



Mia and the Butterfly Flutters: A Tennis Story About Finding Calm in the Crowd

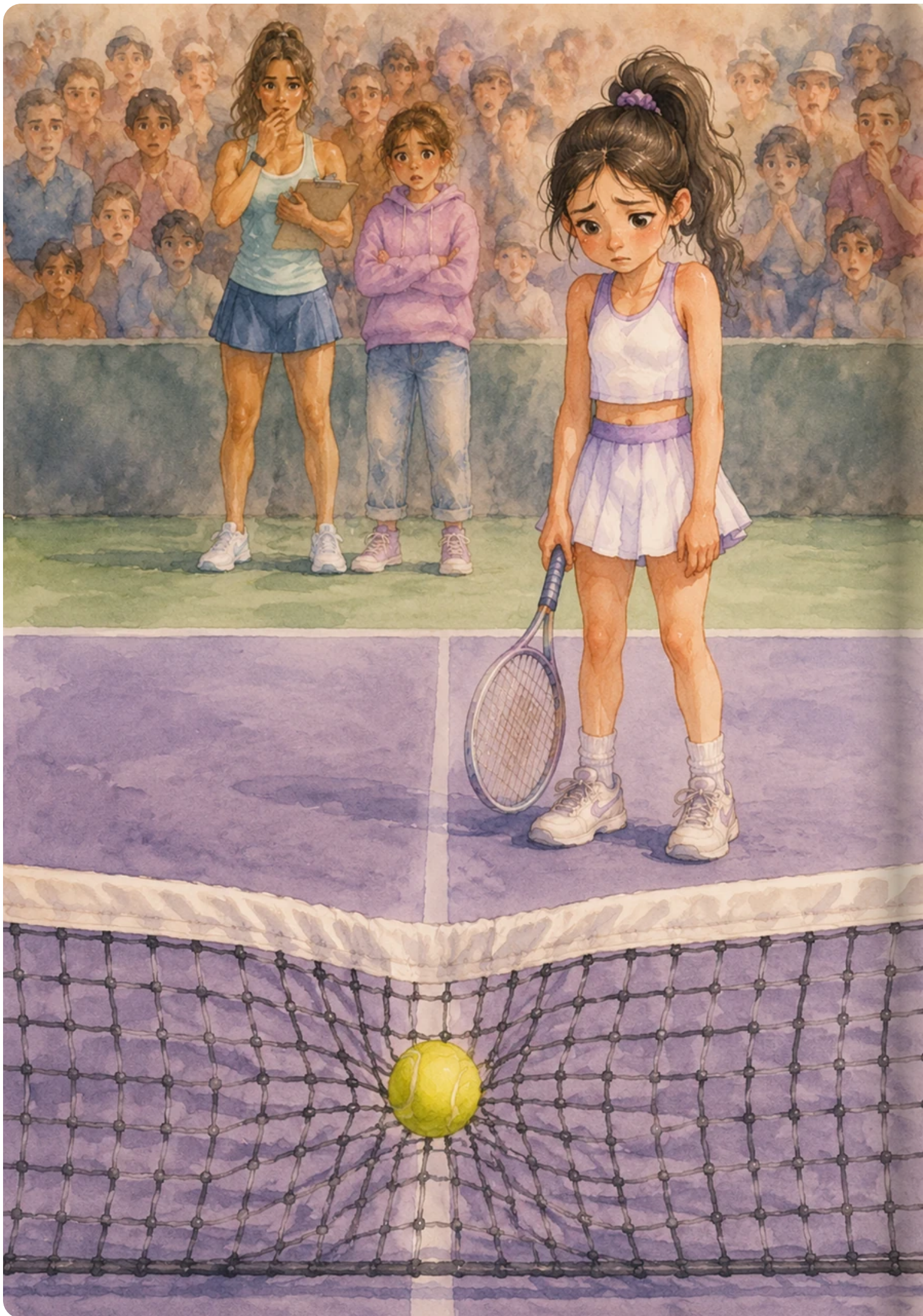
ROGER DESTAIN



Mia stands on the vibrant green tennis court, looking confident and happy as she grips her racket. The sun is shining, the lines on the court are crisp and white, and she is completely in her element during a peaceful morning practice.



During her first big tournament, Mia looks up at the towering stands filled with shadowy figures of parents watching her every move. Her eyes grow wide with worry, and colorful, swirling shapes like neon butterflies begin to flutter rapidly around her head.



Mia tries to serve the ball, but her arms feel weak and heavy. The tennis ball, which usually flies fast and straight, sadly flops right into the middle of the white net while the crowd watches intensely.



After the match, Mia sits dejectedly on a wooden bench next to her kind coach, Jen, who holds a clipboard. Mia kicks at a stray piece of tennis ball fuzz on the ground while Coach Jen smiles warmly, explaining the secret of the 'Flutter Feeling.'



The next afternoon, Mia practices her swings on a quiet court while her friend Zoe stands by the fence acting hilariously distracted. Zoe stretches out a massive, dramatic yawn and stares at her phone, testing Mia's ability to stay focused.



Mia blocks out the distractions by focusing entirely on the ball, repeating a rhythmic chant of 'Bounce... Hit' in her mind. A thought bubble above her head shows a tennis ball meeting a racket perfectly, and the colorful butterflies around her begin to settle down.



Coach Jen introduces a new game called the 'Consequence Tiebreak' and holds up two silly rule sheets. Mia looks at the papers with a mix of nervousness and excitement, realizing the loser will have to sing a goofy song while picking up tennis balls.



During the intense tiebreak match, Mia leaps gracefully into the air to hit a powerful forehand shot down the line. Her hands are sweaty and the score is tied, but the butterflies are now just a gentle, quiet hum in the background.



Mia celebrates her victory with a giant smile as Zoe playfully groans and begins picking up tennis balls while singing loudly. A passing jogger near the fence claps along to the music, making both girls burst into uncontrollable laughter.



Mia and Coach Jen sit together on the sunny bench, sharing a moment of pride next to a small, friendly teddy bear mascot. Mia looks at her racket, feeling strong, brave, and ready to face any crowd or opponent that comes her way.