Cagliari were inches from going back to being behind by three!}

{The Ugentus striker would be gutted to have missed such a clear goal scoring chance!}

{Head in the hands moment, that one!}

True to the commentator's words, Morata had his heads in his hands, looking at the empty goal in disbelief, but the Cagliari goalkeeper collecting a ball from a ball boy brought him back to the land of the living and he tracked back out of the penalty box, still gutted about missing the chance to extend his goal run.

With the Uventus team reminding the Cagliari team that they were still very much dangerous and could hit them the moment they let down their guard a little too much, the Cagliari team calmed down and came off their high horses.

They began to pay equal attention to their defense as much as they did to their attack and with both teams no longer desperately trying to change the score of the game, the time quickly ran down and the final whistle was soon blown.

{There it is, the final whistle!}

{Uventus win against Cagliari 3 to 1}

{They did enough to hold on to their lead at the top of the table and would be hoping to build off yet another win on their current undefeated run!}

Chapter 568: A Small Strain

****15th March 2021****

"It's just a strain and will heal pretty quickly... as long as you don't aggravate it," the team doctor said to Jason as he looked at the results of the scans Jason had just gone through.

The doctor had already guessed that it was a strain, but in this line of work, one could never be too careful so Jason had undergone further testing to check whether there were any injuries he had to take care of.

Luckily, the results came back negative and Jason was mostly unharmed.

'Nice,' Jason thought happily.

"So... when ca-" Jason began to ask, but was interrupted.

"Two days of compulsory rest with little to no training, a further three days with light training and adequate resting time in between your training, and then you can resume normal training,"

"You'll have to undergo a fitness test before you're sent back on the field too, though I doubt this little injury will affect your fitness too much,"

"One can never be too careful though,"

"You need any painkillers?" the doctor asked Jason.

"For this little thing?" Jason wondered out loud, glancing at his leg.

"You do know you have a nasty bruise, right?" the doctor retorted.

"What I said about your recovery period all depends on that bruise healing quickly as well,"

"Frankly, you shouldn't be resuming any training until that bruise is gone, but I have a feeling you wouldn't listen if I told you to wait for longer," the doctor sighed as he looked at Jason.

"You're right... I wouldn't," Jason smirked, but his words were very true.

If the doctor had prescribed something but he felt like he was healed enough before the time, he would dive straight into training.

"You'll probably miss the next match then, but that's the worst that should happen anyway... don't mess around just because it feels like a little injury. A strain is a weak point and can lead to a worse injury if you don't allow it to heal properly," the doctor said, beginning to type something into his computer.

"Aye aye captain," Jason saluted and stood up.

"I'll send your medical report to the manager, you can head home," the doctor said to Jason without glancing up from the screen.

"Don't forget to get your meds from the pharmacy downstairs. Don't use any other medicine," the doctor spoke again before Jason made it past the door.

"Alright, that too," Jason nodded and walked out of the room with a little limp.

His foot didn't hurt too much unless he put his weight down on it, and then he would feel a sharp pain in his ankle, but it wasn't too difficult to move around and the pain was something Jason could easily ignore... most of the time.

Jason did not forget to take the drugs he would need to use while he was injured as just like the doctor had said, it was best to avoid anything that involved drugs that were not prescribed by the club.

Doping tests were not only common in the sports world, but they also had a tendency of being annoyingly impromptu and those guys who did the doping tests always acted like they had beef with sportsmen and were always looking for something to use against the sportsmen.

Jason didn't have a paranoia against racism, but it was also kind of a thing that the doping tests were especially stringent against people like him.

Of course, the chances of anything like that happening to him were low as he usually made sure to follow the rules and not ingest any weird substances without advice from the team medic.

Life might be a bed of roses, but even roses had thorns and one had to be careful when getting comfortable, otherwise, one would get too comfortable, and boom... four years suspension due to doping.

“Speaking of which, how come Mylo never got called out for drinking alcohol?” Jason suddenly wondered out loud as he got beside his car.

That thought suddenly interested Jason because he had seen Mylo drink quite a few times, but funnily enough... he had never seen him drunk.

Mylo never drank too much and his drinking was usually few and far between despite always going to nightclubs all the time.

Mylo was an oddity in that he would come out smelling like women’s perfume and not alcohol.

