

A Gymnast's Strike

- written by Smita.



New school, new friends, new gymnastics rival and frenemy? Sarah is a great, graceful, and talented gymnast. She sets off to achieve her dream to become a well-known gymnast that represents her country in the Olympics. However, she starts to face a lot of 'gymnast trials' on her journey as her new-mortal-frenemy gets on her nerves to make her life a total flop just so she could be the 'Queen Bee' in the school's popularity hierarchy. Will Sarah achieve her dream or will her life just turn out to be a total dramafest?



Prolog



Sarah closed the door shut and got ready for bed. “Hey boy, you gotta get used to the new environment,” Sarah said, cuddling her dog, Yoyo that came to her lap.

Sarah took out her phone and scrolled through the messages. Her friend, Kate, sent her a message. Sarah smiled and texted her back. Just as she felt like she would call it a day, she closed her eyes and thought ‘New house, new school, new people, new...everything!’ Just as she knew it, she was out cold.



Chapter 1: Trying to fit in



“Lola! Get back here!” Sarah shouted at her younger sister who was running away from her grabbing her socks.

“Try to get me if you can!” her sister shouted and stormed here and there.

It was a total chaos at Sarah’s living room. With her sister, no one can get ready for school.

“Lola! Don’t you understand? I am going to a whole new school. I can’t be late for my first day!” Sarah said while running after Lola.

Lola just stuck her tongue out to Sarah and kept running like there were some wild baboons running after her.

Finally, Sarah gave up.

“Mom, look at Lo-

Just as she could finish her sentence, Lola threw the socks to Sarah’s face and sat down at the dining table like a good child while packing her bag.

Her mother came down the stairs while running through her hair with her fingers.

“I know, sir. I’ll be there right away,” her mother said while she put down the phone.

“Sarah, I’ll drop Lola at the kindergarten first. Okay darling?” she said.

Sarah just nodded and plastered a fake smile across her face. It was because of her mom, Mrs. Hollister, they had to move. She told them it was because of office matters but Sarah hated to move. All her memories with her family, especially with her father, was just left behind in that house.

“Okay girls, get into the car. We’ve got a whole new day,” Mrs. Hollister said as she carried Lola’s bag and put it in bonnet right beside Sarah’s. Just as everyone was in the car, Mrs. Hollister zoomed pass the street, driving like 120 km/h.

After twenty minutes, Sarah reached her school.

“Make new friends, honey,” her mother said.

“I will, mom,” Sarah said as she kissed her mother and went into the school.

Just as her mother soared pass the school, Sarah checked her watch. ‘Hmm...15 minutes early. Just right,’ she whispered to herself.

She gazed in awe as she saw the school in front of her. Her new school, Los Middle Day, was definitely larger than her older school.

Sarah quickly walked to the office and registered. The registration took about 10 minutes so she didn't have time to look around much.

After registering, she got her new timetable. According to her watch, she still had 20 minutes before her first subject was about to end.

"Do you know where you should go, dear?" the office helper asked Sarah.

"No," Sarah replied shortly.

"Just stay here. I will get you someone," the office helper said while she called someone on the phone.

"Just a sec," she said and she went to the back of the office.

Sarah sat at a sofa and waited, she waited for 1 minute and that seemed like the longest time of her life.

"Okay, dear. There will be a girl to guide you. Just wait outside,"

'Finally!' Sarah whispered to herself. Sarah hated waiting, even if it's just for a minute.

A girl with blonde hair, lightly tanned skin and pinkish cheeks came to Sarah.

"Hey! You must be the newbie," she said as she plastered a cute smile across her face.

Sarah was taken aback a bit. Like hey, she was accosted by a total stranger at her back! Literally, anyone would jump up like a frog.

Looking at Sarah's reaction, the girl knew that she had scared Sarah.

"Oops! Sorry," the girl said with her head down facing the floor.

