

Legends 771

Chapter 771: Heart II

For the first thirty minutes of the game, despite the Lyon side's efforts, things consistently kept going Oporto's way, but after the second goal shocker, the Lyon side finally began to look like a threat.

With smarter play and not just reckless attacking, they slowed the game down and began trying to dictate the tempo.

The Oporto players didn't like that and after chasing the ball for a while, they began trying to foul them to unsettle them.

Fweeeeeeeee!

With a sharp blast of the whistle, the referee pulled out his yellow card and showed it to Zaidu Sanusi who had made an unsavoury tackle on Keita who had been trying to dribble past him.

The players of the Lyon side got into the penalty box, awaiting the delivery from the right side of the field.

Without much delay, Toko Ekambi whipped the ball in, sending the ball into the airspace above Oporto's penalty box.

{Beautiful ball in from Toko Ekambi. Can he find someone-! MARCELO WITH THE HEADER AND ITS IN!!!}

This time Marcelo didn't waste the chance and sent the ball into the top left corner with a perfect header that couldn't be denied.

Diogo Costa was still rooted to the spot when Marcelo turned back with his teammates, high-fiving them as the Lyon players headed back to their half of the pitch.

This time, the few Lyon fans who had travelled over to support their team even though it was only a friendly match, finally had something to cheer about.

It was a low shout in comparison to the Oporto fans at the stadium, but their hearts were just as much with the players like the Oporto fans.

After that goal, the two teams tried to add to their tally within the few minutes still left of the second half, but they were unable to disturb the scoreboard operator before the referee blew his whistle for halftime.

{What a half we've witnessed, goals from both sides and there looks to be more to come. It's been quite the splendid display from these two teams that will definitely leave the fans hungry for what's to come for their teams this coming season}

{We'll be back in fifteen minutes after half-time. Stay tuned} the commentator said before the commentator's box went silent.

The players were already halfway to their locker rooms at this point, guzzling water, wiping their sweats and talking with each other about the things that happened in the first half of the game.

In the Oporto locker room, there wasn't much for Conceicao to say. The team was already winning and this was a friendly game.

This was more of a match to see more from his players before the season began. They were playing well, following instructions and winning.

There clearly wasn't much he needed to say, but he still admonished the defending of his players on the set piece, pointing out that after Marcelo had shown that he was a threat in the air, he shouldn't have been allowed to roam freely during that set piece.

After the little discussions, he began making substitutions.

He wanted to see some other players in action.

Mylo was taken off for Taremi. The manager's son, Francisco, was subbed on in place of Joao Mario and finally, Wendell was put on in place of Zaidu Sanusi who had taken on a yellow card.

The fifteen minutes came and went quickly and the players were soon running back on the field with the second half beginning.

The two teams quickly tried to pick up from where they left off and tried to break each other down. Both sides looked like a threat and it was beginning to look like the match could go any of two ways.

However it was a sudden attack from the Lyon team that shattered the deadlock.

After dribbling past Wendell who was struggling to match the pace of the game, having just come on, Keita crossed the ball into the penalty box to Slimani.

Pepe wasn't near enough to hold off Slimani from reaching the ball so he tried to insert himself between Slimani and the goal, but Slimani headed the ball towards an arriving Toko Ekambi instead.

Catching the ball on his chest and then volleying it before it touched the ground, the Lyon man sent the ball powerfully past Diogo Costa.

{It's there!}

{They have their equalizer! They've gone and down things the hard way and finally they are back on level terms!}

Unlike during the first goal where their celebrations had been moderate, this time the Lyon players celebrated their goal with more freedom and their fans joined them however they could.

Screams, cheers, songs, throwing of hats, whatever could be done to express their joy, the Lyon fans did it.

However, the celebrations couldn't last long and the game was soon to resume.

For the third time in thirty minutes, the Oporto side kicked off the game and began moving the ball around cleverly, trying to find a way behind their opponents.

The Lyon side had clearly closed up defensively as opposed to earlier, but that was not going to stop the Oporto side from trying.

Unfortunately, even after a while, all their efforts to take the lead only led to blocked attempts and off-target shots.

Even Diaz's flank which had been receiving much love in the first half had closed up now after the earlier right back was subbed off.

With energetic strides, the new substitute did all he could to keep Diaz in check.

He was a fresh player out of the academy and this was his first game with the first team. With a manager to impress, Diaz was hounded to tears.

When the clock hit the 70th minute, Conceicao had finally had enough and he turned to his bench.

"Viera, Vitinha... and Jason, warm-up, you're up,"

"Eh? Oh, oh, right," Jason was a bit surprised to hear his name among those called up, but he stood up anyway, joining Viera and Vitinha to jog up and down the sides and do some stretches.

The fans who had been watching the game that had slowed down suddenly noticed movement on the sidelines and when they saw the players warming up, the cheers that shot through the stadium had the Lyon fans wondering if a goal had been scored suddenly.

Viera was a player who had become a fan favorite during the last season despite the disappointing outcome of the season and Vitinha was a player who been showing off large potential.

The fans were still not over his last game.

As for Jason...

Apart from his new hairstyle that the fans were seeing for the first time because Jason had been wearing a hoodie throughout all the last three friendly games for some weird reason, his presence among the players warming up was one most of the fans, if not all of them, wanted to see.

Chapter 772: Heart III

{It's Oporto about to make a substitution. A triple substitution at that}

The assistant referee had the board in the air, displaying numbers one by one.

First, Olivera was coming off for Vitinha, then Uribe came off for Viera.

In one go, Conceicao had replaced the team's two midfielders.

Clearly he was looking for more energy in the center to move the ball across the field quicker and with more control.

Since neither Vitinha or Viera was highly physical, he was clearly giving up a lot of defensive strength, but he trusted that they could balance things out with control instead.

Finally, Diaz began walking to the sidelines, receiving a lot of applause from the fans as he walked to the sidelines.

He had been involved in the two goals that the Oporto team had scored already and though he was being taken off, the Oporto fans weren't against the manager's decision thanks to Jason coming on in his place.

Adjusting his shirt, Jason high-fived Diaz before jogging onto the pitch and taking position on the left flank. The fans welcomed his presence on the pitch with applause and cheers, but despite appreciating all that, Jason was focused on the game that had just resumed with a freekick for Oporto.

