



Chapter 2

Josh's Own Goal

Josh cannot believe his luck. He turns his head to look again at the scoreboard above the stands:

White Tower 1 – Visitors 1

Time: 90:00

GOLDEN GOAL!!!!

On the studio feed he hears Juliette's voice, *Extra time starts in 2 minutes. Station identification in 30 seconds.*

– Okay Juliette, says Josh. Starting commentary:

Stay with Radio Franglais as Radio Franglais stays with the match White Tower v Ringe Tech all the way to the thrilling final. We are streaming en Français on the web at www.

Radiofranglais.org.uk. While the teams are coming onto the pitch, we go back to the studio for a brief station identification....

Josh presses his earpiece...silence...*What could be wrong?* Josh continues to commentate:

You are listening to Radio Franglais on air and on the web. White Tower are coming out of a huddle with a roar. Whatever Coach Crocker said to the team in the locker room - now is the time to put it into practice. Wow! Right from the start of this extra time White Tower are going for goal. Even the goalie is coming forward. Risky tactics. Can tired legs make this work? Here comes a pass....

Josh hears a click in his earpiece and then...*Fans de Charlotte Reçoit, merci de votre patience!* Josh can't believe his ears! *What's going on? Why has Juliette cut me off?* Josh continues his commentary though he knows nobody can hear him, *Number 10 in the centre has the pass...*

Josh tries to block out Charlotte's voice in his ear...*Aujourd'hui on a une émission exceptionnelle.* He knows it's useless but he has to finish his commentary, *He's going for it! It's a shot! It's a goal!! It's a golden goal for White Tower!!*

Josh stares up at the Scoreboard where it reads White Tower 2 -Visitors 1. He looks at the team celebrating on the pitch. He can no longer ignore Charlotte's voice...*Oui- un vrai régal*avec Le Best de Charlotte! Oui vous avez bien entendu! Les meilleurs moments de Charlotte Reçoit...*

Josh throws his headphones on the ground. *Juliette let Charlotte do this! Maybe it was all a set-up**, thinks Josh as he races across the field towards a far wall. Will Johnson and Adit Mirpuri, stars of the match and Josh's friends, reach out to stop him but Josh doesn't even see them.

Vaulting over the low wall, Josh races through the streets of his neighbourhood towards the Lycée. He takes a short cut, running through a playground with broken swings



past concrete blocks of housing with grey walls broken up by depressing red balconies. Out onto the street again, Josh [bobs and weaves*](#) around pedestrians, taking no notice of the increasingly posh shops and houses.

Running along the wall outside the Lycee he can see students coming out of late classes and after-school clubs. Slowing down, Josh peels off his White Tower uniform pullover, turns it inside out to hide the logo, and pulls it back over his head. The collar of his shirt is half up around his ears and half squashed beneath his pullover. With his face red from running, his blue eyes glinting with anger, and his short brown hair standing on end, he looks mad.

Seeing a group of students coming out of the building he slips inside before the door closes. Josh sprints around the corner and bolts up three flights of stairs. He has never gone to the studio by this staircase, but Charlotte's voice coming out of the fourth floor speakers guides him as he climbs the last flight of stairs....*et maintenant le clip où j'interviewe Madame Josie Martin, Assistante de...*

– JOSH, cries Charlotte when she sees him at the studio Window.

*...Pardon, je veux dire, Madame Josie Martin, Assistante de Mr. Rimini qui lui-même s'occupe des tâches administratives au Lycée. Un poste très important...*Charlotte continues while Josh bangs on the studio window. *Mais vous comprendrez tout en écoutant.....*Charlotte launches the [pre-recorded clip*](#) and comes to the window.

– WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, shouts Josh on the other side of the soundproof glass.

Charlotte cups her hand to her ear and shrugs her shoulders.

– JULIETTE!!!!!! WHERE IS SHE?

Charlotte shrugs.

– CHLOE!!!

Charlotte grabs a paper and pen and starts to scribble. She holds the paper up to the glass. On it is a picture of 2 crossed swords with the words, Salle d'Escrime underlined underneath.

Racing down the stairs and along the corridors following the signs to the Salle d'Escrime, Josh bumps into a group of teachers coming out of the staff room.

– Ce n'est pas un terrain de foot, jeune homme, says a middle-aged teacher. Revenez!!!

Josh holds up his hand in apology then jumps over the railing of a short flight of stairs to the gym.

– Ah non, says the teacher following in Josh's footsteps with the other teachers right behind. Ca ne va pas se passer comme ça, jeune homme!

Josh takes the first of two doors into the gym and runs around the edge of the room set up for a girl's volleyball session.

– Jeune homme, says the Coach blowing his whistle. Pas de chaussures de rue ici! Jeune Homme!!

Josh pushes through another door into the Salle d'Escrime and spotting Chloe in the middle of the room with Juliette he runs past the fencers battling it out on their long, narrow pistes.

– What do you think you're doing, he shouts at Juliette.

– Josh! exclaims Juliette. How did you get in?

– So you thought you could hide here after what you've done?

– I didn't do anything!

– Yeah. You didn't do anything to stop Charlotte from ruining my broadcast!

– That's not what I meant!

– I've just come from the studio. I know what I saw!

– Things aren't always what they seem. I can explain...

– Like I'm going to believe anything you say! After you pretended to be on my side...

– How can you say that ? Juliette gasps. I thought you were my friend!

– I thought you were my friend. But I can't trust you.....

Juliette turns on her heel.

– You can't just walk away! says Josh.

– Watch me, says Juliette.

– Jeune homme! Un instant! the middle-aged teacher has tracked Josh to the Fencing Salle.

– I'm not talking to you until you calm down, Juliette adds pushing the door to the girls' changing room. The door

swings open and then shut. Josh stops for a second and the teacher's hand comes down on his shoulder...

– Vous avez beaucoup de choses à expliquer, jeune homme, says the teacher.

Josh shrugs off the teacher's hand and follows Juliette through the door. He takes no notice of the girls shrieking and scrambling for their clothes as he trots to catch up with Juliette who has crossed the room to the door leading to the hallway.

Catching up with her just as she pushes the door open Josh finds himself in the corridor outside the changing room facing the coach blowing his whistle while a gang of teachers, forming a semi-circle, block his path.