‘But then... if the guy never was one to drink too much... how did he get drunk and sleep with Sofia?’ the thought suddenly popped up in Jason’s mind as he pulled open the door of his car.

It was an interesting thought and he paused for a few seconds to let the possibilities that thought brought forth run through his mind.

“ ... ”

“What does it matter to me anyway,” he shrugged, got into his car and closed the door.

So what if Mylo was not drunk?

So what if it was a trap by Mylo to get into Sofia’s pants?

What did it concern him anyway?

There was only so much a hero could do for a person who didn’t want to be saved.

Sofia obviously had no sense of self-preservation, seeing as she had gone to the house of someone Jason had told her countless times was a playboy, and then, she had not only done that, but had also decided to get drunk there.

Mylo might have set a trap for her, but she didn't fall into the trap while struggling, she had walked right into it with her eyes wide fuc*ing open.

And then, she had enjoyed the pain from the trap like a masochist and then gone back for more.

Clearly there was no saving her and Jason didn't even know why he was thinking of her right now.

"Yeah, fu*k 'em," he grunted and started his car.

He had just gotten injured and was supposed to be resting and thinking about a toxic ex and a snake bastard was no way of helping his mental state.

There was a lot of better things he could be doing with his time... like sneaking away to Portugal to go meet with Adele for example.

Coming up with a plan to do that was way more exciting and important to him than trying to help Sofia free herself from Mylo who had non-consensually split her a** open like a loaf of bread.

'What the fu*k am I even thinking bruh?' Jason almost burst into laughter at his thought's choice of words.

'I knew I shouldn't have watched so many of those comedy short videos,' he laughed internally and drove out of the training center.

After driving for a while in silence,

"Maybe I should sneak away to Portugal after all," he muttered, no longer able to throw that idea out of his mind now that he had thought of it.

Just the thought that he could see Adele again was already making him giddy and he could no longer think of any other exciting way to spend this unwanted two-day break.

No longer able to resist the thought, he hastily parked the car by the road and went to check if there were any flights to Portugal and as if someone in the sky wanted this to happen, there was a flight to Portugal two hours from then.

Sending a thumbs up to the man in the sky, Jason quickly booked the flight, managing to get a seat as it was the off-season and the flights weren't too crowded.

When he had confirmed that the flight was booked, he once again put the car into gear and slammed on the accelerator, uncaring of the spectators who were enjoying the sight of an idling Ferrari.

'They need to hear the roar of the engine too, right?' thought Jason as he slammed down on the accelerator and tore down the streets, even drifting a few times, no longer caring about the blackhole of expenses that would hit his pocket when he looked at his car maintenance fee later.

He made it to his house in less than thirty minutes and booked a taxi as he ran into the house, then grabbed a small bag in his room and threw two sets of clothes into it as well as a few other essentials.

Then he jumped into the bathroom despite having already showered earlier in the day before coming back to Turin from Cagliari.

He was going to meet a babe... of course he should look and smell good... plus he had to disguise himself very well if he wanted this sneaking away plan to work.

Jason had never realized the speed at which some tasks could be done before today, and he probably wouldn't after today unless another such reason came along.

His urgency almost had him put a pair of scissors through his hair when it was taking more than a few seconds to band it together, but he caught himself in time to ensure he didn't make any overly rash decisions.

He was going to make it in time anyway.

Chapter 569: Welcome to The Batcave

Adele walked out of the Gestifute office, tired after a hard day's work and headed to the car park ready to go home but when she was still a distance away from the blue BMW i8 that waited for her, she saw a tall figure in a black hoodie and black trousers sitting on the front of the car with his back to her.

'What the hell?' she thought, wondering what annoying situation this was.

Someone sitting on the hood of a car she was borrowing as how?

What if there was a dent from his weight on the car, or what if he had harmed the car in another way?

She didn't even want to have to explain something like that to Jason who clearly loved his car almost half as much as he loved his football career and that was a lot, considering how much Jason loved football.

"Hey!"

"You can't be sitting on the hood of a car you don't own. Come down or I'll call the police and have you arrested for damaging private property," Adele said loudly as she walked hurriedly towards the person seated on the car, ready to push him off if she must.

"... What if I own the car though?" a voice Adele would recognize anywhere responded to her and the figure seated on the car turned towards her.

Under the hood was a baseball hat and a hoodie, but two gleaming blue eyes that she loved seeing stared back at her amusingly, letting her know that the voice she recognized was indeed from the person she knew it belonged to.