Slimani had been caught offside earlier which had given Oporto the chance to make their substitutions.

At the referee's whistle, Pepe passed the ball to Viera, who with a smooth flick, redirected the ball to Vitinha who was right beside him.

Receiving the ball with his right foot and turning as if to charge forward to the left, the two Lyon players behind him read his movement and tried to move first only to be stunned when Vitinha pulled the ball back and turned the other way.

Smoothly turning after escaping the two players, Vitinha began charging forward, moving toward the right side of the field, but the players he dodged earlier had recovered and began chasing him from behind.

Added with the players he was running toward, he would soon be surrounded if he didn't change his path.

With a deft kick, he passed the ball to Conceicao on the right flank who in turn passed the ball back infield to Viera. There were too many players in his corner and he didn't have the confidence to take them on.

Receiving the ball once again, Viera turned left looking for other options and he easily found Jason who had moved infield to support.

Viera quickly sent the ball toward Jason despite seeing the Lyon right back behind him.

The Lyon right back stuck to Jason from behind, blocking him from moving backward and waiting for him to receive the ball so he could take it from him, but Jason instead let the ball almost roll past him before stretching out his leg, catching it and flicking it further down left.

Pushing away from his marker, Jason raced after the ball, catching it before it rolled out for a throw-in and kicking it further down the left flank.

The Lyon right back was already giving chase, but he barely managed to keep up. Luckily for the defender, Jason had run a bit too wide at first, allowing the defender to change his running path slightly and try to catch Jason when he began trying to cut back in.

Before reaching the left side of the box, Jason began cutting back in, slowing down as he realized the Lyon right-back had caught up to him and he brought reinforcements with him.

Slowing down even more, Jason did a couple of stepovers, waiting for the guy to tackle. The guy was clearly overeager and Jason was going to use that to his advantage.

He didn't have to wait long as the guy soon put a foot forward when Jason got close enough, but with a slight push to the right to escape his range, Jason evaded the tackle, got past him and cut back to the left, running right behind him down the penalty line as he avoided the other Lyon defenders.

Finally, he whipped a cross into the penalty box for his waiting teammates.

{Taremi!!!}

With a strong leap to reach the ball, Taremi tried to reach the ball, but despite reaching it and directing it toward goal, he couldn't apply the power needed to send it past the goalkeeper and the goalkeeper was able to get to it with a leaping save.

{Good goalkeeping!}

{He was needed there to keep the ball out and he did just that}

{Oporto looking more a threat merely a minute after their last substitutions. Bringing on a creative and highly technical player is bound to change the game, but to bring on three of them?}

{Clearly the Oporto manager is not happy with the status quo. It feels like he's pulling out all the stops and saying we either win or lose today}

Taremi waved an apology to Jason and the others as he backed out of the penalty box, but no one took the wasted attempt to heart.

With a powerful kick, the Lyon goalkeeper sent the ball flying into Oporto's half of the pitch. He needed the ball to stay as far away from him as possible, especially with all those tekky players that had been subbed on.

Jason especially had the luck of having the Lyon goalkeeper keep an eye on him and give out orders to the other players to block his path whenever Oporto was in possession.

#75th minute...

Viera tried to find Jason with an incisive pass into the penalty box and Jason raced to catch it, barely reaching it first, but the young right back was on him again, hassling and pushing, forcing him out of the box and all the way to the sidelines before he was finally able to push away and turn back.

With the throw-in line right behind him, he stopped and faced the right back.

Playing around a bit, he faked a kick but the young right back stayed upright and on guard, not wanting to give Jason the chance to dash past if he committed to a tackle.

Seeing the guy not bite, Jason stopped moving entirely, just enough to let the guy relax, but not enough to cause tension to build.

His feet staying in place, he moved his upper body left and right like he was trying to decide where to go.

Jason's indecisiveness seemed to lull the guy into a small sense of security and he relaxed a bit, but at that instant, Jason whose upper body had turned to the left suddenly flicked the ball to the left and burst forward, running past the guy on the outside.

The rightback immediately gave chase, catching Jason before he made it into the penalty box and pushing him off the ball, sending him to the ground.

The Oporto fans immediately called for a foul.

Chapter 773: Heart IV

A foul was given and after a freekick that went nowhere with the Lyon players clearing it easily, the game resumed again in full force.

#79th minute...

Jason jogged over to the corner flag to take a corner kick after another attempt ended with the ball being sent out of play before they could even get the shot away.

Normally, Oporto was a team with physically robust players who were always a threat on set-pieces, but since this was a friendly game with a mix of players who weren't as physically robust as the normal starting eleven, the Lyon team was a bit lax on the defence.

They opted for a zonal marking approach instead of a man-to-man defense and only made a little more effort for the players who were threats.

They were more prepared for a counterattack after defending the corner than defending the actual corner itself, so when the ball came in from Jason's cross, they tried to clear the ball out of their penalty area, but Jason had done enough with the ball to make sure it found Pepe's head.

{PEPE!!!}

{He heads it home and gives Oporto the lead for the second time in this game!}

{It seemed like the tables had turned but the captain stepped up and showed his teammates how its done. A good example of leading from the front!}

While the commentator screamed excitedly, Pepe and the Oporto players were celebrating the goal while the Lyon players headed back to their positions, preparing to unleash their fury once the whistle was blown to continue the game.

#81st minute...

After kicking off the game, the Lyon team had surged into Oporto's half of the field with the ball, looking to hit back and give as much as they had received however they didn't become careless with the ball because of that.

Due to the lack of defensive midfielders, Vitinha and Viera could only chase the ball incessantly but unsuccessfully.

Winning the ball back was not a strong point of theirs and the Oporto manager was noting this down carefully on the sidelines.

The other Oporto players tried to join the two midfielders and aid them in closing down the opponent but since the other players couldn't stray too far from their own position, what Oporto was trying to avoid finally happened.

Space opened up and Slimani was found just as he stepped into the penalty box.

Completely free because he hadn't reached the defenders and there was no defensive midfielder to intercept passes to him or hassle him, Slimani caught the ball with the perfect touch to put it in the best position for a shot.

With a smooth follow-up swing, Slimani unleashed a cracker that Diogo Costa wasn't able to reach and the net was sent flying.

