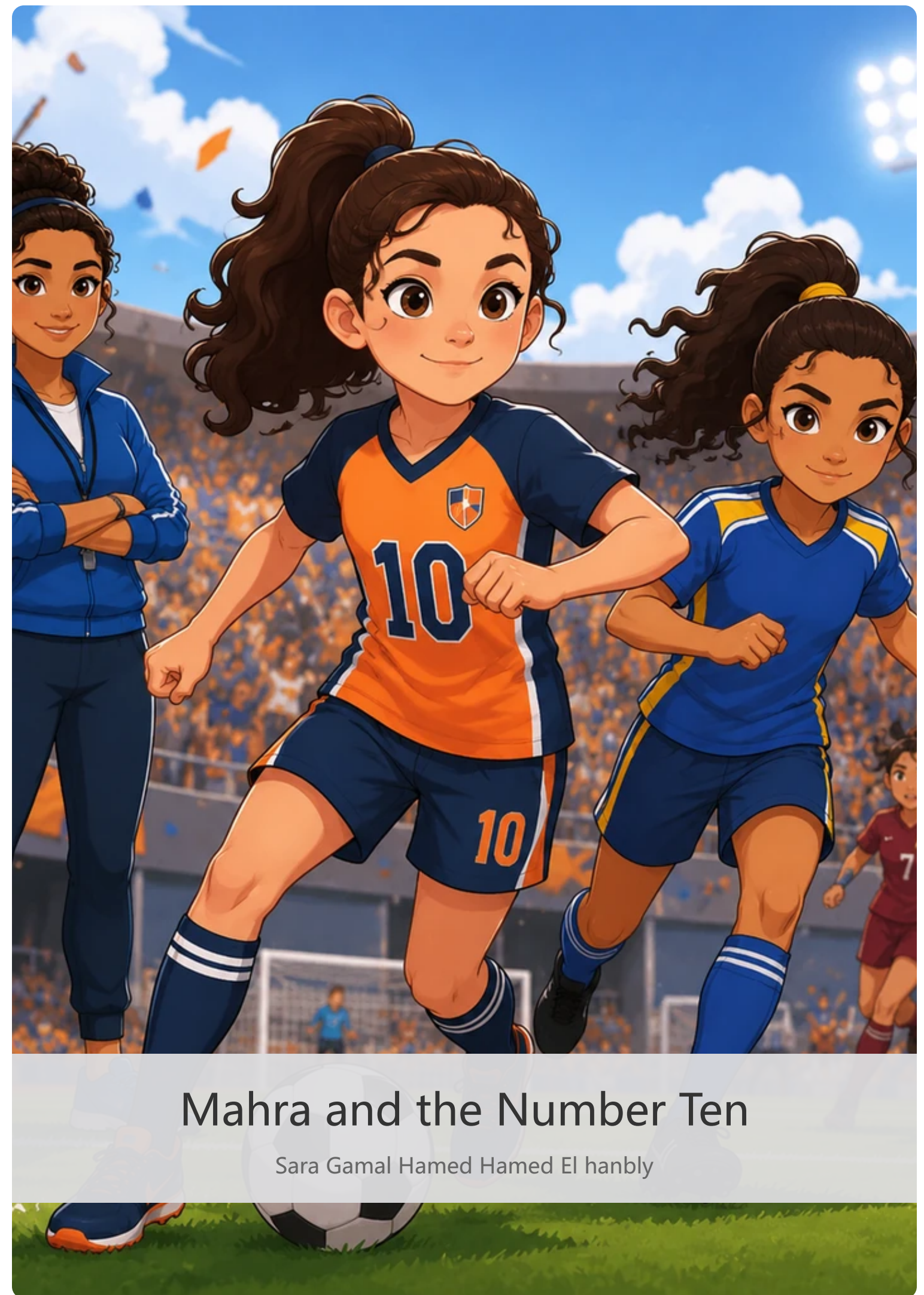




Mahra and the Number Ten

Sara Gamal Hamed Hamed El hanbly



On a pleasant autumn evening, Mahra trained diligently on the school football pitch in preparation for the city championship. She devoted every afternoon to perfecting her dribbling, passing, and powerful shots on goal. Wearing a jersey inspired by her hero, Leonardo, with his name and the proud number ten on her back, she dreamed of leading her team to victory.



Recognizing her exceptional skill and unwavering confidence, Coach Salma appointed Mahra as the captain of the school team. However, Mahra often had a habit of holding onto the ball for too long, relying solely on her own talent to score goals. She believed that as the star player, taking every shot was the surest path to success.



During practice, her teammate Noura reminded her that winning required the effort and cooperation of the entire team. Mahra simply smiled and assured her that she knew exactly how to reach the goal on her own. She was determined to prove her individual strength on the biggest stage.



On the morning of the final match, the city stadium was packed with cheering students, teachers, and proud parents. The game kicked off with intense energy, but the opposing team quickly organized a tight defense to neutralize Mahra. Every time she tried to push forward, defenders swarmed her, closing off every open lane.



Determined to break through alone, Mahra repeatedly tried to dribble past multiple defenders, only to lose possession. Taking advantage of the mistake, the rival team launched a swift counterattack and scored a goal just before the halftime whistle. The stadium grew quiet as Mahra stood defeated on the turf.



During the halftime break, Mahra sat on the bench with a heavy heart, feeling she had let down everyone who trusted her. Coach Salma sat beside her and gently explained that true talent is not about playing alone. She reminded Mahra that Leonardo was a legendary player because he knew when to shoot and when to pass to his teammates.



Mahra looked down at the bold number ten printed on her jersey and felt a profound realization take hold. Looking up with renewed determination, she promised her coach and teammates that she would unite the team and play as one single entity in the second half.



When the second half began, Mahra transformed her style of play, passing the ball quickly and moving intelligently to create space for others. Her energetic communication inspired the entire squad to move as a synchronized unit. After a brilliant sequence of crisp passes, Mahra delivered a precise ball to Noura, who slotted it home to tie the match.



With only one minute remaining on the clock, Mahra intercepted the ball and charged toward the opposition goal, skillfully dodging two defenders. As the crowd rose expecting her to shoot, she spotted Sara unmarked in a far better position and delivered an unselfish pass. Sara struck the ball cleanly, sending it straight into the back of the net to secure the win.



When the final whistle blew, celebration erupted across the field, but Mahra first walked over to shake hands with her opponents in true sportsmanship. As she lifted the championship trophy high alongside her teammates, she understood that the number ten on her shirt was no longer just a symbol of her personal dream, but a testament to teamwork, humility, and collective triumph.