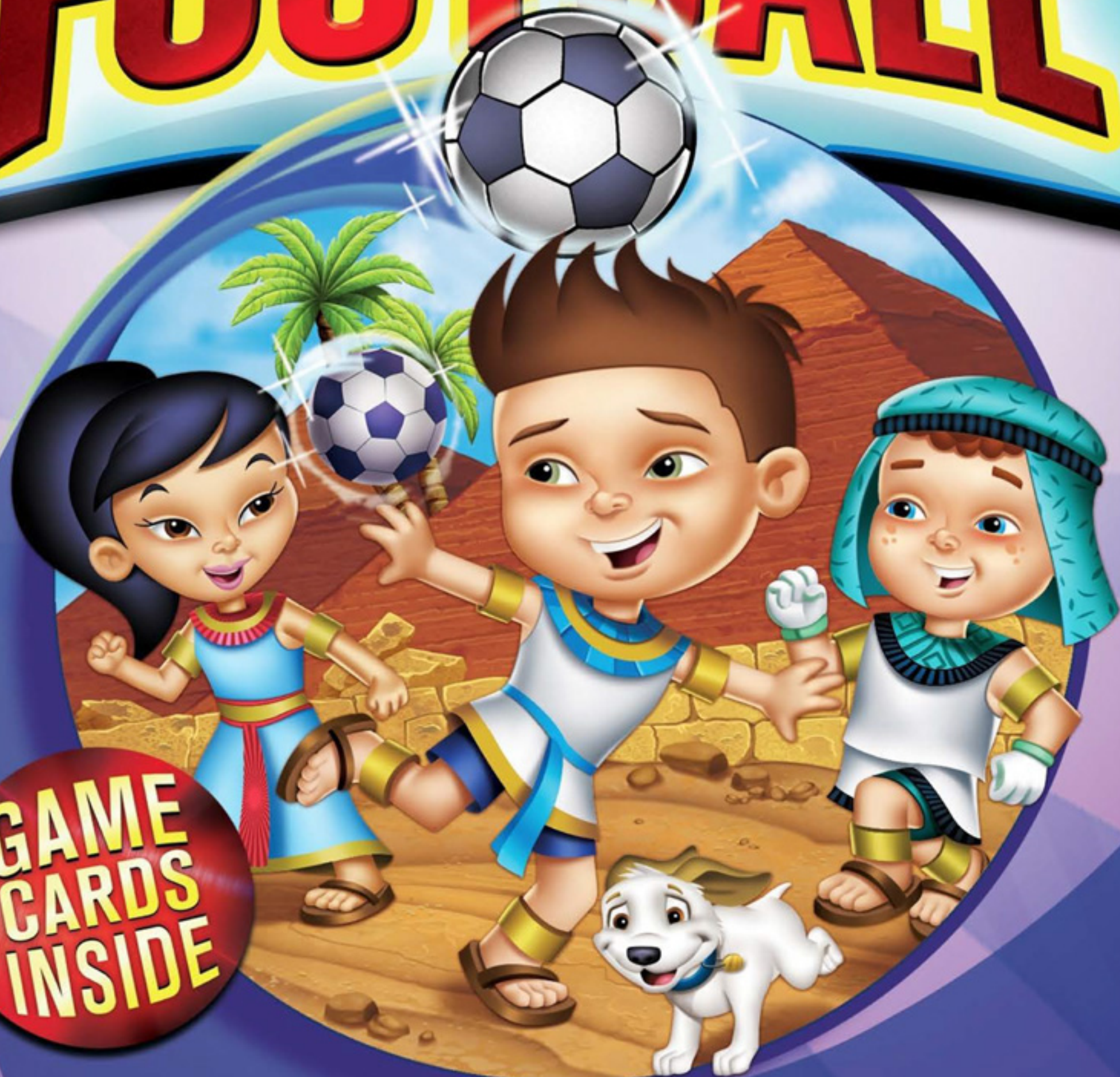


FRANK LAMPARD

FRANKIE'S MAGIC FOOTBALL



GAME
CARDS
INSIDE

FRANKIE VS THE MUMMY'S MENACE



CHAPTER 1

Frankie stood in front of the marble statue. He checked the question on his sheet.

"Who ruled the Roman Empire in 60 AD?"

He read the little card on the wall.

The Emperor Nero (ruled 54–68 AD).

