



# *Tom and Jamal* *speak up*

A story about cybersafety



*Mary Koolhof*

*Illustrated by Kyan O'Rourke*



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# Tom and Jamal speak up

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Tom gave a shout of excitement. 'Hey, Jamal! You know those new soccer boots I've been wanting for ages – the ones I saw on eBay? Well, Pete's got a pair I can have for \$20!'

'Really? \$20? Wow, that's cheap!' said Jamal.

'Yeah. Isn't it *great!*' Tom grinned. 'They cost heaps more on eBay. Mum said she and Nan would give me half the money for Christmas. Now I don't have to find the other \$80!'

'I wish someone would find me a pair for twenty bucks,' said Jamal, sounding a bit jealous. 'How come this guy Pete is letting you have them so *cheap?*'

Tom looked back at the computer screen. 'He says they're too small for him.'

'Well, he must have really big feet then,' said Jamal. 'What's this guy look like, anyway?'



Tom and Jamal looked at the picture next to Pete's blog post.

'Hey, that's David Beckham! That's not a photo of Pete. I bet he just *wishes* he looked like Beckham,' said Jamal.

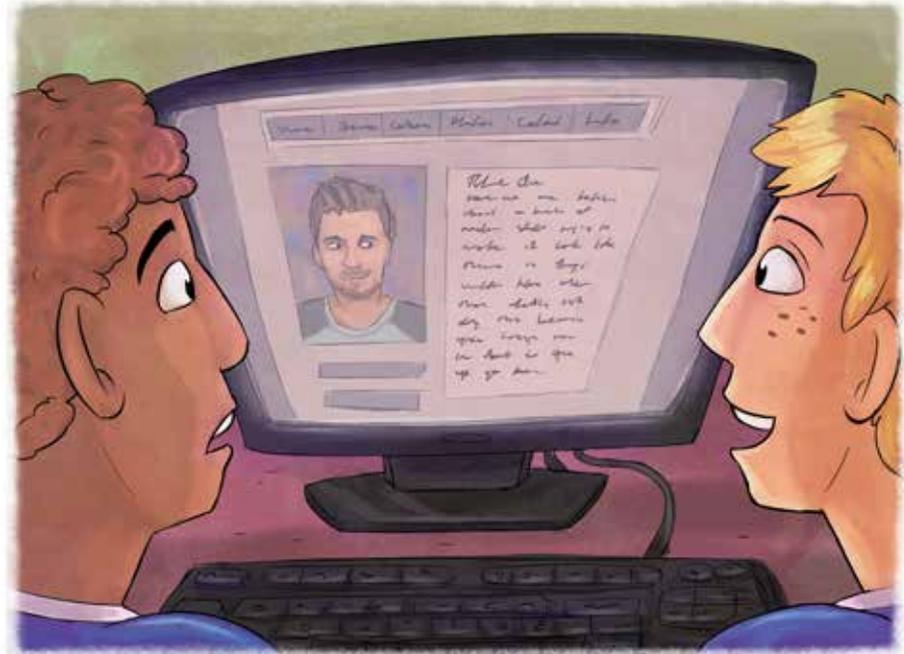
'Pete's great!' said Tom. 'He's even been to see Manchester United play.'

'Wow,' said Jamal enviously.

'Yeah, Pete said he might have a spare Man. U. shirt that he could give me!'

'Is this guy for real?' Jamal asked. 'How come he's being so nice to you? He's never even met you in *real* life.'

'I think he's just really into soccer. When I posted the YouTube video of that goal save last week, Pete *'liked'* it and commented straight away. And he knows I love Manchester United.



'How do you know he's not some weirdo? Why doesn't he have a proper photo of himself?' asked Jamal.

'Why would he be a weirdo? Anyway, he doesn't *know anything* about me, like where I live or anything. I'm not stupid enough to post stuff like that in a soccer blog,' said Tom.

'So what will your mum and dad think about you getting those boots for twenty bucks?'

Tom wriggled on the chair. 'Well, they don't really know about Pete. I don't tell them everything.'

'Just *be careful*,' said Jamal. 'Sounds a bit too good to be true, if you ask me.'



Next Saturday, Tom ran off the soccer pitch smiling. Wow, what a game! Six goals scored by his team! The coach said he'd made a great save, too.

'Hey, Tom. Great game!' Tom turned his head. A man he *didn't know* was beckoning him over. Tom walked over slowly.

'Yeah?'