{Slimani makes it three for Lyon!}

{It's not even been two minutes since Oporto took the lead and Lyon has equalized yet again!}

{They've stolen the momentum and it's up to them now what they can do with it!}

On the sidelines, Conceicao's eyelid twitched as his brain began to figure out a way to deal with the defensive problem that would arise from playing Viera and Vitinha in center midfield.

Whether to have Viera play on the right flank and play a defensive midfielder in his place, or to change to a formation that would allow for three center midfielders.

The latter idea might lead to a drop in playtime for some of the forwards so the manager wasn't going to be rushing to make a decision.

#84th minute...

With the game back on equal terms, it was anyone's game and with it being so close to the end of the 90 minutes, the ball was being sent up and down the field by both sides as they tried to find that winning goal.

Neither team wanted to end the game with a draw after getting this far.

Lyon had just had the ball stolen while they tried to break past and Pepe found Vitinha with the ball as they began their counter.

Finding Jason who had come deep, he sent the ball to him and continued his run up the field.

His back to the Lyon goal, Jason received the ball with his left foot in a turning motion to his left as if he intended to go that way.

However, he snapped back midway and turned on his right before flicking the ball forward and running down his flank.

Some other Lyon players tried to get into his path, but Jason used the outside of his right foot to make an infield pass to Viera who was running on his right.

Receiving the ball with a heelflick that sent the ball between his marker's legs and into the path of Vitinha who had arrived beside him, Viera also continued running forward as the ball rolled into the path of Vitinha.

The ball reaching him, Vitinha whipped a through-pass between Lyon's defenders and into Jason's path on the left flank where Jason was already running into.

Jason and his marker ran at the ball but while Jason was running directly at the ball, his marker changed his direction slightly infield, trying to insert himself between Jason and the goal when Jason finally reached the ball, but when Jason reached the ball, he did a Ronaldo backchop to his right while his marker who hadn't slowed down enough flew out of Jason's path.

Not taking on any other defenders, Jason simply rolled the ball into the path of Viera who had arrived at the edge of the penalty box, his leg swinging at the ball.

The remaining Lyon defenders immediately jumped between Viera and the goal, but Viera faked the shot and passed it to his right where Vitinha arriving from behind, hit it powerfully.

The ball flew close to the ground, but no one was able to reach it as it continued uninterrupted into the bottom left corner of the goal, Lopes crashing onto the ground a little distance away after trying unsuccessfully to reach the ball.

{Powerful drive from the line and it's in the back of the net!}

{Oporto take the lead yet again!}

{What is going on here!? Excitement after excitement!}

{This is the third goal in less than ten minutes and with the quality on display, I feel like there might yet be more to come}

{This team seems to have set themselves up to counter and that was a counter unlike any other!}

{Three players pulling all the strings of the Lyon defense loose. From the start of that counter all the way till the end of it no one could disturb their flow, their perfect understanding with one another!}

{Oporto just might have a secret weapon that could sweep away all their opponents in the coming season!}

While the commentator was having a lot of fun on the mic, Vitinha overly happy after scoring a second goal within two games was celebrating joyously in front of the fans with his teammates.

Chapter 774: Heart V

87th minute...

After going behind once again, the Lyon team surged forward immediately after resuming the game once again with kick off.

The players who moved up the field spread themselves wide wanting to take advantage of their numbers to cover more width.

After spreading out a bit, someone wearing a Lyon jersey tried to send the ball over the Oporto defense line, but Diogo Costa was quick off his line and caught the ball smoothly on his foot, chipping the ball over Slimani who had rushed forward.

Chasing the ball that he had dribbled over to the left side of the penalty box, he saw Wendell who had fallen deep to receive the ball and sent the ball over to him immediately.

While Diogo Costa rushed back to his goal, Wendell received the ball and turned to face the opponents half of the field.

Spotting an inch of space between the players who were now spread out across, he sent the ball forward toward Vitinha who had gone a bit forward but was rushing back.

The ball flew toward the approaching Vitinha who perfectly caught it, sending a one-touch pass to Taremi before turning and beginning to run forward once again, this time running on the left flank.

Taremi whipped the ball without controlling it, sending a curved through ball into Jason's path on the flank.

Jason raced to catch the ball, reaching it and beginning to cut in at the edge of the penalty box, squaring off with the Lyon right back.

Cutting right even more, he dragged the defender with him before suddenly giving a back heel pass into the path of Vitinha who had come running behind him.

Not taking any touch to control the ball thanks to the perfectly weighted pass, Vitinha chipped it across the face of the goal, just out of reach of the goal keeper and into the path of Viera who had appeared at the other end of the goal.

{And it's Viera to finish it off!} The commentator screamed as Viera volleyed the ball calmly into the back of the net.

{Wow! Just wow!}

{That was a lightning fast counterattack if I've ever seen one}

{15 seconds ago, the ball was at the other end of the field. Clever movement, beautiful passing, amazing runs on and off the ball and the perfect finish to end it all}

{Now they're two up and it's looking like they're set to run away with it}

The whole stadium was in a frenzy as Viera jogged over to the sidelines and jumped into a knee slide, his arms outstretched wide and a huge smile on his face.

His teammates ran to join him leaving the Lyon players to think about what had just happened.

That goal had struck them out of nowhere. The ball had smoothly gone from one Oporto player to another, avoiding them like they and the ball were positive side magnets.

Before they could move to cover up, the ball had already gone in.

They couldn't even put the blame on one person in particular as that goal made it look like the whole team was sleeping.

It was a beautiful goal, even they had to admit that.

Taking the ball back to the center of the field dejectedly, they waited for the Oporto players to return as well so the game could continue.

#90th minute...

Jason received the ball on the left and tried to dribble past his marker, but he used too much power on his first touch and the ball was stolen.

Not giving up, he began chasing the opponent, trying to steal it back, but the guy wasn't letting Jason past.

Jason managed to force him to the center before the guy released the ball to someone else, but he wasn't able to take possession.

Jason was about to return to his position when he noticed that Viera had taken post on the left, filling in for him, so he slowed down and didn't return immediately.

Suddenly the Lyon player who had received the ball had the ball stolen from him by Vitorinha.

Spotting Jason who was still in the center, Vitorinha passed the ball to Jason who received it and spun to the right, dodging two Lyon players on the left.

