

A Soldier's Friend

3. Football

by Megan Rix



Extract from Chapter 3

As you are reading these extracts think about where they are taking place.

'Flip a coin for who's in goal?' Oliver said. But Arthur knew Oliver liked scoring goals more than saving them.

'I'll be in goal,' he told him.

Lizzie and Oliver played against each other. Oliver had the ball first and dribbled it down the street, but then Lizzie tackled him and got it away from him. She dribbled the ball towards Arthur, only to have Oliver take it off her, and then Lizzie get it again. She hesitated as she looked at Arthur in goal, waiting for her to strike. Oliver was leaving. He should be the one scoring.

'Go on, Lizzie,' Oliver said.

And Lizzie shot the ball straight into the goal space with her left foot.

'You're a natural, Lizzie,' Oliver told her, giving her shoulder a squeeze.

Lizzie blushed at the compliment. She loved football, but not many of the other girls played, so she didn't often get the chance.

Arthur kicked the ball back towards Oliver and Oliver dribbled it past Lizzie and straight into the goal. Then he scored two more goals in quick succession as Arthur groaned. He'd not stood a chance of stopping any of the goals so far. He kicked the ball back out again, but this time Oliver picked it up and kept hold of it.

Extract from Chapter 29

The football was almost as big as Sammy, but that just seemed to make him like it even more. It was too big for him to hold in his mouth, but he pushed it forward with his body as he raced after it into no-man's land, excitedly yipping.

'Fussball!' came a shout from the German soldiers.

'Anyone want a game?' Oliver shouted into the icy air as he and Marko ran after the little dog.

Soldiers from both sides wanted to play and, within moments, more and more soldiers came to join in – far more than the usual