Wow! he thought. *That's nearly two thousand years ago!*

He wrote the answer: 'Nero.'

Frankie heard the shuffle of footsteps and turned to see Charlie dragging his feet along the ground. He was carrying his clipboard in his hands.

"The museum is the most boring place in the universe," said Frankie's friend.

"More boring than Maths lessons with Ms Brown?" asked Frankie, grinning.

"OK, the *second* most boring place," said Charlie. "I can't believe they cancelled football practice for

this.” He flopped onto the bottom step of a set of stairs, tossed the clipboard aside, and rested his chin in his gloved hands. Frankie saw Charlie had filled in some of the answers, but not many.

“Ahem!” said a voice. Mr Donald strode out from behind another statue. “Charles, I don’t see how you’re going to complete your answer-sheet unless you take those goalkeeping gloves off.”

Frankie saw his friend quickly hide his clipboard. “I’ve done all the answers, sir,” said Charlie.

“Really?” said Mr Donald, narrowing his eyes. “I don’t see

how that's possible. You haven't even visited the Egyptian gallery yet and we have to leave in fifteen minutes."

Charlie blushed. "Just going now, sir," he said. With a sigh he stood up and began to climb the stairs.

"Wait for me," said Frankie. "I'm finished with the Roman questions."

"Good, good," said Mr Donald. "Your friend Louise is already up there. Almost done, I believe."

"She would be!" grumbled Charlie.

As they followed the sign to the

Egyptian gallery, they passed the café. Loud shouts and laughter came from inside. A moment later, Frankie's brother Kevin and his friends spilled out. When his eyes landed on Frankie, he stopped laughing and sneered.

"It's the Geek Squad!" he said. "Have you answered all Donaldo's questions yet?"

"Just keep walking," Frankie whispered to Charlie. He'd hoped he wouldn't bump into his brother's class. They were at the museum too, researching their history projects.

Frankie and Charlie found Louise

in the Egyptian room inspecting a green jar on a glass shelf. "This belonged to a Pharaoh," she said, when she spotted them.

"A Fair-what?" asked Charlie.

Louise rolled her eyes. "The Pharaoh was the name ancient Egyptians gave their king," she said.

"Yeah, I knew that," mumbled Charlie.

"This jar was used to put their heart in after they were mummified," said Louise.

"Yuck!" said Frankie. He checked his question sheet. "We have to find the name of five Egyptian

Gods," he added. "Apparently the Egyptians worshipped more than sixty!"

"I've got four already," said Louise. She grinned and hid her answer sheet as Charlie peered over her shoulder. "Find your own!"

Frankie wasn't interested in Louise's answers. He was looking at something in the centre of the room, cordoned off with a red rope. It was like an open coffin, standing on its end. The lid was decorated with the face and body of a man. He wore a colourful head-dress, painted gold and red, and he had

a strange, thin beard. Across his clothes were hundreds of tiny symbols.

"Check that out," he said.

"That's the mummy's sarcophagus," said Louise.

"Sark-Off-A-What?" asked Charlie.

"Like a coffin," said Louise.

"When a pharaoh died, his body was preserved as a mummy, then the mummy was put in a pyramid, inside a sarcophagus."

Frankie marvelled at the amazing painted details.

The card next to the exhibit read:
SARCOPHAGUS OF UNKNOWN PHARAOH.



I wonder what all the little pictures mean," said Charlie.

"They're called hieroglyphs," said Louise.

"Hire-Oh-What?" said Charlie, smiling. "Only kidding."

Frankie peered even closer, right into the golden eyes of the unknown king. Then he felt his bag strap snag on his shoulder, almost pulling him off his feet. He spun round to see Kevin holding his bag.

"Hey! I'm not finished with you, little brother."

"Give that back," said Frankie, deadly serious.

"Ooh . . . scary!" said his brother.

He undid the zip on Frankie's bag and tipped it upside down. Out fell Frankie's pencil case, his lunchbox, his books. And, last of all, his battered football. He dropped the bag at Frankie's feet.

"Pass it here!" said Kev's friend, Liam.

Before Frankie could react, Kev back-heeled the ball to Liam.

"Don't be idiots!" said Louise.
"You'll break something!"

"What are you scared of?" asked Kev's friend, Matt. "The mummy's curse?"

Charlie went to get the ball, but Liam chipped it over his shoulder



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