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THE MODEST AUSSIE COZZIE

by Alana Valentine

EXTRACT

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2.

1.

A young woman, dressed in a two piece veil, a skivvy, a long sleeve jersey, a uniform skirt, and track suit pants enters. She begins to run on the spot, or perhaps to bounce a basketball. Hard and fast till she is getting really hot. Sweating, red in the face, really very, very hot. Finally she doubles over, puffing.

AHEDA enters.

AHEDA So what do you call that?

YALDA What?

AHEDA What you're wearing.

YALDA It's my uniform.

AHEDA And who else's?

YALDA Nobody else's.

AHEDA You look hot.

YALDA Thanks?

AHEDA No, not thanks.

YALDA Oh, you mean temperature hot.

AHEDA Yes.

YALDA I'm not. I'm happy.

AHEDA I know. Because you always go that colour when you're really happy. Since you were a young girl.

YALDA Seriously, I feel comfortable.

AHEDA Personally I think you should wear gloves.

YALDA You do not.

AHEDA Sure I do. With the fingers cut out, what do they call them?

YALDA Mittens.

AHEDA No, I think mittens are the ones with the big shape and the thumb.

YALDA So what are the one's with the cut-off fingers?

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AHEDA Fingerless gloves.

YALDA Except they still have part of the fingers.

AHEDA I'll knit you some.

YALDA You will not.

AHEDA I can knit.

YALDA I've never seen you knit.

AHEDA I can sew, how much harder can it be?

YALDA It's like a whole different thing. A whole 'nother thing.

AHEDA Seriously, you look pretty hot out there on that court.

YALDA It's fine. Hockey players have to wear...

AHEDA Little skirts.

YALDA The men. In America. They have all the padding to get used to.

AHEDA It's colder in America.

YALDA I'm fine.

AHEDA You like to be active.

YALDA The first in the family.

AHEDA We are all active people but we were restricted. Not because society restricted us or family. This is how we are. We are modest within. So we didn't really explore the team sport or the activeness in that way but we were active within.

YALDA Well I am active without.

AHEDA Not without layers.

YALDA I told you, I'm fine.

AHEDA You drink lots of water?

YALDA Yeah.

AHEDA You could spray yourself with water.

YALDA You mean and make it even heavier to wear.

AHEDA Sure.

4.

YALDA Well the perspiration pretty much takes care of that.

AHEDA You all wrinkly in there?

YALDA Yeah, I'm a regular broiled chicken.

AHEDA If I sew you something will you try it?

YALDA Sew me what?

AHEDA Will you try it?

2.

AHEDA's home. She is holding a computer cord. Her husband, THEO, enters.

AHEDA Does this computer work?

THEO It's Mike's old computer.

AHEDA I know. But it works right?

THEO I don't know. He gave it to you before Reem.

AHEDA But you've turned it on haven't you?

THEO He gave it to you.

AHEDA Well I've been having babies in case you didn't notice.

THEO I noticed.

AHEDA Three of 'em.

THEO In three years.

AHEDA And believe me when I say I noticed all three.

THEO So plug it in.

AHEDA I didn't need a computer is all I'm saying.

THEO So why do you need it now?

AHEDA I don't. I just want to see if it works.

THEO What do you mean, works?

AHEDA Does it connect to the internet?