Marcelo rushed up to tackle Jason, but this allowed Jason to notice that right behind Marcelo was open space all the way to the goal.

Kicking the ball forward, Jason burst forward with amazing pace past the rushing Marcelo and running into the open space.

{Amazing pace from this man here, can he get away?}

{He's away! He's one on one!}

Jason raced with the ball and calmly hit it past the underside of the keeper as he came diving in.

{Beautifully put away!!!}

Pointing at the Oporto fans, he raced down the sidelines, stopping right before the corner flag and making a heart shaped gesture in front of his chest.

{Oporto got on this roll just ten minutes ago and they've not looked back since then}

{Dying minutes and he's had his say. He had to have his say!}

{This man! His presence changes everything whenever he's on the field}

{He's been involved in every goal for his side ever since he came on and even when he's not scoring he's looked a threat}

{His presence, just his presence makes things easier for his teammates. Every time he's on the ball, every pass, every shot he takes has his opponent scrambling}

{The fans are enjoying this moment. They know it could be the last}

{With the rumors about his departure only getting louder and a permanent transfer all but confirmed they know this may be the end of his time in an Oporto jersey}

{They know and he knows as well because what better way to go out than this!}

{This might just be a friendly game, but it will be one to be remembered by these Oporto fans}

His heart filled with various emotions, Jason turned from the fans as he felt that looking at them and further might make him want to cry.

It was the end.

This Chapter was indeed over.

Chapter 775: To Dare is To Do I

1st August 2021

"Canon ballllll!!!" An excited scream arrived at Jason's consciousness in the depths of his deeply asleep mind before he was impacted by the softest cannonball known to man.

Despite it being a soft cannonball, Jason was still jolted awake in shock as the least thing he had expected while sleeping was this kind of impact.

"Wake up sleepy head. It's time to pack your bags, we're going to England!" Adele said still bouncing on Jason who was trying to go back to sleep after being slammed awake.

Her latest sentence however, triggered a little of his attention.

"Huh?"

"Oporto and Tottenham have come to an agreement. Tottenham will pay the rest of your salary and also a fee of £7million to Oporto for them to release you from your contract," Adele told him what had just been told to her less than an hour ago.

"Huh?" Jason's brain still wasn't braining.

"The process has already begun. You'll be a free agent by this time tomorrow. Free to sign with Tottenham immediately," Adele continued.

"... Oh... Right, that's good, now let me sleep," Jason said sleepily, waving her off.

Admittedly, it was good news, but he was too sleepy for the whole victory dance anyone was expecting from him.

Adele however, didn't like that. She hadn't worked hard for days on end to receive this lackluster reaction as a response to all her hard work.

Standing up, she stood ominously over the totally unaware Jason.

"I said..."

"Wake up!" She squealed as she dropped a devastating 'the people's elbow' onto Jason's abdomen.

Jason felt a disturbance in the spirit and shifted half-consciously just enough to dodge Adele and wake up with a start.

"..."

Jason stared eyes wide at Adele who looked over at him sheepishly after he dodged her attack.

A word didn't leave his mouth but everything he wanted to say could clearly be seen on his face, but Adele didn't look at it for long.

Grabbing the pillow Jason was using, she threw it at his face, she wasn't going to miss again, but Jason reacted quickly again, catching the pillow in front of his face.

Pulling it aside, he was faced with Adele pouncing on him again and this time, she was too close for him to dodge.

After suffering a few more mock hits from Adele who was taking her stress out on him, they finally collapsed on the bed laughing.

"Thanks," Jason finally said after a while.

"You're welcome. *Mwah*" Adele replied, kissed his cheek and stood up, but Jason pulled her back instantly.

After fooling around some more, they finally got up to discuss the next steps.

Like Adele had already explained, Tottenham and Oporto had agreed on a deal in principle to terminate Jason's current contract.

Tomorrow, Jason would head to Tottenham for a medical examination but it was mostly just a formality as unless there was a huge issue, he would be given the green light and the deal would take place.

From then, he would sign the prepared contract and do everything else that would be needed for the official unveiling before the news would officially be revealed to the media and the fans.

Of course, those whose information-gathering means surpassed the norm already had half an idea of what was going on.

In fact, because the news was all but confirmed, Adele received a few late calls as last-ditch efforts to try to change Jason's mind.

A lot more clubs were now beginning to listen to the demands she had been pushing for earlier, as they hadn't really expected that Jason's deal with Tottenham would go through.

After all, Tottenham couldn't offer as much as they could, and they didn't think Jason would actually sign with Tottenham.

Adele had to politely tell the latecomers that her client was still thinking and hadn't made any decisions yet. She was lying of course, as she couldn't actually break confidentiality and say that Jason's mind was made up.

She hadn't exactly said those words on Jason's orders, but Jason had already decided on going to Tottenham anyway and it was a little too late to change that especially since he had already signed a pre-agreement with Tottenham.

He hadn't signed an actual contract yet, but he was required to sign a pre-agreement before Tottenham began negotiating with Oporto.

Since that part was especially kept under wraps, the clubs trying to make him change his decision didn't know that they were just wasting their time.

Jason almost felt that it was a pity that the clubs were bringing forth exceptional terms, but remembering that they only did this when the bird had flown the coop, he shook off his thoughts and began packing for the trip to Tottenham the next day.

If all went well, he would be back to Portugal the day after, having done his medicals, signed the contract and done the media prep.

Only then would he be able to apply for a working permit in England from Portugal.

The club would then put a super priority tag on his application and pay the required fees, shortening the time for the work permit to be cleared from at least 3 weeks to 1 day.

Only after he got a working permit would the transfer finally be confirmed and announced through the club's channels.

He could then train with the Tottenham team, be registered, play matches and receive a salary.

2nd August 2021

After 3 hours on a plane, Jason and Adele arrived at Heathrow on a charter private plane and were picked up by a black van that was clearly meant for comfort and privacy.

While it was no secret that Jason was being courted by Tottenham and that the transfer had entered its final stages, the club didn't intend for any news to get out until after everything was in place.

At 11:30ish, Jason arrived at the Hotspur Way Training Centre at Enfield, the van passing through a discreet entrance and taking him directly to the medical facility.

There Jason's medical examination began. First, some of his blood was collected for a blood test and then the orthopaedic checks began.

