

Level 3

By

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1 **EXTERIOR - FIELD - DAY**

1

Across the field echoes the tumult - a mixture of the sounds of kids, whistles, and teachers.

A mass of children, dressed for sport, is running through the grass. They are wearing long white shirts, bright red shorts, and are carrying wooden bats.

The most athletic children in the lead, lift their bat high, aiming at the prey.

2 **INTERIOR - CHANGING ROOM - DAY**

2

We see inside the boys changing room.

ALEX (15) is olive skinned, brittle boned, and is sporting brown hearing aids.

He is soaking wet. He cleans the hearing aids on his shirt and then with a tissue. He tries to put them back on but doesn't really hear anything.

Alex sees a boy take off his shirt. Boys in the changing room make fun of ELLIOT (15) for his trousers being so high up.

Alex watches CONNOR (14) as he dresses manically.

Connor, pale and slightly tubby. He is wearing a white oversized long sleeved rugby shirt, tight red shorts.

Alex removes his hearing aids and cleans them.

Connor rushes to get changed. Alex watches as boys queue one by one near a toilet, egging each other on to go smell how bad the toilet is.

JAGSHER (14) a rather unpleasant boy walks around the changing room with another boy. They are pantsing random boys. Alex sees Jag whispering something to his mate, possibly about him.

JAGSHER

I know you don't have any pubes.

Jag turns his back on Alex. Alex hits him with his school bag. Jag stumbles over. A few people snigger. We see Jag turn

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his attention to Connor laughing and pushes him.

He pounces on Connor and chokes him until MR BERRYMAN (40s) comes in pulling Jag off Connor.

3 **EXTERIOR - SCHOOL FIELD - ROUNDERS - DAY**

3

Mr. Berryman sits on a ball bucket used as a stool. He is dressed in an all blue tracksuit. It is not stylish.

He picks up a ball and throws a solid throw aimlessly. He looks at a bunch of young teenagers lined up against a fence. They all look bored.

4 **EXTERIOR - SCHOOL FIELD - ROUNDERS - DAY**

4

Standing near the fence. Mr. Berryman is looking at a checklist on a clipboard.

MR. BERRYMAN

(SHOUTING)

The game is Rounders. The team with the most runs win. I will be marking everyone on their ability to perform.

If any of you dont want a shit level on your school report. Here's it. This isn't ICT. Your hands are on a bat, not a mouse. I promise not all of you will. Those who don't, it's a detention.

JAGSHER

Can we play football?

MR. BERRYMAN

Can we play football? I don't know. Maybe if you can tell me the offside rule.

A beat.

We see the list of names on his checklist. Most of those listed have a predicted level of 6. There are an odd few exceptions. Including two names: ALEX and CONNOR. These names are marked down as a Level 3.

Mr. Berryman looks up from his clipboard. He raises his eyebrows at two kids, singling them out. These two kids are

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Connor and Alex.

Alex sees Mr.Berryman position himself as the pitcher and allocates the twelve kids into two teams. Connor and Alex are put on opposing teams.

Alex is on the fielding team. Connor on Strikers. The Strikers are given yellow vests.

Mr Berryman goes over and puts the vest on one of the boys who has tucked it into their shorts.

It appears as if the teams have been formed on skill level.

5 **EXTERIOR - FIELD FENCE - ROUNDERS - DAY**

5

Mr.Berryman ushers up the boys on the Striking side. Alex is on the field's third base. Alex sees a kid with a big forehead 'ELLIOT' walk up to the batting square.

Alex watches him hit the ball pathetically and run for his life.

The ball lands in the hands of the first base guard, LAUREN. Lauren is the mouth that won't shut.

LAUREN

Unlucky Elliot. Hit the ball next time.

Alex watches her rub the catch in his face. Alex sees ELLIOT in a pure fit of rage kicks Lauren.

We see Elliot chased off by a group of girls. Mr. Berryman blows his whistle.

MR.BERRYMAN (CONT'D)

That's another Level 4 for Elliot.
And...a detention. NEXT. Actually lets switch it up. Alex. You're pitcher.

Alex comes off the field and switches into pitcher.

Alex sees another kid score a home run. Everyone is in awe of him.

Connor is up. He misses the first swing. Mr.Berryman sniggers. Connor slows his breathe and focuses on his breathing.

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The kid pitches the ball, Connor hits it up in the air, he legs it but it goes over the fence and is declared out. Mr.Berryman pisses himself laughing.

He almost chokes on his spit.

MR.BERRYMAN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
That was too much. Stop it. But seriously, if you don't want a Level 3 again. Then you need a home run.

The other kids snigger at Connor. Connor walks back to the batting square.

Connor is practicing his swing by mimicking how the player before him was positioned. He looks extremely goofy doing so.

Alex stares at the bucket of balls. He turns his hearing aids off. He tips the bucket of balls upside down.

Alex watches Connor hit the ball, Mr.Berryman goes long to go catch him out. Alex causes a distraction.

The teacher sees Alex with the bucket on his head and turns his attention to him.

MR.BERRYMAN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Alex Glead. Take that bucket off your head.

Mr.Berryman chases Alex. Alex is laughing.

Connor, overwhelmed, runs a home run, passing all those he despises. He passes the finish line. He celebrates moderately.

Alex gets tackled by Mr.Berryman and snatches the bucket off his head. Mr.Berryman roars in pride.

He then turns his attention to Connor. He is frozen still. Connor tosses the bat on the ground.

Connor elated, we hold him for a beat.

Alex on the ground and we hold on him for a beat.

This is a quiet tableau montage of all the events that happened in their P.E. lesson.

ELLIOT pinned in a corner, surrounded by angry girls.

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Lauren Wise being helped onto crutches.

The balls spread all over the field.

Mr.Berryman exhausted sat on the ground.

THE END.

We see Mr.Berryman stuck in between the metal fence trying to retrieve the ball.

He is shouting for help but is ignored.