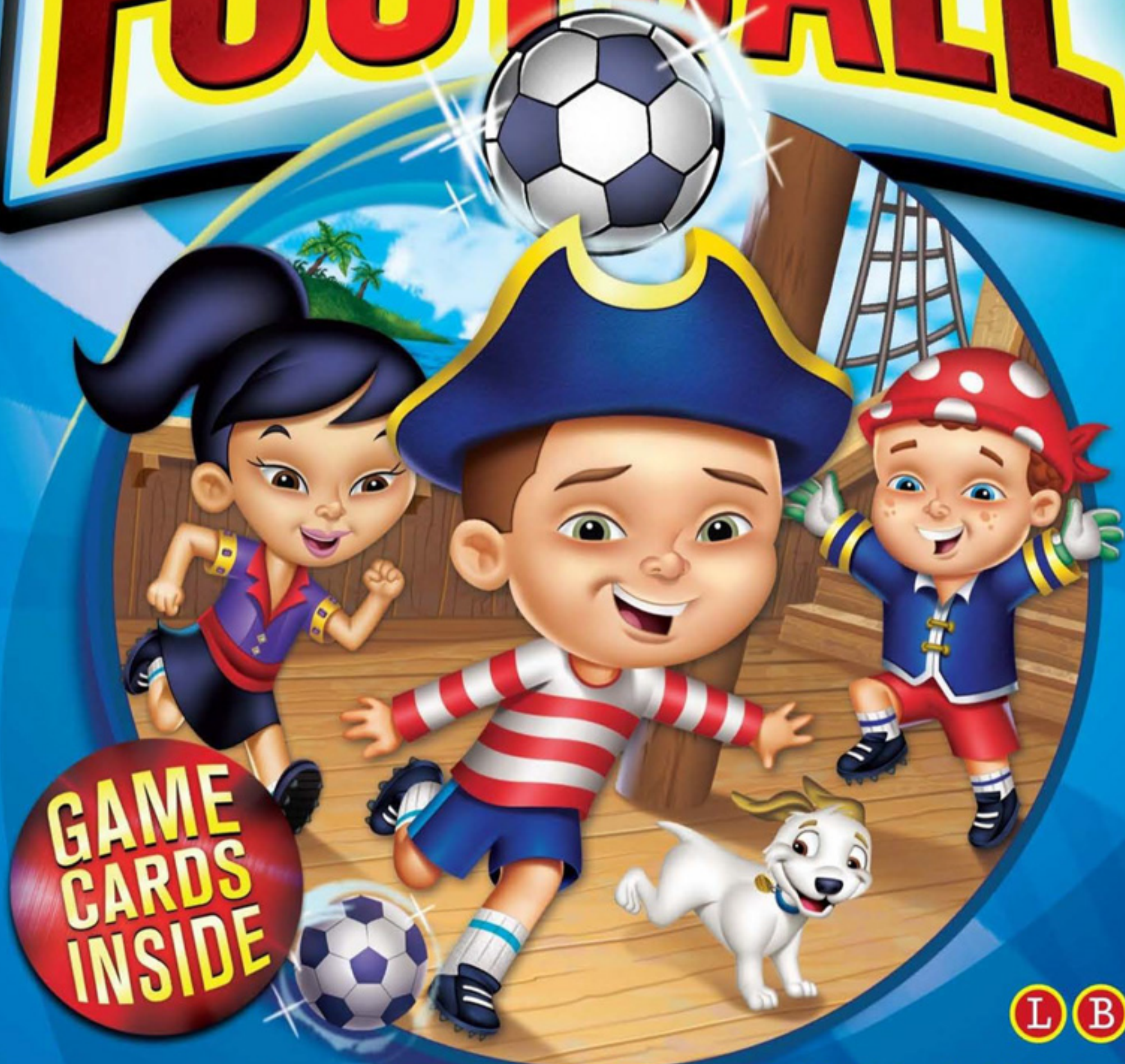


FRANK LAMPARD

FRANKIE'S MAGIC FOOTBALL



GAME
CARDS
INSIDE



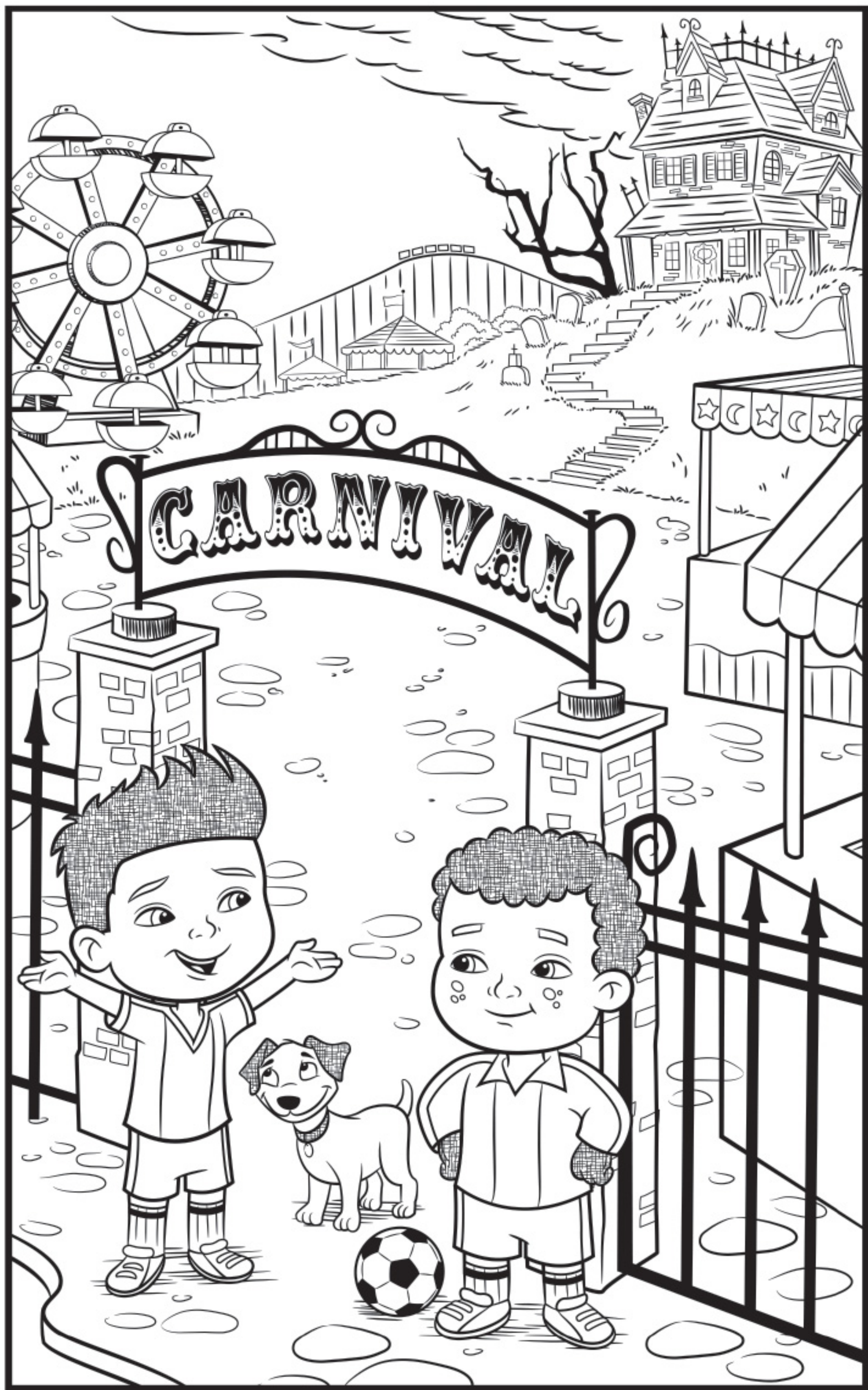
FRANKIE VS THE PIRATE PILLAGERS

dropping behind the Ferris wheel, and soon the funfair would be shutting down for the year and leaving town.