The Tottenham medical centre already had his medical file so they knew his injury history and paid a lot of attention to old injury sites, even going as far as to do an MRI.

However as the MRI took quite a bit of time to analyze and there wasn't anything crucial noted live, Jason was informed that the results wouldn't affect his transfer into the club as long as he passed all the other tests.

Stress tests, electrocardiogram test, strength balance, and mobility tests filled the rest of his day before he was finally let off for the rest of the day.

Chapter 776: To Dare is To Do II

3rd August 2021

Nuno Espirito, the Tottenham manager and five others were seated at a table in one of the meeting rooms at the clubs office.

They were having a meeting while waiting for Jason and Adele to arrive and get the contract finalisation over with.

Apart from Nuno Espirito, the manager, there was Johan Lange, one of the club's sporting directors, Nick Stubbings, the head of the medical department who was also one of the people organizing Jason's medicals the previous day.

There was also Katie Reed, the head of the legal department as well as two other members of her team with her.

Nuno Espirito and Nick Stubbings didn't have to be at the contract finalisation since it wasn't necessarily their jobs to be there and they also had a lot of work to be done elsewhere, yet they were meeting to discuss Jason's transfer.

Jason's transfer had already been all but confirmed, but if there was an issue with the medicals, then the transfer would definitely not take place. The same thing would happen if there was a disagreement on the contract terms even at this point.

However for now, they were listening to Nick Stubbings give a report on the result of Jason's medical.

According to the results of the medical Jason's body was in top shape and he was match fit as well, but Nick Stubbings advised against rushing Jason into competitive games as he had resumed pre-season training late and still needed a few more days of conditioning.

"Anyway, I have a small concern. We did an MRI and rushed to analyze it overnight. There's not much of an issue, but according to his medical history he had a small injury while playing internationally during the break,"

"He had it treated and followed the instructions of the Oporto medical team to treat it and it's healed now, but perhaps because he was on break and couldn't rigorously follow the treatment plan and get fully rehabilitated the muscles around there, the achilles, are a little less dense than the other muscles around that area,"

"Literally, the healed spot hasn't gotten the same kind of training that the other muscles around there are used to and that makes it a bit of a weak spot,"

"It's not an issue and as long as he keeps training and playing, the issue will resolve itself in a month at most. However, right now he is susceptible to injury and the risk is pretty high,"

"Any especially jarring impact to his ankle or even an excessive pull from his calf muscles might lead to a strain, a partial tear or God forbid, a rupture," Nick Stubbings explained to the people around the table.

"... So he can't play right now?" Nuno asked, concerned.

"No no. Actually the risk of him getting injured isn't high. That came out a bit wrong. My point is that there's currently a weak point at his right ankle, so we have to manage that and make sure that the situation isn't aggravated until he's fully healed,"

"It's not a serious problem as long as it's properly managed. That will be up to you though," Nick's words were directed to the manager.

"Don't rush him into the games yet, ensure that he properly reinforces that area during training or when he plays, also try to dissuade him from putting too much workload on that ankle," Nick added.

"Okay. Anything else on the medical side?" Nuno asked but Nick shook his head.

"Katie? Any legal issues we should be worried about?" Nuno turned to the legal team.

"No. Apart from that agent of his being quite the negotiator, we don't have any problems on this side," Katie replied with a wry smile and Nuno didn't bother asking.

He only knew the general budget of the club and after he pushed for the deal and got the word of the management that they'd do all they could within a reasonable budget to bring in Jason, he had stopped paying attention to the finance matters involved.

The fact that the club hadn't come to him and told him to change his target meant that whatever Jason's side was asking for was within the working budget.

As for how much that actually was? He didn't care too much.

"It's expected that he can easily get a work permit due to his appearances for Oporto and Uventus, as well as his international caps. No conflicting sponsorships either," Katie continued.

"We can finalize everything today and work on the permit by tomorrow. They're already expecting his application at the immigration office," She chuckled.

"Good, all is order then," Nuno nodded, getting up with a smile, happy that things were going well.

After saying a few more words, he and Nick turned to leave the room, but Jason and Adele arrived at that moment to finish the final contract negotiations and sign the contract.

Nuno cheerily greeted Jason, shared a few encouraging and welcoming words with him before leaving quickly and heading out to the training grounds.

The other Tottenham players had training that he was supposed to be directing after all.

With Nuno and Nick leaving, Jason and Adele were welcomed by the other people in the room and after exchanging a few pleasantries with each other, they got right down to business.

After a little back and forth, things were settled and the final draft was approved to be printed.

The contract was for a fixed term of four(4) years.

He would be paid a gross annual salary of £9,880,000. Monthly gross salary of £823,333, which was equivalent to £190,000 weekly.

He would also receive a signing-on bonus of £2,000,000. £1,000,000 upon registration and the remaining balance of £1,000,000 at the first anniversary of registration.

There was also a £15,000 per competitive first-team appearance, though there was a max cap of £750,000 on that per season.

For performance bonuses, he would receive £25,000 for every goal scored and £20,000 per assist.

Seasonal performance thresholds included scoring 10 league goals for a £250,000 bonus. If he scored 15 goals, an extra £350,000 would be added and if he scored 20 goals, then he would get an extra £500,000.

Meaning he could get up to £1,100,000 for scoring 20 goals per season.

Jason was also eligible to a £1,000,000 loyalty bonus after spending 2 years at the club.

There were also team achievement bonuses with the prices varying depending on the achievements of the team that season.

There was also an Image Rights Agreement that would allow him to get £1,500,000 per year for the club to use his image, name, likeness, voice, and signature.

Then there was the part Adele liked best, the Agent commission of 7% of Jason's gross basic salary annually.

Finally, Jason's contract had a release clause set at £75,000,000, which was to be valid only during transfer windows.

Adele hadn't played around and had stuck enough clauses on Tottenham to ensure that the money Jason was unable to receive from the clubs that wished to spend more money would still be acquired.

Jason's income would be almost double his actual gross salary at this rate. This was exactly why Katie had smiled wryly earlier and had an annoying headache at the moment.

Adele had finessed them into giving up the money and doing everything Jason wanted on her own terms.

Only after Jason finally put pen to paper with cameras flashing around him did Katie finally dispell some of the injustice she was feeling in her heart.