“Jason?” she asked in shock, almost rooted to the spot, but then continued walking until she was in front of him, while Jason stayed seated, however, his eyes followed her until she was in front of him, appreciating every movement of her body and then her face... internally of course.

“What are you doing here?”

“Did something happen?”

“Are you okay?” She asked, in a flurry, her confusion slowly turning to worry.

“Calm down, calm down,” Jason laughed lightly and put his hands on both sides of her face.

“Let’s just say I missed you a lot and I had some free time,” he continued, pressing on her cheeks and causing her mouth to narrow.

“Zhat would be a lot more romantic if you had come with flowersh,” Adele said through her mouth that was pressed together by Jason.

“A black man coming to meet a girl with a bouquet of flowers?” Jason’s left eyebrow rose.

“What movies have you been watching?” he asked like he had just heard the most absurd thing in the world.

“None. I’ve been waiting for you to take me on a movie date,” Adele replied, her mouth now free from Jason’s squishing.

“Say no more my lady,” Jason replied and jumped off the hood.

“Let’s go right now,” he said and grabbed her hand.

“Huh?” Adele could not keep up with the sudden switch.

"Keys, let's go to the movies right now," Jason repeated.

"Oh ...I'm hungry though," She replied after a slight pause.

"There'll be food at the cinema though?" Jason replied.

"To a famished woman who had just done a nine to five... you would consider popcorn food?" It was Adele's turn to act like she had heard the most absurd thing in the world.

"Ah, sorry... We can get food after that though," Jason laughed.

"Nope, eating out is expensive," Adele replied immediately.

"You say that like you're the one paying," Jason said, amused.

"You forget that I'm your agent... and we both know you aren't exactly raking in hundreds of thousands yet and coupled with all your expenses and other things, not to mention that you flew here since you definitely couldn't have walked here from Italy this quickly,"

"Clearly, you shouldn't be overspending on eating outside," Adele spoke quickly, entering business mode.

"..." Jason just stared at Adele open-mouthed despite the mask on his face.

"What? Why are you staring at me like that?" Adele asked, confused.

"... I heard they were rare," Jason said in a low voice, almost a whisper.

"What?" Adele asked again.

“Women who would help a man save money,” Jason replied.

“It’s common sense to not overspend though,” Adele said, not seeing anything special in what she said.

‘Common sense is only common to those who have it though...’ Jason thought internally.

“Ok, we’ll buy groceries and I can whip something up later,” he said, giving in.

“Yesss!” Adele pumped her fist in celebration.

“...”

“Something tells me I’ve been tricked,” Jason muttered, watching Adele celebrate as if she had scored a goal in a football game.

“You’re imagining it, there’s no such thing,” Adele replied immediately.

‘This woman,’ Jason chuckled internally and took the keys from her.

They both got into the car and Jason drove out of the car park and headed to the nearest movie cinema according to the map.

Jason didn’t know any movie cinemas around the area as he was never one for movies either and had never been to a movie cinema in Porto so far, not even with Sofia.

Luckily, the map didn’t have any reason to send them to the wrong area and they were soon at a cinema.

They got down from the car and went into the cinema, Jason still in disguise as he couldn't afford to be seen by anyone... especially not in Porto.

When it was time to pick movies, Jason wanted to pick an action movie, but he wondered whether Adele would want a romance movie instead.

Shockingly, Adele ended up selecting a horror movie instead, surprising Jason further and he just followed along, buying the popcorn and the drinks that they would munch on while watching the movie.

It was only twenty minutes into the movie that Jason realized that he might have bitten more than he could chew with this movie.

Horror movies were definitely for him, he had discovered and was secretly gripping onto the handle of his chair as he couldn't handle all the sudden scares in a dark cinema.

Adele didn't seem to notice and was munching on popcorn like it was chewing gum and swallowing it like it was water.

The scary movie didn't seem to affect her at all and she watched it like she was watching a documentary.

Luckily, the horror movie wasn't too long and was barely over an hour and a half which meant Jason had to cope with another hour of the movie, but he was able to cope with it well enough without showing his fear thanks to his disguise.

'Who knew a disguise could be so useful,' Jason thought as he shakily stood up after the movie was finally over.

"Hey, are we going to your house to cook or mine?" Adele asked from behind him as he walked toward the car.

