

# EXTRACT

# Team BL

Or

## Doing the Lightning Bolt!

A short play

By

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**Cast**

STEPHANIE            The team captain

LAUREN                The best player

COURTNEY            The goal keeper

ALEXIS                A forward

VICTORIA            A defender

BRIANNA             A winger

**The Setting**

Dressing room

**Time**

Day.

**Dressing room. Day.**

LIGHTS UP.

A GIRL'S SOCCER TEAM ENTERS AFTER A DISAPPOINTING LOST. THEY ARE HOT AND SWEATY AND DRESSED IN THE TEAM'S UNIFORM. SOME SIT ON BENCHES, OTHERS TAKE OFF THEIR BOOTS AND THROW THEM ON THE FLOOR.

**LAUREN SITS IN THE CORNER AND TAKES OFF HER BOOTS.**

VICTORIA: Well that was great. Congratulations to us. Double congratulations to us. We were hopeless. How hopeless do you have to be? One goal. All we needed was one goal and we couldn't even score that.

BRIANNA We wouldn't have needed one goal if you hadn't let them score.

VICTORIA: I didn't let them score. Courtney did.

COURTNEY: Only because you let their captain shoot.

VICTORIA: You still could have saved it. It was an easy shot. Their keeper would have saved it.

ALEXIS: Their keeper was good.

VICTORIA: Better than our keeper. If we had their keeper we would have won for sure.

BRIANNA: And their forward. Alexis missed an open goal.

ALEXIS: Their defender tripped me.

BRIANNA: Which defender? The "Invisible girl"?

ALEXIS: Well we would have scored if you didn't hog the ball all the time.

STEPHANIE: Stop it Alexis. We all feel bad. It wasn't anybody's fault. We all played badly.

VICTORIA: Lauren didn't. She won best on field.

BRIANNA: Lauren always wins best on field.

VICTORIA: Then why do we always lose? We have the best player so we should win.

STEPHANIE: That's not always what happens Vicky. You know that.

VICTORIA: No I don't. We practice just as hard as every other team, we have the same number on the field, we have the best player. We should win. I'm sick and tired of losing.

BRIANNA: And we're sick and tired of you whinging all the time.

STEPHANIE: Okay we lost badly, it doesn't mean we have to be bad losers.

ALEXIS: But we practiced the Lightning Bolt for when we scored and we didn't even get to do it.

STEPHANIE: That's just what happens. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose.

VICTORIA: No, we lose all the time. We *dream* of sometimes.

BRIANNA: I *dream* of you being on another team.

VICTORIA: If I was on another team we'd beat you as well.

STEPHANIE: Cool it! Everybody cool it. Just calm down. Now I know everybody's upset, I'm upset too.

COURTNEY: You said we'd win.

ALEXIS: You promised we'd win.

VICTORIA: You said if we trained really hard and did everything you said -

COURTNEY: we'd win.

BRIANNA: And we did everything you said -

ALEXIS: and we still lost.

STEPHANIE: I know you trained really hard and you stuck to the game plan and I'm really grateful for that.

VICTORIA: It would help if we had a coach.

STEPHANIE: Mr Earnshaw's wife is sick. You know that. He promised he'd come back when she was better.

BRIANNA: When will that be?

STEPHANIE: I don't know. It's just the way it goes. It was a close game but the ball didn't bounce our way.

ALEXIS: Actually it did bounce our way. It bounced right into our goal.

VICTORIA: (TO **COURTNEY**) Because she didn't save it.

STEPHANIE: Stop it.

BRIANNA: We were meant to be like Team USA.

ALEXIS: Instead we were Team BL – Big Losers.

STEPHANIE: Stop it!

VICTORIA: There's no colour for the medal we won.

COURTNEY: There isn't even a colour.

STEPHANIE: STOP IT! Everybody just stop it. We lost okay, it doesn't matter what anybody says now we lost. Nothing's going to change that. So stop talking. Everybody stop talking!

THERE IS SILENCE.

STEPHANIE: The Olympics is meant to inspire a generation. And we're that generation. So we just have to accept the loss and see what we can learn for next week. We have to work harder. Get better. Just like Team USA.

VICTORIA: That's what you say every week.

STEPHANIE: But it's still true. If we want to do the 'Lightning Bolt' then we have to be like Usain Bolt. We have to train harder, longer, smarter. You think when he was growing up in Barbados he had it easy.

LAUREN: (QUIET) Jamaica.

STEPHANIE: He probably had set backs just like we did –

LAUREN: (LOUD) Jamaica.

STEPHANIE: But he kept going. And now look at him, he's the –

LAUREN: (LOUDER) Jamaica.

THEY ALL TURN TO LOOK AT **LAUREN**.

LAUREN: Usain Bolt was born in Jamaica. Not Barbados.