"No, it's okay. I'm...just. Just,"

"No time to talk! You are almost missing our History class! Anyways, I'm Naomi. You can call me Wiwi, well, that's what people call me in my class. It's a thing. But you're in my class so you can call me Wiwi if you like," the girl said as she dashed through the block heading to class with Sarah while holding her hand.

"Well, I'm Sarah Hollister and you can call me.... Sarah," Sarah said as she tried to catch up with Wiwi. In her heart, she was thinking, this girl's got to be a cross-country runner.

"Well, we need to think of a nickname for you. Don't worry, my BFF's will get one and look here we are," Wiwi said as she stopped in front of an air-conditioned classroom. History class was over 5 minutes ago.

"You're lucky you were late because if you were here 5 minutes ago, you would have been stuck in front of there. Don't worry, I've got this," Wiwi said as she looked at Sarah.

Wiwi quickly pulled Sarah's hand and asked her to sit at a table beside her BFF, Hannah.

"Hey, you are the newbie. What's your name?" Hannah asked Sarah. Just before Sarah could answer, another girl came to her and elbowed her.

"Hey there. You're the newbie. What's your name?" she asked.

Sarah breathed in and told them, "I'm Sarah Hollister,"

"Well, I'm Hannah and the girl who elbowed you just now is Mia," Hannah said with a smile.

"Sarah, you are now one of our BFF's because you are really cool, and kind, and jazzy and-

"That's enough, Mia," Wiwi said as she pinched Mia at the side.

"Ouch! That hurt," Mia said with a dumb face.

Everyone had a good laugh.

“Thank you guys for making me feel welcome here,” said Sarah with a true smile on her face.

“No sweat, girl” said Mia while doing a funny face and making the group laugh again.

Everyone giggled like mad as they got ready for PE.



Chapter 2: Jealousy



“Sarah, you literally have to try to run that 3 rounds Mrs. Harland will ask us too,” Hannah said.

“Well, I’ll try. I’m just asking, is Naomi a cross-country runner, by any chance?” Sarah asked her.

“Yup. She definitely is. By the way, she’s Mrs. Harland’s favourite,” Hannah added.

“Anyways, how do you know?” she asked again with a perplexed look on her face.

“Well, I could tell by the way she rushed out of the office like mad holding my hand when I was trembling for dear life,” Sarah said while doing a dead face.

“Haha, I know,” Hannah said while giggling.

After Mimi and Naomi came out of the dressing room, Sarah and Hannah joined them and ran 3 rounds around the field.

After that, Mrs. Harland came in front of them and they warmed up.

“Students, we are doing gymnastics today,” Mrs. Harland said as she ordered 5 boys to take all the equipment from the sports room.

Then, she said, “Melanie, come here darling,”

Instantly, a swiss-looking girl with an expensive gymnastics suit walked elegantly towards the teacher.

“Now Melanie, drop!”

The girl immediately bent her hip backwards until her hand touched the ground flexibly.

“Wow! Alien from Mars. Watch out! The invasion is starting,” a random boy told. The whole class laughed.

“Quiet!” Mrs. Harland said as she glared at the boy with her striking mascara.

“Detention for you, Lan and the others just watch,” she said looking at them.

Melanie got up and did the same action she did just now. This time, the whole class gave her a round of applause.

“Wow! Who is she?” Sarah whispered to Mia.

“Obviously the most popular, self-absorbed diva of the school,” Mia said as she rolled her eyes at Melanie.

Sarah was surprised at what she just said.

“What?” she asked her again.

“I’ll tell you during lunch or we’ll be stuck in detention with Lan,” Mia said and turned to concentrate again.

‘Maybe I could get some gymnast tips from her,’ she thought while looking at Mrs. Harland.

“Anyone else going for gymnastic class?” Mrs. Harland asked.

Instantly, Sarah and Hannah raised up their hand together. Sarah was surprised as she didn’t know that Hannah was a gymnast.

