

Early★Reader

Football Fiasco!

Kaz's football team, Chimps United,
is playing against Treetop Swingers.

Can Kaz help her team to win?
Or will the match be a football fiasco?

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Football Fiasco!

By Elizabeth Dale



Illustrated by
Ramona Bruno

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'Football Fiasco!'

An original concept by Elizabeth Dale
© Elizabeth Dale 2023

Illustrated by Ramona Bruno

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Kaz was so excited. Her football team, Chimps United, was playing Treetop Swingers in the Jungle Cup. She was a sub, so she wasn't in the team yet, but she was there ready to join if any player couldn't play. And their manager, Janetta, was smiling at her.



“Our central defender, Suzy, has left the team,” said Janetta. “Will you be the central defender, Kaz?”



Kaz frowned. She longed to play in attack, not defence...

Mia, Kaz's friend, said, "I'd love to be a defender. Can Kaz take my place as striker and I'll be a defender?"

"If that's okay with you, Kaz?" asked Janetta.

"Yes!" grinned Kaz. "Thanks, Mia!"



As soon as the game started, Kaz waited to be passed the ball... and waited... and waited.



But Chimps United's defenders just couldn't get the ball away from their own goal.

Kaz realised that if she was going to show everyone how good she was, she'd have to go and collect the ball herself!

Kaz raced back to her own team's goal, just as the ball soared across it. She jumped high, higher than every other player, and managed to head the ball. Brilliant!



“Goal!”

No! Kaz couldn't believe it. She had headed the ball into her own goal! As the Treetop Swingers celebrated, Kaz's team-mates stared at her in horror.



“I’m so sorry!” she whispered, fighting back tears. “I’ll make it up to you, I promise.”