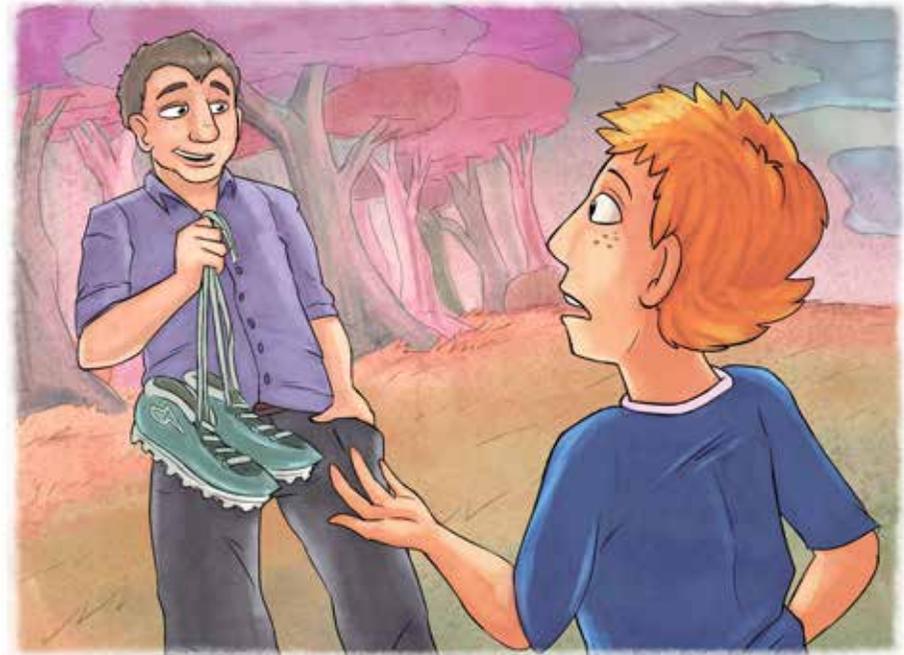
The man was holding a pair of new soccer boots. 'These are for you. And don't worry about the twenty bucks.'

Tom looked at him in surprise. 'What.....' Light dawned in his eyes. 'You're not..... Are you Pete's dad or something?'

'I'm Pete!' laughed the man. 'Don't look so *surprised*, mate. How old did you think I was?'

'Well, I dunno. About my age, I suppose.'

'Age doesn't matter when you love soccer *like we do*, does it?' The man put his arm around Tom's shoulders.



Tom felt *uncomfortable*. Pete started to lead Tom towards the trees on the side of the pitch. His arm lay heavily on Tom's shoulders.

Tom had a sick feeling in the pit of his stomach.

'I have to go now,' he muttered, twisting his shoulder out from under Pete's arm. 'Team meeting. The coach is really strict about the after-match meetings.'

Pete frowned. 'But what about the boots?'

'I've *got to go!*' Tom ran over to the clubhouse.



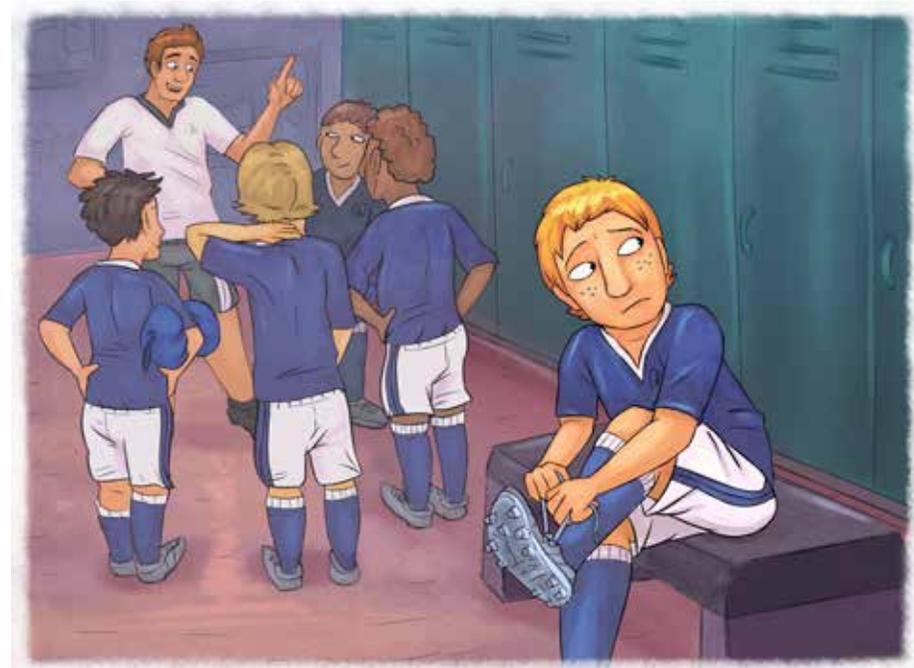
Back in the change rooms, Tom's heart was **pounding**. That was Pete? He looked nearly as old as Tom's dad. And how had he known where Tom would be?

