

A Boy-Cut for Girls

Author: Kiran Bedi

Adapted by Ananya Parthibhan

It was past midnight, the train stopped at a deserted station. I got down, flung my backpack over my shoulder and looked around. There was no one around except a few coolies asleep on their trolleys. A street dog lying beside them got up and started barking at me. One of the coolies lifted his head, mumbled something to the dog, looked at me and said, “Oh, Sirji, this place is not safe at night, go into a retiring room.” I took a deep breath and thought to myself, only if he knew I was a girl...

Right from my school days, I always wore slacks and a loose shirt. I had to often travel alone all over the country to play tennis matches and this outfit protected me. I also sported a short haircut known as the ‘boy-cut’ in those days. This look confused people and kept them guessing if I was a boy or a girl.

Would you like to know how I got my short haircut? In those days all my girl friends prided themselves on their long hair, but maintaining my hair was too much work for me. No matter how tightly I pinned up my plaits, sooner or later they would dangle in front of my face.



BookBox
www.bookbox.com

© BookBox. All Rights Reserved.

One hot afternoon during a match, my long plaits kept coming in my way, preventing me from concentrating on my game. I just could not take it any longer. I ran over to my parents who were watching the game and asked them if I could get my hair cut. They smiled and permitted me to do so without any arguments. I dropped my racket and ran across the street to the hairdresser's shop.

The hairdresser was well known, but he happened to be a men's barber. He asked me what I wanted. I simply replied, "A haircut." He then did something that would send any other girl screaming. He held my plaits and clipped them right off. He proudly dangled them in front of my face. They were wet and knotted with red ribbons tied at the ends. I can never forget the sight!

He then gave me a hairstyle which I never knew would become a trendsetter, a boy-cut for girls. I felt much more comfortable and could finally focus completely on my game.

I realised later that a simple decision to cut my hair taught me to prioritise the different aspects of my life early on. It was more important for me to play a good game than to look good.

THE END



Vocabulary

(All meanings given in context to the story)

Aspect	-	A distinct part of something
Clip	-	Cut something off
Dangle	-	Hang loosely
Deserted	-	A place with no people in it
Fling	-	Throw with an energetic and fast movement
Mumble	-	Speak in a soft voice that is not clear
Outfit	-	Clothes that you wear
Plait	-	A hairstyle formed by twisting the hair
Prioritise	-	Arrange something in order of importance
Trendsetter	-	One who popularises or starts a style



Click below to follow us:



You Tube

facebook

BookBox

www.bookbox.com

© BookBox. All Rights Reserved.