"Probably yours, It's nearer than mine and I don't wanna drive too far right now," Jason said in a flat tone, not allowing the slightest quiver to come out of his voice.

He was a bit worried about whether he would not cut himself by mistake with how he was shaking, but he could easily settle for a dish that didn't require the use of a knife.

They soon left the cinema, headed to a grocery store to pick up a few ingredients that Jason would use to cook and less than an hour later they were in front of Adele's house.

It was already very late at night, but neither of them said anything about the time.

Jason because he didn't care about where he would be sleeping and Adele because she was already half-imagining herself munching on delicious food.

Jason grabbed the bags of groceries and headed to the front of the house, this time with Adele in the lead.

Click

"Welcome to the batcave," Adele said to Jason as she pushed open the door.

"I knew you were secretly a superhero," Jason replied, going with the joke.

"Yup. I'm a football agent during the day and a secret agent at night," Adele admitted smugly, sounding so serious that Jason almost burst out laughing.

"Don't you have to get to fighting crime then, evil lurks while you lounge, bat lady," Jason replied.

"Evil wouldn't dare to rear its head in a city I inhabit, I'd crush it before it even has a chance to display its fangs,"

"Anyway I'm on break today, let evil have its fun," Adele gave up with a laugh and flopped on the nearest chair.

"Kitchen is that way," she pointed at the direction of the kitchen, laying on the chair without a care in the world.

"Aye Aye, captain lady," Jason gave a mock salute and took the ingredients into the kitchen to work on them and less than thirty minutes he was back in the living room with food.

"Wanna see something cool?" Adele asked Jason as he sat down.

"What?" Jason asked with an eyebrow raise.

"Alexa, gaming mode," Adele called out.

Chapter 570: Welcome to the Batcave II

Beep

Following Adele's words, the lights in the room turned off and then other lights began to come on, one after the other, and led to another area inside the house that Jason hadn't been to before.

"... That's pretty cool," Jason nodded, impressed by the superhero lair vibe.

"I know right," Adele nodded smugly, impressed with herself.

"... So this is what you use your money to do instead of eating outside?" Jason turned to her and asked with an amused grin.

"Like you're not already planning to do something like this as well," Adele retorted, pulling off an excellent question dodge.

"That's beside the point darling... you know what, it doesn't even matter,"

“What I wanna know now is where those lights lead to,” Jason said and stood up.

“Follow me then,” Adele stood up as well and started walking forward, following the lights.

Jason followed after her till they reached a door that looked pretty plain, but as soon as Jason stepped into the room after Adele, he was met with the scene of one of the most complete gaming rooms he had ever seen.

“Is that a Ryzen 9?” Jason asked, his mouth agape as he pointed at a CPU that was part of a PC gaming setup on his right.

“In the flesh,” Adele replied, especially smug since Jason recognized it.

“I guess you weren’t kidding when you said gaming was your pastime... If your skills match your setup, then you could be a pretty good gaming streamer in your free time,” Jason whistled as he ran his fingers across the CPU.

“You’re like the female version of Henry Cavil, hot as hell and professional outside, gaming geek on the inside,” He laughed.

“Don’t flatter me,” Adele laughed as well and grabbed the two PS5 gamepads in front of the huge flat-screen TV on the wall.

“With others maybe it’s flattery... with you, it’s just plain fact,” Jason retorted, turning on his rizzinator.

“Hey, you’re gonna rizz me up, or are we going to play?” Adele said as she threw one of the gamepads at Jason, her face slightly red.

Jason caught the pad smoothly, not taking his eyes off Adele even as he did so,

“...”

"Let's play," he finally said and pressed the PS button.

The PS5 responded with a beep and the TV came to life.

From there Adele took over and it was her console and she opened up a Mortal Kombat game.

"You know how to play Mortal Kombat right?" Adele only remembered to ask Jason after they were already at the character selection interface.

"I'd rather do other types of combat with you, but yeah, I have experience with Mortal Kombat," Jason smirked.

"You're just dirty-minded," Adele rolled her eyes at him and selected Kitana as her game character for the fight.

"Only with you," Jason replied smoothly and selected Scorpion as his character.

"Well, obviously. Otherwise, you will be taken for interrogation," Adele retorted.

"Who's going to interrogate me?" Jason asked, slightly surprised.

