

THE “PITCH” PERFECT CRIME

A VOCABULARY-BOOSTING SHORT
STORY



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BIG WORDS MADE SIMPLE.

The “Pitch” Perfect Crime: A Vocabulary-Boosting Short Story

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Fat Amy sneezed.

Her fellow Bellas, singers from the premiere **a cappella** group at Barden University, **shied** back in a way they hadn't since THE GREAT SOPHOMORE FART. Their motivation, however, wasn't prompted by a **mere** desire to avoid the **malodorous emission**, as it was then.

No. A sneeze in December meant something far more **sinister**: germs, the kind that cause your throat to go scratchy, your nose to go stuffy, and your chance at beating the Treblemakers in the semi-finals to **dissipate** into nothingness.

"It's nothing," Fat Amy sneezed again. "Back to the riff-off everyone. Poppin bottles in the..."

"Ice, Ice, Baby," Becca chimed in uncertainly. "Vanilla Ice, Ice..."

"Baby got back," Aubrey, the snooty blonde and co-captain of the Bellas finished, holding up a hand for silence. "Fat Amy, this is serious. How could you let this happen?"

"I don't know," she said, wiping snot from her nose with the back of her hand. The other Bellas **discreetly** stepped further back, and Amy continued, "unless..."

"Unless?"

"I've been going to the library," Fat Amy confessed, in tones one might use to admit stealing gum from a store.

"And?"

"Well, nothing *good* happens in a library, does it?"

A cappella - Without musical instruments; using only the voice

Shied - Jump suddenly aside in fright or alarm

Mere - Small or slight

Malodorous - Smelling bad

Emission - The production and release of something, usually a gas

Sinister - Harmful or wicked

Dissipate - Disappear or scatter into thin air

Discreetly - Subtly; in a way designed to draw as little attention as possible

"I literally have no idea what you're talking about."

"It was the butler in the library with the candlestick," Amy air-bashed a ghost over the head. "I've been sitting at the same table each night."

Becca **interjected**, "Are you suggesting someone *tried* to get you sick? That some **elaborate** scheme is **afoot**?"

"Not *someone*," Fat Amy said. "Bumper. We're on the outs. It was Bumper in the library with a tissue. A soggy tissue, smeared on my desk before I got there. I'm sure of it."

The faces of the Bellas **contorted** into various expressions of disgust.

"In that case," Aubrey said, "we have some revenge to plot. Bellas, gather round. Fat Amy, go sit in bleachers. Holler down any ideas."

Fat Amy gave Aubrey a look of **withering scorn**, sitting down on the gym floor. "Fine here, thanks. And just think, if I weren't so brilliant, this could've been the perfect crime..."

"The *pitch* perfect crime, more like," Aubrey snapped, pointing to the bleachers. "And unless you want to get pitch slapped, I'd get moving. Bellas, hand sanitizer, then **vengeance**."

Interjected - Interrupted

Elaborate - Involving complex design and planning

Afoot - Happening

Contorted - Twisted or bent out of shape

Withering - Intense; scorching; intending to make the other person feel bad

Scorn - Contempt; the feeling that a person is worthless

Vengeance - Revenge; punishment in response for a wrong

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