“Oh, hey gymnast,” Hannah said elbowing Sarah. Sarah just grinned.

“Oh, are you new here?” Mrs. Harland asked as soon as she looked at Sarah.

“Yes, Mrs. Harland,” Sarah said sweetly.

“Please introduce yourself,”

“I’m Sarah Hollister. I recently moved from London,” she said.

“Good. Now let’s test you. Sarah, split!” Mrs. Harland said.

Immediately, Sarah did a perfect split in front of the whole class.

“Not bad. Now do a Tkatchev on that bar, could you?” Mrs. Harland said.

Instantly, Sarah was swinging on the bar like an Olympic gymnast.

The whole class gave a big round of applause. Hannah, Mia, and Naomi were practically shouting like mad.

Sarah ended her Tkatchev with a perfect landing and an elegant bow. She got a standing ovation from the whole class, well except one human being that doesn't appreciate her talent: Melanie Andrews.

"My dear girl that was the perfect Tkatchev I've ever seen. Now sit down. Hannah, you sure look like a good friend to her," Mrs. Harland said while blinking her eyes to Hannah, her fake eyelashes looking so striking.

Hannah and Sarah walked together to their places, giggling.

"Literally, I could do better than that. She's just a beginner,"

Sarah turned back to see who just said that but she didn't catch the person.

"Hey did ya' here that?" she whispered to Hannah.

"It's Mel. I'll explain later," Hannah said while looking forward.



Chapter 3: Bad, Badder, Baddest



“You rocked today girl,” Mia said while having a few nachos.

“Thank you, Mia. You guys, all of you are just the best! My mother was quite surprised that I was going to hang out with my friends. Besides, it’s just the first day,” Sarah said while blushing.

“Aww... you are our BFF. We could see it from your first impression today,” Naomi said while hugging Sarah.

Sarah didn’t like to be the center of attention so she decided to change the topic.

“Melanie,” she started.

“What do you want to know about that self-absorbed diva?” Hannah cut in.

“Everything,” Sarah said while looking interested.

“That girl is a snake in designer jeans and whatever she wants to do is just torture us, meaning- me, Hannah and Mia,” Naomi started.

“Why does she want to do that?” Sarah asked with a perplexed look.

“Actually, we don’t know. It’s just kind of a thing since school started,” Mia added.

“Yeah. But I’m thinking she’s having a bigger grouch on you compared to all of us,” Hannah said.

Sarah was stunned. Like obviously, what has she done? She literally didn’t speak a single letter to her today and that girl could just hate her?

“Why?” Sarah questioned again.

“Just look at you. You are like a queen in gymnastics. Literally nobody could beat you. And Melanie hates anyone who is just better than her. Get it?” Naomi added.

“Oh,” Sarah answered shortly. She doesn’t know why but somehow she is starting to feel scared of Melanie. ‘Dang, gymnasts problem,’ she thought in her head.

“Alright guys! Enough of that diva. Now let’s have a real sleepover,” Hannah snapped in, turning the tensed environment into a blast of super-duper fun.

The next day in school...

“Ughh!!!She’s stealing my reputation!” Melanie shouted in the girl’s bathroom hysterically.

“Alright Mel. Calm down,” her best friend Olivia said.

"No I can't, Via. As long as I didn't take revenge, I will not be satisfied," Melanie raged with anger.

"Fine, Plan," Olivia said holding Melanie's hand.

"Right, Olivia you're the best. I couldn't think of anything better. I'll make a great plan and make sure she is the best jerk chicken of the whole school!!!" now Melanie shouted hysterically again while putting on her Violet Sasha lip bum happily.

"What should we do?" Olivia asked.

"Don't worry. Just follow my rule," Melanie said and now while putting on her mascara.



"Good day, girl. What is your name and how may I assist you?" asked a French lady at the counter with a thick French accent.

"Hey, um...I'm Sarah and I'm new here. I would love to join this gymnastics center," replied Sarah.



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