Chapter 777: To Dare is To Do III

"They say to dare is to do,"

"And I dare to do," Jason said into the mic, doing some shoots for his media prep now that he had signed the contract.

The idea for Jason's reveal was a video and the concept was based on Jason's free kick from the Champions League final against Bayern.

The Tottenham media team was taking things even further.

They wanted the scene to begin with Jason's voice saying the first pre-recorded phrase as he placed the ball down on a grassy patch.

The video would only show half cuts of his face as he stepped backwards because unfortunately, they couldn't use his boots because of sponsorship conflicts.

After speaking the phrase, he would run and hit the ball after which the camera would zoom out and do a 360 around Jason who would be revealed in a Tottenham jersey.

After then the second recorded phrase would play and then the cheers of the crowd would sweep out of the stadium.

Since they couldn't do a shoot with the actual scenery of the stadium so as to avoid a leak, they were using a green screen instead and letting the power of editing do the rest.

They also did the training kit photos, shirt holding pictures and some pictures of Jason holding and being draped with the Tottenham flag which he especially liked.

Of course, all the pictures were not to be released yet.

Next up was an interview that was to be pre-recorded as well and while Jason was doing all that, the legal team was briefing Adele on how she was to apply for Jason's work permit.

It had to be done when Jason wasn't in the country hence why he would be returning and then it would be applied and placed on the super priority list.

Tottenham would cover the fees so all Jason had to do was apply.

It was a pretty long day for Jason and Adele, but they weren't complaining.

This was the good kind of tired after all.

After all the work, Jason headed back to Portugal the next day as silently as he came but despite how hush hush they and Tottenham had kept things some news still leaked.

News about Oporto and Tottenham having agreed on a verbal agreement for Jason and him having scheduled medicals filled the news even before Jason left England.

The timeline of the news was a little off, but the news was indeed out and word spread across the football world.

Teams that had still been considering Jason for a transfer now had to shelf their plans for another season at least while those who had made attempts but had lost out on him were left to rue the missed chance and quickly change their targets.

As for the teams in the Premier League, their analysis teams began making preparations for the additional member to the Tottenham squad.

Jason added a lot of variables to whatever team he was playing on and for a while records of Jason's play and previous matches was in high demand all over England.

The Tottenham players also saw the news and each players had varying reactions to the transfer.

Most of the players were pleasantly surprised and some were uncaring. Another select few were a little displeased and wary, especially those who were playing a similar position.

Jason's arrival would demand a spot in the starting eleven and though there was currently an half open spot on the right flank for Jason to fit right into, there were a few players on the squad eyeing that spot as well.

Jason was not just any competition, he was huge competition so there was that, but those players were few in number and mostly not even in the first team.

There were a few ambitious players who were very happy with the transfer as they wanted to win trophies and Jason's addition to the club would give them a greater attacking edge.

With Harry Kane, England's best striker, Son Heung Min, South Korea's best forward on the team it was almost criminal that they hadn't won a major trophy yet, but Jason's addition to that frontline might change that.

Of course, no disrespect to the other forwards like Lucas Moura and Steve Bergwijn, but most people would pick Jason on the team over them... at least for the starting eleven.

While all this was going on, Jason had already arrived back at Portugal and had begun packing and preparing to leave.

Apart from his luggage and sending all his effects over to England, he would also have to fulfill certain responsibilities to the Oporto fans before he left.

Players were usually required to do it and he felt that he owed the fans at least that much.

****6th July 2021****

Adele finally received word that the work permit had been granted. Jason had applied for it just yesterday as he couldn't do it on the day he got back, but true to the Tottenham legal team's words, the work permit had been approved within 24 hours.

It was not much of a surprise, but she could now heave a sigh of relief now that the event had passed without incident as it was not strange for the application to be rejected even if the person applying seemingly met all the required criteria.

It wasn't an impossibility, but thankfully it had not happened and now that the permit had been approved, the transfer could be considered complete.

Grabbing her phone and wanting to call Jason, she saw notifications appear at the top of her screen.

The Tottenham social media accounts that she had begun following quite a while ago began posting news, about Jason's confirmed transfer to the club.

'Well, they work fast,' she thought and quickly glanced through the posts and some of the comments.

The post had been there barely a few minutes and positive comments were already flying in.

There didn't seem to be even one Tottenham fan who was unhappy with the transfer.

As for the comments of the other fans in the comment section, Adele just ignored them.

Switching to her phone app, she dialed Jason's number.

Chapter 778: To Dare is To Do IV

"They say to dare is to do,"

A low voice came from the TV as two hands put down a ball on a pavement ground that quite a few people recognized.

"And I dare to do," the voice came again, but this time, the camera that had been panned on the ball zoomed out and showed Jason running and hitting the ball powerfully at the stadium from outside it.

He was dressed in a Tottenham jersey with his name on the back, but there wasn't a jersey number on it.

Not turning away from the stadium like he was expecting something, the sudden scream of cheers that would make someone think a goal was scored sounded filled everywhere.

It was almost like the video playing expected the viewers to believe that someone had scored a freekick from outside the stadium without even being able to see where the goal was.

"Things will definitely be interesting this season," Son Heung Min said, holding a remote and glancing at someone on the side.

He was seated on a luxurious couch in a comfortable-looking living room that featured a modern design that would require quite the budget.

It wasn't his house though. He had come to visit a teammate and friend, Harry Kane at his house.

Jason and Harry Kane did not know each other, but they had a bit of a similar case as they were both dissatisfied with their club's management.

For Jason, it was particularly personal, but Harry's situation wasn't that deep.

He was a talented player who had converted from a midfield role to a striker because he was just that good at knocking in goals.

With his help and the help of other talented players on the squad, Tottenham had hit an all-time high in terms of performance, competing at a top level in the Premier League, getting top 4 spots back to back.

Even in the other major trophies they weren't far behind and they had even made it to the Champions League finals about two years back and still were a great competitor for the trophy.

However... they hadn't won anything despite their great performances.

At first, Harry Kane had persevered patiently, believing that since they had gotten so close that he could almost smell the trophies, it wouldn't be that difficult to get one, but time kept on running by and he still hadn't won a major trophy.

He was being touted as the greatest England striker after the likes of Alan Shearer and Wayne Rooney, yet he had no trophies to show for it.

