

Martina loves soccer,
but on her school team, some believe that
girls don't play as well as boys.
Will Martina prove them wrong?



MARTINA THE SOCCER STAR



Susanna Isern

Marta Moreno

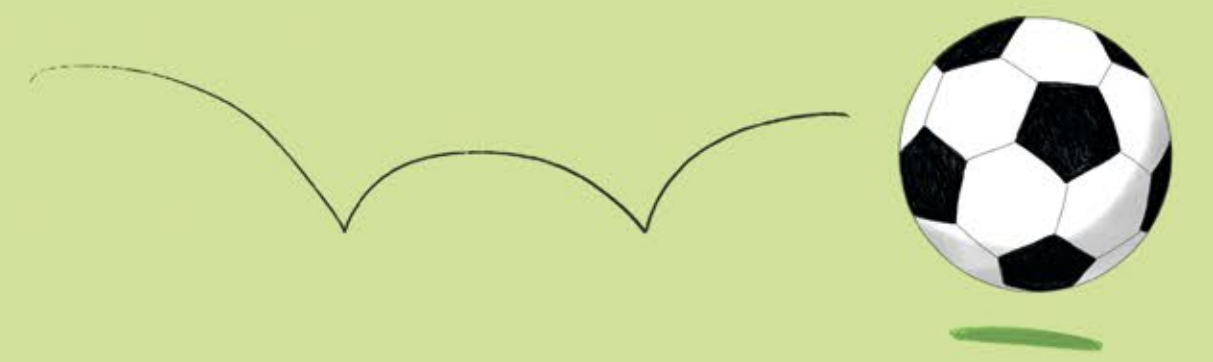


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Susanna Isern

Marta Moreno





To Yuna, my great big little soccer star.

Susanna Isern

*To the growing ranks of girls I know
who play soccer, and in honor of everything they
represent as we strive for full equality.*

Marta Moreno

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Martina the Soccer Star

Egalité Series

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Martina loves playing soccer. When her foot touches the ball, she feels like she could do anything: send it flying halfway around the world, launch it so high it brushes the clouds, or keep on doing endless toe bounces, stopping only when she's called inside for dinner.



One day Martina decides to sign up for the Dinos, her school's soccer team.

"Hi, I'm Martina. I'd like to join your team."

The boys whisper among themselves.

"Alright, we've had a dropout, and we need a replacement," says the captain, Alex, reluctantly. "You'll be in defense."



So Martina starts training with the Dinos. She's excited to be on the team. However, she quickly realizes that there's a lot of rivalry going on among her teammates.



They all want to be "the fastest,"

"the best dribbler," or "the one who scores the most goals."



Martina doesn't like that at all.

Alex, the captain, is the most competitive of them all. Everybody wants to be like him, and they admire him because he scores the most when they play against other teams.



But Martina sees things differently. She prefers George, the other defender on the team. He's like a brick wall, and he doesn't let anybody from the other team get past him for a chance at the goal.

"It's ridiculous how the forwards get so much more respect than all the other players," Martina complains.

During a match against a really tough team, the Dinos manage to score two goals. On defense, Martina and George are a perfect pair, fiercely protecting their own goal and preventing the other team from scoring.

Martina is very skilled in her position, yet she notices that her teammates are sidelining her. When passing the ball to the defense, they always choose George over her.



The Dinos were ahead, but the other team has tied the score in the second half.

It's an incredibly close match. With the clock ticking down the final seconds, Alex manages to bring the ball in close to the goal. A teammate on his right has a much better angle to shoot.

"Pass it, Alex!" he shouts.



But Alex, even though he's in a worse position to score, decides to go for it himself, and the other team's goalie blocks the shot.

