



## Chapter One - Shorty Comes Home

'Shut up!' shouted Sam, and he ran into the house.

From the kitchen window, Sam could see his brother and his father, but he couldn't hear them. He decided not to go outside. He watched for a long time. Then, he heard the door open and his mother walked into the kitchen. 'Hello, Sam,' she said. 'Good day at school? Where's your father?'

'In the garden. He's talking to Shorty.'

'Your brother's home early,' said Sam's mum.

'I know and he isn't very happy.'

'What's wrong, Sameer?' Sam's mum was afraid.

Then, Shorty looked up. He saw his mum and brother at the kitchen window.

'Shorty's crying\* like a baby!' said Sam. 'Why's he crying?'

A short time later, they understood why.

'Someone took some money from the boathouse,' said Shorty. 'Everyone thinks it was me. The money was in my bag, but I didn't take it; someone put it there. It wasn't *me*.'

'But why did someone do that?' asked his father.

'I don't know. But, I'm not in the squad any more and everyone thinks I took the money.'

'Of course you didn't!' said Sam. 'There's an answer to this. We'll find it, I know.'

**to cry** people cry when they are sad and babies cry when they are hungry

