

## **Kissing Linford Christie** by Victoria Beesley

This is a story about a girl called Vickie.

At first we see her in a white tracksuit waiting for something special to begin. We know her name is about to go down in Olympic history but we don't know why.

Then time jumps, Vickie gets changed, and we see her as a 7 year old in the year 1992.

She is watching the Barcelona Olympics on television. She sees a British man called Linford Christie win a gold medal in the 100 metres and it makes her very happy.

One week later she is building an obstacle course in the garden with her two friends called Lucy and Leanne. Two people in the audience are chosen to be the characters Lucy and Leanne but they don't have to do anything so don't worry! Vickie tells Lucy and Leanne she thinks she might carry the Olympic torch one day. They don't know what the Olympic torch is so Vickie tells them: a flame is carried from a temple in Greece by people with long torches; it is used to light a big bowl at the stadium hosting the Olympics. This part is shown using movement.

Vickie says goodbye to Lucy and Leanne and goes back to her bedroom. She redecorated her bedroom with pictures of Linford Christie.

Time passes again. Now Vickie is 10 years old. She has been in the school running team but only finished 96th. She has to do a presentation at school about her hobby, which is Linford Christie. She tells her class he is the fastest British runner of all time, that he was born in Jamaica and that he holds his breath for the whole of a race. She shows pictures of him. Vickie's class like her presentation. Except for a boy called Julian. The actor becomes Julian and laughs at Vickie because she is not very fast.

The very next day Vickie is at a book shop. Linford Christie is going to be there. She is going to meet him. When she sees Linford she gives him a hug and he kisses her on the cheek. She thinks this means she is definitely going to run in the Olympics.

Back at school. Vickie likes her class. Her friend Leanne has some exciting news; her dad is going to be on a TV programme called Gladiators (which was very popular in the 1990s). On this TV programme ordinary people compete against really strong athletes in a series of physical challenges. The whole class are going to go together. Vickie is very excited. But then her teacher Mrs Rutherford (played by Vickie) asks her if she wants to run in a 60 metre race at the schools city championships. Vickie asks the audience if she should do the race or go and watch Gladiators. She decides to choose athletics, and tells Leanne she is going to run the race and miss out on Gladiators because she really wants to go to the Olympics one day.

Vickie walks into a stadium. It is the day of the race. She is the only person from her school's athletics team because the rest of the team went to see Gladiators. It's raining. Vickie feels confident. But the race is much harder than she expected. She finishes fifth. She feels sick.

Back at school. Everyone is talking about Gladiators. Vickie feels left out.

Vickie goes back to her bedroom and talks to Linford Christie. Linford Christie starts talking back to her. She is surprised! He tells her he is going to help her get to the Olympics.

Time passes. Vickie is 11 now. She starts a new school. Her friends Lucy and Leanne are not going to be in her class. The only person she knows in her class is her enemy Julian. She is nervous to go into the classroom. She hopes nobody will look at her or start talking to her.

She sits next to group of girls. Kelly Bishop - the biggest girl you have ever seen. Maya and Shani Phillips - twins. And a girl that just laughs. The actor plays all these girls. The group of girls ask Vickie if she has a boyfriend. She does not. But Julian appears and says that Linford Christie is her boyfriend. Kelly Bishop is confused, how can he be her boyfriend? Vickie explains he's not her boyfriend but he has kissed her on the cheek and that means she'll be in the Olympics one day. She ends up shouting this standing on a bench and the whole class is looking at her. Kelly Bishop says she is weird.

It's lunchtime. Vickie goes and eats her lunch sitting on the toilet. She talks to Linford Christie for comfort.

Vickie is now in a sports lesson where they are learning javelin. Her teacher is a man who doesn't like children. He is played by the actor. Vickie throws the javelin a really long way. She is surprised! She is invited to sports club after school. Her teacher is excited and thinks she has potential. But she can only throw the javelin 2 metres. She is not going to be an Olympic javelin thrower. Her teacher is disappointed.

Vickie then tells us Linford Christie has stopped running because he is old. He has become a coach instead. But then he tests positive for drugs. He says he didn't do it. Vickie believes him. She asks Linford Christie if he feels lonely. She tells him that she feels lonely and wishes she had just 1 friend.

Back at school. Vickie's teacher Mrs Gomersall is very kind to Vickie. Her teacher decides that she is going to be team captain on sports day. Vickie is very worried about this and thinks it will make the girls in her class dislike her even more. Vickie stands in front of the class and tells the girls who will be doing what event.

Sports day. Linford Christie comes back to encourage Vickie. Vickie cheers on every girl in her class. She is a good coach. When she is standing on the start line of her event - the 1500 metres - she's exhausted from cheering everyone on. She starts the race fast, but then gets a stitch. But she is still smiling because she loves running. She finishes in last place. But Kelly Bishop tells her it was the best sports day ever and invites her to her birthday party.

At Kelly's birthday party, Vickie feels awkward. But the girl that giggles comes and talks to her. Her name is Claire Sykes and she can actually speak 3 languages. Maya and Shani Phillips are really good at dancing. Kelly Bishop tells Vickie she wanted to be in the school show but was too scared. Vickie says she'll help her next year. Kelly and Vickie become good friends. They get older and watch the Olympics together.

Time passes and Vickie goes to drama school to become an actor. She is scared on her first day but starts talking to a woman called Ishbel. They become friends. Ishbel thinks Vickie might still make it to the Olympics. Ishbel gets Vickie a place in the 2012 Olympics, carrying the Olympic torch.

We're back to where the play started. Vickie is standing on a street in Glasgow. She is about to carry the Olympic torch. Her friends have all come to watch.

The End.