He hardly heard what Max, the coach, was saying.

'...so I'll see you all next week for the next match of the knock-out cup. This is going to be our year! I'm expecting a top performance from everybody.'

Tom got changed very slowly. He tried to put his shoe on the wrong foot.

'Wake up, mate!' said Jamal. 'You're in a **dream!** And who was that guy you were talking to after the match?'



Tom looked at his friend. 'That was Pete,' he said slowly.

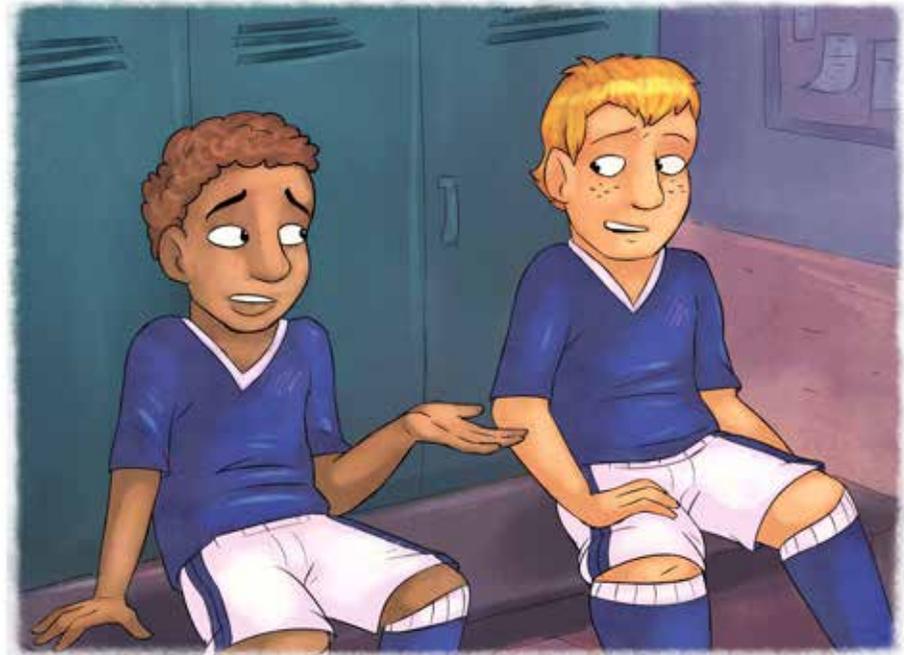
'WHAT? Really? I thought Pete was *our* age!'

'So did I. And you know what's really strange? How does he know what I look like?'

'That's easy,' said Jamal. 'You posted that photo of you diving to save a goal, on the soccer blog.'

'Oh yeah,' said Tom, his face clearing. Then another thought struck him. 'But how did he know where I'd be playing today? I *never* post personal details in the blog. I'm not stupid!'

Jamal looked puzzled. 'Yeah, that's weird. Look, let's go and get a pie. I'm starving!'



The following week at soccer...

'Watch out, Tom!' said the coach sharply.  
'You were half asleep in the goals just then. Keep your eyes on the ball!'

'*Sorry*, Max,' said Tom uncomfortably.  
There was Pete, again! Tom could see him out of the corner of his eye. Just standing by himself at the corner of the pitch. And what was he holding? Looked like a Manchester United shirt.

'This is getting weird,' he muttered to Jamal at half time. 'What's that guy doing *following* me around? And how did he know where I'd be playing this week?'

Jamal said, 'How about we walk back to my place after the game? Let's walk on the *busy* side of the road so he won't get a chance to talk to you.'

Tom looked relieved. 'Good idea.'



Back at home, Jamal brought up the soccer blog on the screen.

'What's going on? What have you put in *your posts?*' he asked.