"Me-,"

Fight! The game began and Kitana jumped at Scorpion, unleashing a flurry of punches and kicks at Scorpion who could only be hit after falling victim to the surprise attack.

After a combo of hits, Scorpion also began to get some hits in and sent Kitana flying back we well.

The game characters exchanged a lot of blows and their health bars decreased appropriately in accordance with the amount of damage they had each taken but Kitana's health bar was still a fair bit higher than Scorpion's

"Now I feel bad,"

"If you want me to go easier on you," Adele laughed victoriously.

Jason just glanced at her and suddenly his tapping frequency increased by a fair bit and Scorpion began to get more hits in than before.

Adele attributed it to luck at first, but then Jason used Scorpion's signature,

Get over here! Scorpion shouted as he shot out a chained kunai from his hand.

The Kunai flew straight ahead and Kitana tried to block but was a second too late as the Kunai stabbed into her chest and Scorpion pulled hard, bringing her flying towards him and then sending a uppercut into her chin as she arrived into range.

Kitana flew up into the air, attained maximum height and came back down, hoping to get her own back at Scorpion, but Scorpion was already waiting at her landing spot and began to unleash wave after wave of attack, chaining them carefully one after the other in a way that Kitana couldn't escape and less than five seconds later, her health bar was already in the danger zone.

Finish him! a hoarse voice that all Mortal Kombat fans around the world recognized said.

Jason did not hesitate to press the buttons to initiate Scorpion's finishing move.

As the finishing move was initiated and the cut scene began playing, Jason turned to look at Adele and Adele stared right back at him without saying a word while on the screen, Scorpion was showing Kitana the meaning of pain.

"I'll get you in the next round," Adele finally said, glaring daggers.

"I'll wait," Jason replied mockingly.

Adele did in fact get Jason back in the second round and for the first time in his life, Jason faced the furious gameplay of a gamer girl.

Adele gave him a run for his money as she was actually good at gaming, but so was Jason and they beat each other equivalently with Jason only having a slight lead.

The two of them played games until Adele dozed off on the couch while Jason was looking for a new character to use for a fight.

When Jason realized that she was asleep, he pulled out his phone to check the time and started checking some of his messages and somehow also fell asleep without realizing it.

The day after Jason headed back to Turin after Adele left for work as despite being on break, he had to report in regularly for medical check-ups at the Uventus medical center to ensure that his injury was healing properly.

He wouldn't dare to call in a sick day either as that would just be a cause for alarm and would only lead to him getting caught faster.

Jason landed back in Turin still in disguise and made it out of the airport without being recognized by anyone other than the check-in lady official who he bribed with a wink and an autograph.

The days after that passed quickly and just like the medic said, the pain from the strain disappeared within four days and the bruise was also slowly healing as well and Jason could now join in light training with the team, but the manager had him take it easy until the bruise was completely gone.

Unfortunately, that wasn't in time for the next game and Jason was left out of the line-up for the next game.

****21st March 2021****

It was Uventus' next fixture in the Serie A and it was against Benevento, a team struggling in the battle against relegation.

The Uventus fans came to the Allianz Stadium in an already jubilant mood despite the game having not even begun and everyone already felt like the game was in the bag.

Even the Uventus manager seemed to think so as he was using a much weaker line-up than the original team and a few important players weren't starting the game.

Ronaldo, Morata, Cheillini, Bonucci, and De Ligt were all on the bench when the game began.

Perhaps because of this weaker line-up, the Benevento team was emboldened and thus, when the match began, they didn't fall behind their opponents.

They matched the Uventus team effort for effort, attack for attack, and clearance or clearance.

It was almost like one was watching a match-up between two equally matched teams.

At that point, some of the Uventus fans could already feel alarm bells ringing in the back of their heads, but the confidence and pride in their team didn't allow them to believe that loss to this team was even possible.

They believed that at worst they would end up in a draw with this Benevento team which wasn't ideal, but even if it happened, they would still be at the top of the table even if Inter Milan won their game.

Like this, the first half ended in a goalless draw between the two teams and Pirlo wasn't too happy about that as he expected his team to be at least one or two goals up against an opponent that had barely made it out of the second division and would be going back at the end of the season.

Clearly, the Benevento team couldn't cope with the first division of Italian football, but somehow they were equally matched up against his players.

Didn't that mean that his players were playing like they were second-division players?

If that was the way his players were playing, then what did that make him?

A second division manager?