

## Paper clip story: The story of Lars

**Reading note:** Please pause briefly at... and at the prompts so that the listeners can follow the story.

A little boy, let's call him "Lars", friendly, open, nice, grows up with siblings in the family. Lars develops splendidly, goes to school, is popular and learns quite well.

**Prompt:** *Make a small tree out of the paper clip..*

Lars, now 9 years old, loves playing football and standing in goal. The coach, Hans, really likes Lars and encourages him in the belief that he is particularly talented...

One day, Hans asks Lars to stay a little longer after training because he wants to do a special training session with him for the weekend tournament. Lars feels flattered and agrees. The others have left. While Hans is still tidying up, he asks Lars if he would like to switch on the DVD player in the coach's office. He had chosen a special film, just for "real men". If Lars had the courage, he could start it right now...

Of course Lars has courage! - But what he then sees is terribly embarrassing. He doesn't want to look at all, would love to run home...

Hans has now come into the coach's office and sits down on the couch next to Lars. "That's something for real men! I can't show the other boys anything like that. - Don't you like it? Or are you a "sissy"?"

Of course Lars doesn't want to be a sissy! Hans goes one better, puts his arm around Lars and says confidentially:

"Or you can run along home to mum. I wouldn't have thought that you were just like the others... Well, there's nothing I can do, I can't promote you either. What a pity with such talent! But don't get the idea that I forced you. After all, you wanted to switch on the DVD player!" . ...

The whole situation is super uncomfortable for Lars, but he looks on bravely...

**Prompt:** *The tree is drying up. Begin to bend the paper clip apart.*

Lars doesn't like the secret at all, but is so ashamed that he keeps quiet, even weeks and months later. Because Hans specifically promotes Lars as a goalkeeper. Hans has now taken to regularly asking Lars to come into the coach's office after training....

In the 4th grade, Lars and his school class see the play "My-body belongs to me!"...

Then he plucks up courage and tells his teacher about Hans...

She believes him, talks to his parents and accompanies him to a counselling centre...

and everything will be fine!

**Prompt:** Now bend the wire back into a paper clip!

**Adaption of a story by Christa van Meegen.**