



The Coach and Number 23

Ness Love



Nadia, a spirited young woman, stands before a tall building in vibrant Gangnam, Seoul, overwhelmed by four enormous, brightly colored suitcases. Her new roommates, Valdy and Naya, a whirlwind of energy and gentle warmth, rush to welcome her to their cozy apartment, ready for new adventures.



Inside their cheerful apartment, Nadia carefully places a gleaming, ornate crystal vase on a bright blue buffet, a cherished family treasure. Suddenly, a huge basketball, flying through the open window, smashes the vase into a million sparkling pieces, splashing into Nadia's teacup with a loud BOOM!



Fuming, Nadia storms into the bustling gymnasium downstairs, clutching the rogue basketball like a weapon. She confronts Tae-oh, a tall, confident young man with dark hair, the famous Number 23, throwing the ball right at his surprised stomach.



Nadia, with a fiery glare, boldly tells Tae-oh his basketball technique is all wrong, pointing out his open elbow and weak shoulder. Tae-oh, initially scoffing at "the little one," is visibly irked by her precise criticism, his pride wounded by the unexpected insights.



With a smirk, Tae-oh challenges Nadia, holding out the basketball as other players gather, intrigued. He proposes a daring bet: if she sinks a three-pointer right now, he'll replace her vase, apologize grandly, and treat her to the city's finest restaurant.



Nadia, undeterred by the pressure, confidently asks about the stakes if she misses. Tae-oh declares she'll be his personal ball-retriever for a whole month. With a determined grin and rolled-up sleeves, Nadia accepts, ready to prove him wrong.



Taking her spot behind the three-point line, Nadia closes her eyes, recalling her uncle's coaching tips. The bright gym lights illuminate her focused face as she prepares to shoot, the air thick with anticipation from the watching players.



With a graceful arc, the basketball soars through the air, a perfect trajectory. It slices cleanly through the net with a satisfying SWISH, sending a ripple of disbelief and awe through the silent gymnasium.



Nadia stands victorious, arms crossed, a knowing smile playing on her lips. She playfully demands Tae-oh's apology and wallet, while he stares, utterly dumbfounded, first at the net, then at the girl who just out-shot him.



Tae-oh's arrogant demeanor vanishes, replaced by a look of serious admiration. He urgently asks Nadia to coach him for his crucial upcoming game, offering any payment she desires. Nadia, with a mischievous twinkle in her eye, agrees to start training tomorrow morning, sharp at 7 AM.