

MR SUGDEN *bounces the ball on BILLY's head.*

MR SUGDEN. Well you should keep out of trouble, lad.

BILLY. I've not been in trouble, sir, not for <sup>since last</sup> ~~for~~ <sup>time</sup>.

MR SUGDEN. Shut up, lad! Shut up, before you drive me crackers.

BILLY *starts to leave.*

In a hurry, Casper?

BILLY. Yes, sir, I've got to get home, sir.

MR SUGDEN. Why, Casper?

BILLY. To see me bird, sir.

MR SUGDEN. Does your father know you've got a girl-friend, Casper?

MACDOWALL. It's his kestrel, sir.

BILLY. It's better than you any day, MacDowall.

MR SUGDEN. Kestrel, Casper?

BILLY. Yes, sir.

MR SUGDEN. That must be stimulating, Casper.

BILLY. What's that, sir?

MR SUGDEN. Stimulating. S.T.I.M.I.L.A.T.I.N., stimulating.

BILLY. Can I get home, sir? For me dinner.

MR SUGDEN. What about the showers?

BILLY. I've had one, sir.

MR SUGDEN *gives him a back-hander knocking him across the room.*

BILLY. I have, sir. I was first through. Ask anybody, sir.

MR SUGDEN. I'll do just that. Have you seen Casper have a shower?

BOY 1. No, sir.

MR SUGDEN. Have you?

BOY 2. No, sir.

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MR SUGDEN. What about you? Did Casper have a shower?

*Two BOYS shake their heads. Pause.*

Nobody seems to have seen you have a shower, Casper.

BILLY. Anyway me Mum says I haven't to have a shower, sir, I've got a cold.

MR SUGDEN. Let's see your note then.

MR SUGDEN *holds out his hand.*

BILLY. Can I bring one this afternoon, sir?

MR SUGDEN. That's no good lad. I want one now. Any boy wishing to be excused Physical Education or showers must *at the time* of the lesson produce a sealed letter of explanation signed by one of his parents or legal guardian.

BILLY. Oh go on, sir, I've to get home.

MR SUGDEN. You can get home, Casper, as soon as you've had a shower.

BILLY. I've no towel, sir.

MR SUGDEN. Borrow one.

BILLY. Nobody'll lend me one.

MR SUGDEN (*amused*). Well you'll have to drip dry then, won't you?

*Nobody else laughs. BILLY gets undressed quickly, and runs into the showers. A wall is made by the BOYS. BILLY avoids the water as much as possible. He tries to leave.*

MR SUGDEN. In a hurry, Casper? What's the rush, lad?

BILLY. Can I go now, sir?

*The school bell rings.*

MR SUGDEN. Go? You're two weeks late already.

MR SUGDEN *stations two BOYS by the shower entrance.*

Stay there and don't let him out.

*BILLY scours the mud off his arms and legs. MR SUGDEN swings the heater control to cold. BILLY yells and tries to get out past the boys stationed by the shower entrance.*

BILLY (*trying to escape*). Hey up, shift. Let me out you rotten dogs!

MR SUGDEN. Got a sweat on, Casper?

BILLY. Let me out, sir. Let me out.

MR SUGDEN. I thought you'd like a cooler after your exertions in goal.

BILLY. I'm frozen.

MR SUGDEN. Really?

BOY 1. Shall we let him out now, sir?

BOY 2. He'll get pneumonia, sir.

MR SUGDEN. I don't care what he gets.

BILLY. Give over, sir. It's not right, sir.

MR SUGDEN (*becoming increasingly frightening*). And was it right when you let that last goal in?

BILLY. I couldn't help it.

MR SUGDEN. Rubbish, lad. It's not a time for shirking. It may be called Games but there's more to it than playing. It's not the taking part it's the winning. You should be changed. Changed and out. On the field, boy. On the field! Games is no time for shirking. If you think I'm running my blood to water for ninety minutes and then having the game deliberately thrown away you've got another think coming. You're not going anywhere until you've had a proper wash.

## Scene 10

### The Playground, 12.40 pm

*The playground has filled up with PUPILS. Some smoking, others keeping watch, others playing ball. This extended until BILLY is dressed.*

MACDOWALL. Got owt, Casper?

BILLY *walks away.*

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