

I see her returning ten minutes later and I follow her to her room. She turns around and looks at me very strangely. I start to talk immediately.

“Estelle, I have to tell you the truth. In my mind, I accused you, and I’m sorry,” I confess.



“In my mind, I accused you, and I’m sorry,” I confess.

Her answer surprises me.

“No, Kate. *I’m* sorry,” she says. “I really didn’t know about Monique’s plans. She was very wrong. If I’m going to win, it must be because I’m the best. It can’t be because somebody tricked my **opponent**.”

“Oh, Estelle, I’m so happy,” I tell her. “I respect you very much. You’re a great gymnast and it will be an honour to compete against you.”

“I feel the same way,” Estelle says. “You probably won’t

believe this, but I’ve admired you ever since we met at the World Championships.”

“Thanks. That’s a big compliment,” I say. “Estelle, can I ask you a favour?”

“Sure,” she answers.

“Can I please use your phone one more time?” I ask, smiling. “It’ll be the last time, I promise. I must call my boyfriend and thank him for his help.”

Estelle laughs. I’ve never heard her laugh before. It’s great.

“Of course,” she answers, and she gives me her mobile.

I run to my private place in the hall and phone Andrew. This time he recognises the number.

“Hi, Kate. How are you?” he asks.

“I’m much better, thanks to you,” I answer. “You don’t know how much you helped me today.”

“I really didn’t do anything,” says Andrew.

“You did more than you’ll ever know. I’ll see you soon and then I’ll tell you,” I say.

“OK, Kate. You should sleep now. Save your energy for the hardest part,” Andrew tells me.

“OK, Andrew. I won’t speak to you again until after the competitions, so wish me luck,” I say.

“Good luck! Your parents and I will be sitting in the stadium and watching you. Just think of us and you’ll be fine,” he says.

“I will. Good night, Andrew,” I say.

“Good night, Kate,” says Andrew.

CHAPTER 10

THE OPENING CEREMONY

The next day I pass the medical examination without any trouble and I return to my training. It’s great to have my passion in life back. I’m filled with energy and am feeling very confident. The girls in my team are very positive. My **personal routines** for the individual gymnastics competition are going extremely well and I hope to win a medal for that, too.