

Contents

Chapter 1	The man from England	4
Chapter 2	Goodbye to Kasama	8
Chapter 3	News from England	12
Chapter 4	The right team	16
Chapter 5	The big game	21
Activities		26
Glossary		34

The man from England

In the town of Kasama in Zambia there's a big game of football today. A lot of people are watching. Kasama United are playing against Black Star. It's one goal to Kasama and one goal to Black Star. Now there are only five minutes until the end of the game.

The Kasama goalkeeper has the ball. He looks up the field.

'To me!' shouts Mumba Siwale. 'Kick it to me!' Mumba is only seventeen years old but he's Kasama's best player.

The Kasama goalkeeper kicks the ball up the field. Mumba takes the ball on his foot, and then he turns and runs towards the Black Star goal. He runs past one Black Star player, and then past another player. The goalkeeper comes out, but Mumba takes the ball past him. He shoots. He scores. It's a goal!

The Kasama fans stand up and shout, 'Goal! Goal to Kasama! Goal to Mumba!' They start shouting Mumba's name, again and again. 'Mum-ba! Mum-ba! Mum-ba!'

The game ends. The score is Kasama United 2 – Black Star 1. Kasama win the game.

Mumba is very happy. Sam Chipata is happy too. He's the manager of Kasama United. 'A great game, Mumba,' says Sam. 'Now, I want you to meet a man from England.'

A tall man in a black suit is standing beside Sam.

'This is Tom Delaney,' says Sam.

Tom Delaney shakes Mumba's hand and says, 'Hello, Mumba.'

'Hello, Mr Delaney,' says Mumba.



‘Tom is from Liverpool,’ says Sam. ‘He’s from Mersey City. He wants to talk to you.’

Mersey City? Mumba thinks. They’re my favourite team. Michael Woko plays for Mersey City. Does Mr Delaney want me to play for them too?

‘Mumba, I want you to come to England,’ says Tom Delaney. ‘I want you to play for Mersey City.’

Mumba can’t believe it. He doesn’t speak.

Tom Delaney waits. ‘What do you say, Mumba? Do you want to play for Mersey City?’

‘Of course I do,’ says Mumba. ‘But I can’t believe it. I love Mersey City! They’re my favourite team. They play in League One. I watch them on television. And Michael Woko is my favourite player. But —’

‘You have to talk to Mumba’s family, Tom,’ says Sam Chipata. ‘Mumba is only seventeen years old.’

‘Of course,’ says Tom Delaney. ‘I have a letter for Mumba’s father. He has to sign it.’

‘My father is dead,’ says Mumba. ‘You have to talk to my mother. She’s at home.’

Mumba lives with his mother and his young brother, Goodson. Goodson is a good footballer too. At Mumba’s house, his mother, Edith Siwale, listens to Tom Delaney.

‘Your son is a very good footballer, Mrs Siwale. We want him to come to England and play for Mersey City. They are a very big team. They play in League One. Mumba is going to be a very rich young man.’

Mrs Siwale doesn’t speak.

Tom Delaney smiles and says, ‘He can buy a big house for you. And a car.’

‘We have a car,’ says Mrs Siwale. ‘I am a teacher. We are not a poor family.’

‘But our car is very old, Mother,’ says Mumba.

‘It’s a good car,’ his mother says to him. ‘We don’t need another car.’ She looks at Tom Delaney. ‘You talk about money,’ she says, ‘but what is going to happen to my son in England? England is not like Zambia. It’s a cold country. And the people are cold too. Is he going to be happy in your country? Mumba is very young —’

‘Mother, I’m seventeen. I am a man.’

‘Be quiet,’ says Mrs Siwale. She turns back to Tom Delaney. ‘I don’t know you, Mr Delaney,’ she says. ‘And I don’t like this talk about money.’

‘But I want to play football in England,’ says Mumba. ‘I want to play for Mersey City.’

‘Be quiet,’ his mother says again. ‘I am thinking.’ She turns to Tom Delaney. ‘Come back tomorrow, Mr Delaney,’ she says. ‘Come and eat with us. You are new to Zambia. You have to know something about us. Come tomorrow.’