

# Carla's Big Shot

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By: Amber A.

"Mom I want to try out for the basketball team." Twelve year old Carla told her mom one day. Carla has shoulder length blond hair and light blue eyes.

"No. You have asthma. You could have an asthma attack in the middle of the game. Besides your school doesn't have a girl's team." Her mom replied.

"I'll make a petition to make a girls team and I'll have my inhaler with me at all times." Carla told her mom. Then she heard her little brothers crying in the next room.

"My final answer is no. now if you'll excuse me I have to take care of the quadruplets." Carla's mom left the room without another word.

The next day at school Carla confronted her best friend Emma.

"I think you'd do great on a team but I'm kind of with your mom on this one." Emma told Carla. Emma has glasses and slightly longer than shoulder length dark hair.

"What! Why?" Carla asked as loud as she could in the hallway.

"You have pretty bad asthma." Emma replied

"But it has been getting better."

"Prove it."

"We just got up the stairs and I'm not huffing and puffing."

"Good point. Let's do it and I'll be with you every step of the way."

At lunch the duo got with their other friends, Addy, Sophie, Lila, Isabela, and Lindsey.

"Guys if I make a petition for a girl's basketball team will y'all sign?"

"Of course we will." Addy said. Addy has shoulder length dark hair and can be quite silly. Lila and Isabela have shoulder length dark hair. Sophie and Lindsey have blond hair. Sophie's is short and curly. Lindsey's is long and straight

Afterschool the girls went to the principal to ask for a girls' basketball team petition.

"Mr. Garcia? May we come in?" Lila asked through a crack in the door.

"Yes you may." Mr. Garcia replied.

"Mr. Garcia, we want a petition for a girls' basketball team." Isabela told the stern principal.

"For who? It's not like you girly girls are going to try out for it."

"They might not, but I will." said Carla from the corner.

"You? You have the worst asthma in the school. You'd die during your first game."

"Just give us the petition and we'll go."

"Okay, but don't come crying to me when you almost die."

"I won't need to."

"Whatever you say." Mr. Garcia finished as he handed Carla the petition. "You must turn this in tomorrow with one-hundred signatures.

"Okay. We'll do it."

They walked to Carla's house silently. It wasn't until they got into the house that Sophie broke the silence.

"Carla! What were you thinking? We can't turn this in tomorrow!"

“Yes we can because I have a plan.”

“What kind of plan is it?” Lindsey asked quietly making everyone jump. Lindsey has always been the quiet one of the group.

“Follow me.” A smile grew on her face as she told everyone to put their backpacks on the floor and follow her. She walked into her mother’s workroom and started explaining.

“We will copy the petition and we will each take a copy. Tomorrow we will ask all the girls to sign. You can just forget about asking the boys.”

“Can we try to ask?” Isabela asked.

“You can if you want.” Carla replied

The next day at school they all set out with a petition. During the break between the two periods of ELA, Carla started asking girls. When she was getting Melody to sign, Domenic came over. He is the principal’s son.

“My dad said you were getting girls sign a petition for a girl’s basketball team.” Domenic told Carla.

“Yeah, but what is it to you? Why would you want to sign?”

“I would sign for two reasons. To make my dad rethink how much he knows about me and to show everyone that it doesn’t matter whether you are a girl or a boy. It matters whether or not one cares about the other to help them.

“So do you want to sign?” Carla asked handing him the petition.

“Sure.” Domenic replied as he signed the petition.

“Thanks Domenic.”

“Anytime, I love to help friends.” They shared a smile and Carla felt her heart flutter.

“If I ever had feelings for him this is not the time for them to be coming out.” Carla muttered under her breath as they walked back to their seats on opposite sides of the classroom.

After school all the girls met up and put their petitions together. Carla, Emma, Addy, and Lila all had one-hundred signatures. Sophia, Lindsey, and Isabela had seventy-five. They had gotten a total of six-hundred and twenty-five signatures with no doubles!

In the principal’s office it was decided that tryouts would be a week from that day. At the tryouts Carla guessed there were at least one-hundred girls there to tryout. They had to divide tryouts between the two school gyms. Within the next week the list with the names of the people that made it was put up. Carla’s mom had let her tryout so she had a shot. When Carla went up to the list she started looking over it. Her name wasn’t at the beginning. Her name wasn’t in the middle. Carla began to lose hope but then she saw it, her name, the last one on the list.

Girls Basketball Team	
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1.	Alexa Kaitlyn
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2.	Lucia Elizabeth
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3.	Lauren Kaitlyn
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4.	Blaire Land
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5.	Sophie Lee
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6.	Natalie Anderson
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7.	Alicia Portman
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8.	Evie Henderson
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9.	Alex Joseph
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10.	Addison Smith
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11.	Camilla Flora
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12.	Carmela Rivers
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13.	Carla Marcy
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