

DRAMA CLUB



READZONE

ReadZone Books Limited

50 Godfrey Avenue

Twickenham

TW2 7PF

www.ReadZoneBooks.com

© in this edition 2014 ReadZone Books Limited

This print edition published in cooperation with Fiction Express, who first published this title in weekly instalments as an interactive e-book.

**FICTION
EXPRESS**

Fiction Express

First Floor Office, 2 College Street,

Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1AN

www.fictionexpress.co.uk

Find out more about Fiction Express on pages 72–73.

Design: Laura Durman & Keith Williams

Cover Image: Shutterstock Images

Printed in Spain by Edelvives

© in the text 2014 Marie-Louise Jensen

The moral right of the author has been asserted.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of ReadZone Books Limited.

ISBN 978-1-783-22457-9

DRAMA CLUB

Marie-Louise Jensen

**FICTION
EXPRESS**

What do other readers think?

Here are some comments left on the Fiction Express blog about this book:

“Drama Club’ is EPIC! I love the characters in it and the actual story!”

Megan Stoves, Staffordshire

“I love the ‘Drama Club’ book, I’m so desperate for the next chapter.”

Holly, York

“Drama Club’ is the best book so far. I love the characters in it.”

James, Telford

“NO.1 FAN I LOVE YOUR BOOKS”

Abdullah, Birmingham

“We are reading ‘Drama Club’ at school and I love it! You are an amazing author.”

Lauren, Staffordshire

Contents

Chapter 1	New Beginnings	7
Chapter 2	Fortunately, Unfortunately	12
Chapter 3	Decisions, Decisions	19
Chapter 4	Dance Drama	25
Chapter 5	Causes and Consequences	33
Chapter 6	Disaster Strikes	38
Chapter 7	Team Work	46
Chapter 8	Cakes and Confrontations	52
Chapter 9	Rows and Revelations	58
Chapter 10	The Final Curtain	65
	About Fiction Express	72
	About the Author	84

*With thanks to my hard-working editor
Laura Durman and all the students who
read and voted on 'Drama Club' when it was
being written as an interactive e-book.*

Chapter 1

New Beginnings

I wait for my friends on the corner of Lime Avenue with a flutter of excitement in my stomach. It's the middle of the day – baking hot – and I'm wishing I hadn't got here early. A wind like a blast from a hairdryer blows down the street, making the litter whirl wildly in the gutter. An empty crisp packet flies up and sticks in someone's dusty hedge: a ragged butterfly caught in a web.

I've been looking forward to today for weeks – the start of our summer drama club, Footlights. I wouldn't like to admit to anyone how excited I am because they might think I'm lame. But for me, Footlights *is* the summer holidays.

Indira is the first to arrive. She strides down the street towards me, her long black hair tumbling over her shoulders. She's taller than me and gorgeous with her creamy brown skin and sparkling dark eyes.

“Hey, Zoe!” she cries as she reaches me.

“Good to see you!” I say, hugging her. “Did you have a nice week away?”

“It was OK,” she replies. “I’m glad to be back though.”

Luchi lopes up to us grinning. He’s dressed in football shorts, a tank top with a loose shirt over it and trainers. As usual, he hasn’t bothered with socks or with the laces. I don’t know how he manages to make being scruffy look cool, but he always does. “Sup?” he says by way of hello. “So where’s Alfie?” We all look at each other and shrug.

“We’d better fetch him,” says Indira.

Alfie’s asleep in his garden, stretched out on the grass in chinos and a t-shirt. Luchi sneaks up and crouches behind him, then shouts “Alfie!” right in his ear.

“Wha?” Alfie sits up hurriedly, rubbing his hand over his face, knocking his glasses crooked.

“Had you forgotten?” demands Indira.

“Absolutely not!” says Alfie groggily. “I’m on it! Was just chilling... soaking up some rays.”

“That reminds me, I need to work on *my* tan this summer,” says Luchi. He grins as he slips off his shirt and glances down at the rich-chocolate hue of his arms. “I’m way too pale after a year in school.”

Alfie laughs. I stare at Luchi’s brown arms, wondering when they got so... muscular. Then I look away, too shy to say anything. But Indira says it. Shyness is not a concept she’s ever bothered with. “You been working out, Luchi?” she asks.

“Nah. This is all natural, innit!” says Luchi, sauntering towards us.

Alfie follows behind, still as skinny as ever. “So where are we going?” he asks.

We all groan. “Footlights!” Indira tells him.