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Opening extract from

Go! Go! Chichico!

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This book has dyslexia-friendly features

For Enzo



Chapter 1



Chichico was first down on the beach that morning. A few gulls were pecking at the litter along the water-line but no one else was about. The sun was still so low that it bobbed like a big football on the sea. Chichico wanted to swim out and bring that football back to shore – then he would not have to wait for the others.

Chichico was always first down on the beach, but he could not start to play till Anna and Davi arrived with the ball.

They used their T-shirts for goal posts, and Anna and Davi both played against Chichico, because he was so good. As the morning wore on, more and more children arrived and joined in.

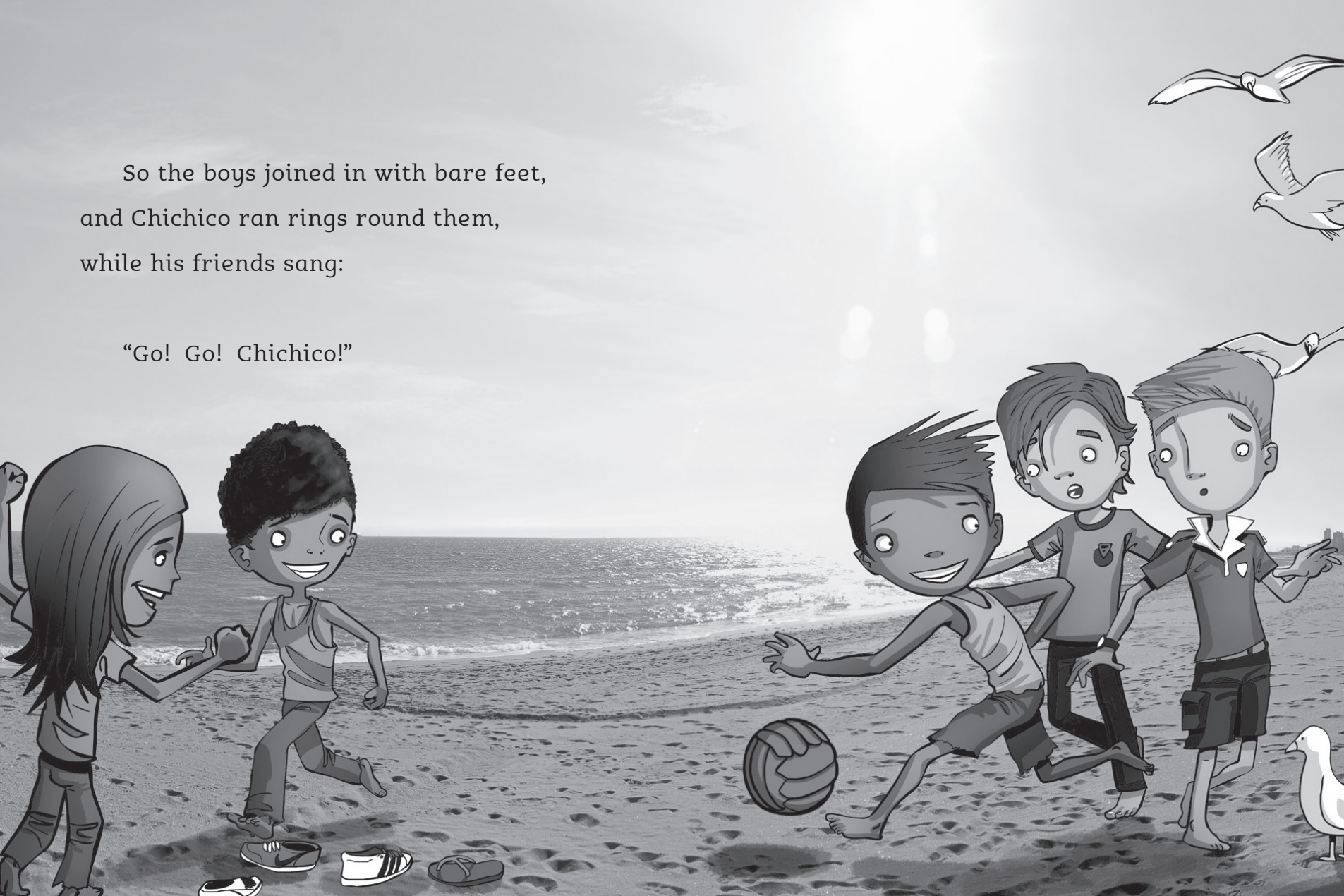
Sometimes rich boys from the big hotels along the back of the beach wanted to play. If Anna liked the look of them, she would point at their fancy trainers and say:

"Shoes off! Shoes off! No one here wears shoes!"



So the boys joined in with bare feet,
and Chichico ran rings round them,
while his friends sang:

"Go! Go! Chichico!"



The truth was that none of the local children had so much as one pair of shoes between them. But what did they care? The sand was soft.

That morning two men stood at one of the hotel windows and watched the game on the beach below.

"Look how he wrong-foots them! Every time! Look at the speed of him!" one of the men said.

"And do you see how he controls the ball?" said the other. "Will I go down and have a word?"

"Yes, do that, will you?" the first man said. "And don't take 'no' for an answer."