It was almost to the point that he was beginning to believe that he was cursed like many football fans said.

The time was ticking and he was no longer in his early twenties, yet despite all his talents, all his performances, all his goals, he still didn't have anything to show for it.

Finally beginning to give up hope that he would ever win a trophy in a Tottenham shirt, he decided to try finding greener pastures.

The club however, wasn't too keen on letting him go for cheap. Annoyingly enough, they were justified as he was unarguably one of the top strikers in the world.

The issue was that most of the big clubs at the time weren't looking too hard for a striker as they already had a main man at that time.

Even worse was the fact that most clubs around the world were still feeling the financial drain from the COVID season so not too many clubs were ready or feeling the urge to splurge about a hundred million or more on a new player.

When the transfer window began, the only club that seemed really interested in adding him to their ranks was Man City who had just lost their main striker, Aguero to Barcelona.

Lost was probably the wrong word as they were the ones who chose not to renew his contract, but that didn't change the fact that their club's greatest best striker and the one with the most goals in history for their club had just left the club.

The club turned to the market and Harry Kane who was looking for newer pastures was very open to the deal when they came asking.

He and the club had already agreed on a deal in principle, but when the Man City side went to meet the Tottenham side to negotiate a deal, the deal's progression had been halted.

The Tottenham club didn't intend to let go of Harry Kane for anything less than a hundred million, but the Man City team didn't plan to spend much upward of 50 million.

With the deal being dragged back and forth, Kane had also thrown a tantrum of his own, just like Jason and didn't return early to the team for training, instead spending a bit more time in the Bahamas.

Who was to know that when he finally decided to return, fed up with lying around and his body itching for some football, he had to be quarantined because of a COVID outbreak risk?

Forced to self-isolate, Harry's mood became worse when he was informed that Man City seemed to be pulling out of talks as the club's legendary manager intended to continue his experiment from the previous season.

In the previous season, Aguero, the club's main striker had gotten a major injury that had him sidelined for months.

With only one striker left who was unable to feature in all the matches because of fitness issues, the legendary manager had decided to begin playing a type of football that didn't need a traditional striker.

Obsessed with this experiment, he had carried on all the way, winning the Premier League and almost reaching the Champions League final.

Even when Aguero returned from injury, Pep had still left him on the bench to continue his experiment.

That had ended with them being eliminated, but nevertheless, Pep had felt that the tactic wasn't impossible to pull off.

With Gabriel Jesus, the only other striker Man City had not being a traditional striker either and could comfortably play as a midfielder or winger, Pep had decided to go all in as the deal with Harry Kane was going nowhere.

That had left Harry Kane with nothing but self-isolation, low fitness, and another season with Tottenham to look forward to.

Due to his low fitness he would probably need to spend weeks getting match fit after all this.

In all of this, Tottenham's signing of Jason felt like a silver lining at least.

The kid was pretty good and despite being an entertaining player who also had an eye for goal, he was also good at providing service to his partners upfront so that was something for Harry to look forward to.

"Maybe this season we could finally win something," Harry sighed, taking a sip of his tea.

Chapter 779: To dare is to do V

****7th August 2021****

"Why Tottenham?" A voice said despite Jason being the only one showing on the screen.

"Tottenham is a big club, with big players and big ambitions. I like that is a place I can learn from and challenge myself,"

"Also, I might have a thing for white and blue kits," Jason said with a small smile, slightly pulling at the Tottenham jersey he had on.

"Guess it came out well," Jason said, turning to Adele as they both watched the interview he had done a few days ago on his phone.

"Oh, yeah," Adele replied, glancing up from her own phone. On the side was her tab and a laptop. Clearly she was working as well.

Jason was already done with his preparations and could leave anytime, but he had been told by the club to stay in Portugal for one more day.

Tomorrow, the Tottenham club had a game against Arsenal, their North London rivals. It wasn't a competitive game and was just a series created as part of the pre-season to foster some community building.

The club intended to show him off to the fans after that game as it was to be played at their homeground, the Hotspur Stadium.

It was meant to be Jason's first appearance for the club, but currently quite a few media houses were on the lookout for Jason, awaiting his arrival in England and if they made reports about Jason's arrival in England first, the Tottenham media team felt that it would diminish the wave of excitement a little.

Hence the instruction for Jason to wait in Portugal one more day.

He would arrive in England tomorrow just in time to be at the stadium and make an appearance at the press conference after the game as well.

With that said, Jason who didn't had done everything he needed to do could only laze around, waiting for time to pass.

Adele didn't have that luxury. As Jason's agent... and girlfriend, she had a lot of work to do to ensure Jason's smooth settling at the new club.

Many things had to be prepared and put in place, first of which was accomodation. The club was going to be helping her with information, contacts and all that to help Jason find a house.

The club also had a 40-bedroom players' lodge at the club's training ground that Jason could stay in for a bit until he settled the matter of housing or until he rented a place to stay till he got his own place.

Annoyingly enough, buying a house wasn't something one could get done with just because one had the money to pay.

Things like negotiations, surveys, preparation of contracts, local authority searches, and many other things would drag out the process for at least a few weeks.

Jason wasn't going to pay much attention to these matters as his job was to train hard and play football, Adele did everything else.

Hence she was looking for a place to rent all while gathering information on houses that could potentially become their next home.

Noticing that she was hard at work, Jason continued playing on his phone and entertaining her whenever she showed him pictures of some houses she had gotten information about.

8th August 2021

12:34pm

A black luxurious Mercedes-Benz sprinter van with dark tinted windshields drove out of a private hangar at the London Stansted Airport and drove onto the roads before joining up with the North London traffic heading to Tottenham.

The match against Arsenal was scheduled for 2pm so Jason figured that they should make it to the stadium in good time.

The presence of the Mercedes Van on the hardly stirred any interest, especially since the van wasn't in a convoy.

Thus Jason was able to watch the atmosphere of where was to be his new home for the foreseeable future, unimpeded.

The drive to the stadium didn't take too much time and before long Jason could see the impressive structure of the Hotspur stadium.

The main road to the stadium was quite congested as many fans were rushing to the stadium for the game, but that didn't concern Jason for much longer as their van turned into another lane for VIP arrivals and stopped at the VIP parking lot out of the sight of the fans.