'Nothing much,' said Tom. 'Only soccer stuff.'

'Wait a minute,' said Jamal. 'Look at this photo of you at the sausage sizzle. It shows our banner and team colours. What if Pete worked out your team from that? And then looked up the roster to find out where you'd be playing?'

Tom went pale. 'That's really weird,' he said. 'I'm taking that photo down right now.' Tom pressed *Delete*. 'But how do I stop Pete stalking me?'

'What about *telling* your dad?'

'He's away for work this week. And mum's really busy with the baby.'



Tom looked at the sticker collection on the corkboard. 'I could call **Kids Helpline**, I guess. Remember we had that talk in assembly when they gave everyone stickers with the phone number? They said if there was something bothering us, we could call them.'

'Yep, you could do that,' Jamal said. 'Or you could tell Max. He's cool. You know how he's always saying, "Your lives are your own. But anything that affects your soccer, I want to know about!" '

'Yeah, he's such a **great** coach,' said Tom. 'My dad thinks so, too.'

'And I don't reckon he'd be happy to know that some guy is **putting you off** your game! He nearly turned purple when you missed that save today.'

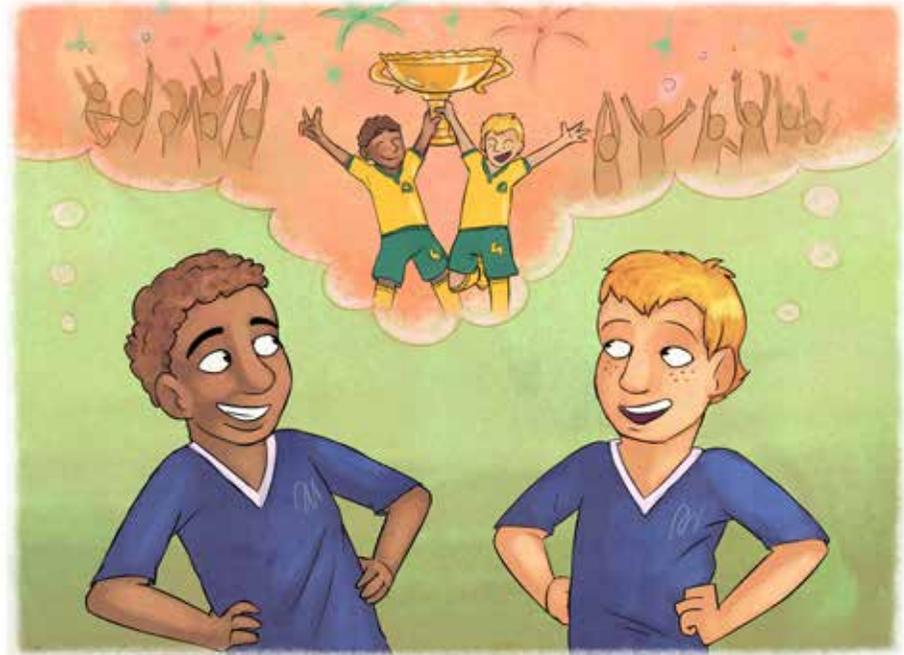


'Yeah, I reckon you're right,' said Tom. 'If I keep letting in goals like that, I'll be off the team.'

