**2c Page 27 READING TEXT**

Pre-Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

Bolivian wrestlers

In El Alto in Bolivia, an audience is sitting around a huge wrestling ring. The spectators are getting impatient and so they start to scream: ‘Bring them on! Bring them on!’ Suddenly, an announcer speaks into the microphone: ‘Ladies and Gentlemen. It’s time for Yolanda and Claudina!’ The crowd shouts and applauds with excitement.

Two women enter. Yolanda and Claudina walk through the crowd like pop stars. They smile and greet their fans until suddenly the music stops. Both women jump into the wrestling ring and within seconds, Claudina hits Yolanda. Yolanda grabs Claudina. Claudina tries to escape, but Yolanda doesn’t let her go. She spins Claudina round and throws her down on the ﬂoor. The audience goes crazy!

As Claudina lies on the ﬂoor, Yolanda is smiling and waving to the crowd. She doesn’t see Claudina get up behind her. Then Claudina pushes Yolanda onto the ropes. The crowd shouts at her. Claudina is the baddie in this competition so when Yolanda – the goodie – gets up and throws Claudina out of the ring, the crowd cheers with happiness. One minute Yolanda is winning. The next minute, Claudina is winning.

Wrestling in Bolivia is incredibly popular and after a hard day’s work many people love watching this mixture of sport, drama and entertainment. Usually, the wrestling matches are between men wearing masks and special costumes. But in El Alto you can also see women wrestling where it’s especially popular.

Yolanda is one of the top women wrestlers. Her father was also a wrestler so it’s a family tradition. During the day she makes clothes. She also has two daughters who both look like her. Would they like to become wrestlers one day? Yolanda doesn’t think so. ‘My daughters ask me why I do this. It’s dangerous and they complain that wrestling doesn’t bring any money into the house.’ But Yolanda loves wrestling because of her fans, and she has lots of them!

One fan called Esperanza Cancina pays $1.50 (a large part of her salary) to sit near the ring. She explains why she likes watching the wrestling: ‘It’s a distraction. The women wrestlers ﬁght here and we laugh and forget our problems for three or four hours. At home, we’re sad.’

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