"Let's go," Jason said with a outstretched hand to Adele as the door slid open.

From the VIP entrance, they were led through the stadium. Jason thought he would probably watch the game from a premium club seat or maybe even one of the private lounge boxes but as he was led through places with over surprisingly tight security, he got curious.

Adele noticed as well and shot him a curious look, but he just shrugged and kept walking.

Not like they would be leading him to the directors box or anything. They probably just paid a lot of attention to their security.

How surprised he was when they finally got to a door that led to the directors box.

While Jason was surprised, Adele had already realized that Tottenham was establishing Jason as a statement signing.

Jason was a player with enough potential to be wanted by any top club in the world, but Tottenham was making it seem that he wasn't brought to the club just because of his potential, but rather because they believed that he could make the instant impact that would be expected of a top signing.

Jason had been expected to be treated like a normal signing... He was definitely not expecting this.

Being welcomed by the directors at the club and being given a seat in the directors box for the match, he could not deny that he was looking forward to his future at the club more than ever before.

Between the time Jason had arrived at the stadium which was almost 2pm and the time he finally got to sit down after being welcomed in, the players on the field were already done with the pre-match formalities and were already arranging themselves across the field.

The Tottenham and Arsenal fans were already cheering loudly for the players and excitement was at an all time high, but when a camera panned on Jason's face and the image was transmitted to the big screen, the loud cheers blew through the ceiling.

Chapter 780: The Eagle Has Landed I

{There he is, the new face at this club}

{The eagle has landed in the land where cockerels abound}

{In what could be the biggest steal of this Premier League transfer window, maybe even the whole football world at large, Tottenham have somehow managed to convince this man to commit to a future at this club}

{The fans, the club, and his future teammates will be watching, scrutinizing this man in the coming days and I dare say he will be doing the same}

The camera turned away from Jason and the focus shifted back to the game at hand, but the people had taken notice.

As the game began, Jason slowly tuned out the discussions in the director's box and put his full focus on the game.

The commentator had been right about one thing, Jason was indeed going to be scrutinizing the Tottenham players.

They were to be his teammates for the... actually, they were already his teammates.

Now he had to find what made them tick and tick along with them, helping them tick louder. That would take some doing, but he was already getting to work.

The game got off to a slow start as both sides just tested each other out with quick passes and darting runs as they tried to find space.

However even though this match was little more than a friendly game, Arsenal and Tottenham were both North London teams which meant this was a North London Derby.

Soon enough, that emotion that flowed in competitive games soon began flowing through the players and the fans and the atmosphere heated up quickly.

In the stands, Jason watched attentively, noting down a few points.

Harry Kane, the team's main striker, wasn't playing and wasn't even on the bench and he heard that it was because he wasn't fit yet, which didn't make much sense to Jason, but after a quick explanation from Adele who was more in the loop, he understood what had happened.

The absence of England's best striker didn't diminish the excitement of the game and flashes of brilliance could be seen all over the field.

Son Heung Min was taking the center forward position in the place of Harry Kane and Steven Bergwijn was in his natural position on the left flank.

Added up front was Dele Alli who played right behind Son as a shadow striker and Lucas Moura who played on the right flank but was inside the penalty box more often than not.

In all, it seemed to Jason like there were more forwards looking to receive the final ball rather than to create it, but then remembering that Harry Kane was a striker who played like a deep-lying forward and a false nine, but somehow was able to fulfill all his striking duties as well, he realized that this was a dynamic that fitted the Tottenham players... if Harry Kane was on the pitch.

Right now, he wasn't there so the job fell on Bergwijn on the left as well as Oliver Skipp and Hojberg in the midfield, however, those guys were struggling to do all that as well as keep up with their defensive duties.

To the untrained eye, it seemed like things were going well, but to the trained eye, one of which was Jason's eye, things seemed a bit laggy, especially in the center.

The Tottenham side was playing a 4-2-3-1 formation which consisted of 4 defenders, two holding midfielders who were supposed to function both up and down the field, three attacking midfielders, one in the center and two on the flanks who played as wingers when on the attack.

Finally, they had a center forward.

The formation clearly had variations and the shape could easily change to a 4-3-3 on the attack or a 4-5-1 on the defense.

However, the players on the field had roles that counteracted their own formation... or it was more apt to say their default play styles counteracted their own football.

First, Son Heung Min who was playing as a striker wasn't really a striker and didn't like staying in the center too much, hence he always drifted wide, especially to the left and this made it difficult for him to act when it was necessary because he was often out of position.

In Jason's opinion, it could be excused as he wasn't playing in his natural position.

Moving on to the wingers. Steven Bergwijn wasn't a bad fit for the formation and he was doing his part, but his performance was a bit underwhelming. He looked like a player who had good games every now and then, but wasn't really a fit for a starter in a giant club.

Once again, an excusable event in Jason's opinion. The guy wasn't actually a starter at the club.

Lucas Moura was playing on the right flank which as far as Jason knew was the man's original position, but over the years he had transitioned into a striker of sorts and though he could still play on the flank, Jason noticed that he was usually in the penalty box more often than Son who was playing as the center forward.

Moving on to the midfielders, Dele Alli... Jason didn't know what to say about the guy as his opinion was all over the place.

Jason had long heard of Dele Alli, a name that had been hot in the Premier League for the last few years.

The guy was a talented player who could bang in amazing goals despite being a midfielder and he was a technical player who could make the ball do amazing things you'd think were impossible, however, lately he seemed to have been fading into the background and after watching him live, Jason could see why.

In the modern football era when managers needed all players hands on deck when pressing or defending, Dele Alli's habit of removing himself from all that and instead looking for space he could use when his team took possession was making it seem like he was a useless player.

Dele Alli clearly was good at what he did and it could be seen the few times he was on the ball, however, whenever he wasn't on the ball, it felt like he was ghosting the entire game.

The one thing that had made him one of the best had now turned on him because the game had changed.

Jason didn't understand why things had turned out this way for him, but if things kept on this way, the guy might not get much more time on the pitch.

The saving grace of Dele Alli thus far had been Harry Kane who would drop back and do all the midfielding duties Dele was supposed to do, allowing Dele Alli to play how he wanted and stay upfront, but now that Harry Kane wasn't on the pitch, Dele's flaws had become quite glaring.