“Not scared, are you?” said Frankie.

Charlie blushed, and all his freckles stood out. “Course not.”

Frankie grinned. He remembered that Charlie hadn’t wanted to go in last year either. It *was* pretty scary. There were walking skeletons, dangling spiders and wailing ghosts. He would have gone in again today with Lou, but it cost a pound and he only had fifty pence left.



Frankie's dog Max was looking up hopefully at the stick of candyfloss in Frankie's hand.

"Too sugary for you," Frankie said. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a doggy biscuit. Max opened his mouth and Frankie dropped it in, then tickled the dog under his furry white muzzle.

The doors opened and a few screams drifted over. Then a balding man stumbled out, with pale skin and wide eyes. It was their PE teacher, Mr Donald.

"Looks like Donaldo's spooked," said Frankie.

Mr Donald saw them and walked

over, smoothing down the few hairs on his head.

"Is that a spider on your shoulder, sir?" asked Charlie.

Mr Donald jumped about a foot in the air, craning his neck.

"Only joking, sir," said Charlie.

Mr Donald fixed them with a frown. "I hope to see you both for football practice tomorrow."

"Of course, sir," said Frankie. "We wouldn't miss practice for anything!"

Mr Donald walked off, still checking his shoulder.

The doors of the haunted house creaked open again and Louise

emerged. She was playing on her handheld console.

"We thought a skeleton might have got you," said Frankie.

Louise rolled her eyes. "*Sooo* unscary – I almost fell asleep."

Frankie checked his watch and saw it was nearly quarter to five. "We should go home – my mum wants me back by half past five."

"Mine too," said Louise.

They made their way past the dodgems and the coconut shy. Their friend Kobe from school was standing behind a rope, trying to knock the coconuts off their stands with tennis balls.

"Here, Kobe!" said Charlie. "Try me!"

Kobe turned and launched a throw towards Charlie. Charlie dived and caught the ball in his goalie gloves.

Max barked excitedly.

"The best keepers are . . ."
Charlie began.

". . . always ready!" said Frankie and Louise. They'd heard it a gazillion times.

Charlie threw the ball back. He *never* took his gloves off, except when the teachers forced him to. He said he even slept wearing them. Charlie might have been

small, but Frankie knew he was the best goalie in their year at school. Probably better than anyone in the year above too.

“Won any prizes, Kobe?” asked Frankie.

His friend shook his head. “Nope. I’ve hit the coconuts, but they don’t fall off. Watch.”

He crouched like a baseball pitcher and hurled a ball. It smashed right into a coconut, which didn’t even wobble.

“Better luck next time,” said the stallholder, a short woman in a woolly hat and thick coat.

“I reckon it’s a fix,” huffed Kobe.

"Watch what you say, young man," said the stallholder. "I'm as honest as they come. Straight as an arrow."

But Kobe was already hopping over the rope towards the coconuts. He grabbed one and tried to tug it from its holder. "See!" he said. "I knew it – you're cheating!"

"Must be the hot weather," said the stallholder, folding her beefy arms. "It's made the coconuts swell up."

"I don't think coconuts do that," said Frankie.

"Fix!" said Louise.

"Fix!" echoed Charlie, and Max began to bark too.

The stallholder shuffled over and put her fingers to her lips. "Keep it down, will you? Here!" She snatched a large pink teddy bear down from a peg and thrust it towards Kobe. "Take this and go."

Kobe looked at the bear with a frown. "I suppose my sister might like it. See you at school, guys."

As Kobe strolled off with his prize, Frankie and his friends walked towards the exit. The cheating stallholder had left a sour taste in Frankie's mouth. He hated when people didn't play fair.

Behind the hot dog stand, another stall caught his eye. It had



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