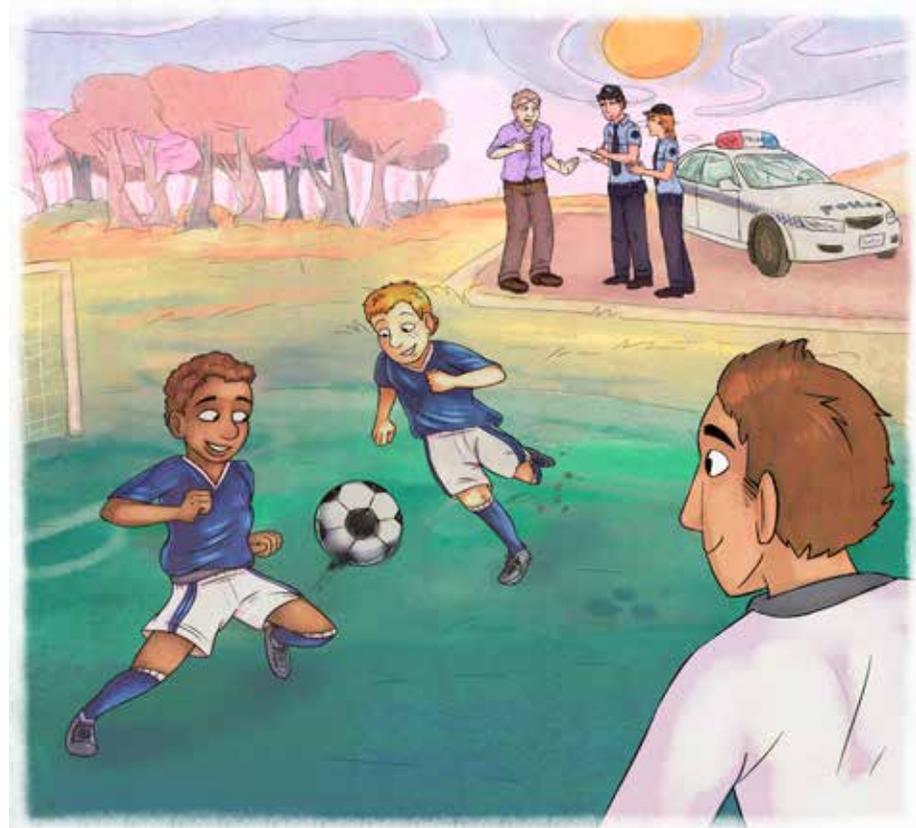
'That would not be good!' said Jamal.  
'Especially if we're **both** going to play for the Soccerroos at the World Cup one day!'

They **grinned** at each other.

'I'll talk to Max before training tomorrow,' said Tom.



A few days *later....*



## Be safe online!

Check out these links to be safe in the cyber world:

- [www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au) from the Australian government for cybersafety information
- [www.facebook.com/cybersafetyhelp](http://www.facebook.com/cybersafetyhelp) is the Australian government's cybersafety help page found on facebook
- [www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/using-technology](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/using-technology) informs parents about the latest technologies and how to help keep their children safe online
- [www.staysmartonline.gov.au/kids\\_and\\_teens](http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/kids_and_teens) provides tips on using social networking sites safely. Includes a Budd:e interactive game to explore cybersecurity issues
- [www.kidshelp.com.au](http://www.kidshelp.com.au) 1800 55 1800 provides free, confidential online and phone counselling
- [www.iness.com.au](http://www.iness.com.au) specialises in educating children on the dangers of the internet, cybersafety and cyberbullying

Always turn  
on your privacy  
settings – and  
keep checking.

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Department of Social Services



Be aware of  
'friend' requests  
from someone  
you've never  
met.

Other books available in this series developed and produced by The Salvation Army - Communities for Children South East Tasmania are:

***Alicia helps Bec take a stand*** – A story about cyberbullying  
suitable for children 9-12 years old.

***My brother Sam*** – A story about bullying  
suitable for children under 7 years old.

Developed and produced by The Salvation Army - Communities for Children South East Tasmania, this book aims to encourage children to seek help from someone they trust in order to keep safe online and in the real world. It is written to promote discussion between children and adults about cyber safety and conveys the message that friends can be a powerful support for anyone who is experiencing any kind of concerns surrounding these issues.

The Salvation Army - Communities for Children aims to improve the development, health and wellbeing of children up to the age of 12 and their families through innovative early intervention and prevention programs.

Communities for Children provides support for parents and children to improve child development, child safety and family functioning.

We promote social inclusion ensuring families are connected to local communities. Activities and resources focus on supporting parents to raise children who are confident individuals with the capacity to reach their full potential.

For further information about Communities for Children South East Tasmania please see the website:  
[www.cfctas.org.au](http://www.cfctas.org.au)



**Tom and Jamal speak up** is written for children and pre-teens to develop their knowledge about cybersafety issues and to promote discussion.

**Tom and Jamal speak up** is suitable for children 9-12 years old.

**Mary Koolhof**  
Author



Mary Koolhof is a teacher and writer who has been involved in many programs supporting children and young people in Tasmania. She has great respect for the work done by The Salvation Army - Communities for Children and is very pleased to be able to support this work.

**Kyan O'Rourke**  
Illustrator



Kyan O'Rourke is a Tasmanian illustrator, working in children's television as an animator and designer. She is very passionate about being able to assist with projects through The Salvation Army - Communities for Children program that supports children.

*"Having seen and lived the real world dangers that lurk within the cyber world this book really hits the mark."*

*Brett Lee, Internet safety and cyberbullying advocate.*



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Department of Social Services