

Messi By Guillem Balague

i have seen the player who will inherit my place in argentine football and his name is messi diego maradona fully updated to include the 2022 world cup triumph messi s transfer to inter miami as lionel messi raised the world cup triumphantly into the air the world watched on in awe messi s final peak conquered his final dream achieved it was the fairy tale ending to a glittering career yet despite delivering argentina their third world cup messi s time at paris saint germain came to a dramatic conclusion and miami awaited the argentinian legend guillem balagué has had unprecedented access to messi s inner circle including the player himself his coaches team mates and family from tracing the origins of messi s precocious talent in rosario argentina to chronicling his peerless seventeen season career at barcelona and his tumultuous parisian adventure guillem takes us behind the scenes of messi s world cup triumph and his long desired move to the mls this is an epic authoritative and compelling account of an enigmatic footballing genius i can tell my grandkids one day that i coached lionel messi pep guardiola

a must read for anyone who's doubted pep's influence from handing the power to barça's homegrown crop to never betraying his childhood romanticism of the game four four two balague's insightful biography presents guardiola as a relentless perfectionist a man obsessed with the minutiae of football often unable to switch off sport this fully updated edition of the international bestseller includes manchester city's incredible 2017 18 league triumph pep guardiola is the most successful and sought after football coach in the world after being appointed first team manager in 2008 he transformed barcelona into arguably the greatest club side of all time winning thirteen trophies in four years and he won the double twice in his three years in charge of bayern munich he then faced his biggest challenge yet when he joined manchester city in 2016 to turn them into a team that consistently wins in the most difficult of leagues and a regular challenger in the champions league but in only his second year at the club he had turned a good side into memorable one leading them to the premier league title in record breaking style and doing it the guardiola way guillem balagué has followed pep's career from the outset and has had direct access to the man and his inner circle for this

updated edition this then is the definitive portrait of pep guardiola and his relentless pursuit of footballing perfection

pre order rise of the villans guillem balague s new book now out 25 september the definitive award winning biography of cristiano ronaldo fully updated to include the 2022 world cup ronaldo s explosive exit from manchester united and his record breaking transfer to al nassr as the qatar world cup opened to worldwide jubilation cristiano ronaldo s second spell at manchester united reached an abrupt conclusion it was not to be the fairy tale ending to a glittering career instead over the two seasons it had snowballed into a toxic standoff between himself the board and newly appointed manager erik ten hag the theatre s dream was over on 22 november 2022 ronaldo s contract was terminated in this compelling account guillem balagué draws on impeccable sources first hand interviews and unprecedented access taking us on a journey from madeira to manchester and onto spain italy and saudi arabia from ronaldo s tutelage under sir alex ferguson to becoming the biggest galáctico of them all at real madrid and captaining portugal to the first silverware in their history at the uefa euro 2016 guillem chronicles ronaldo s career in its entirety this is nothing less than the definitive portrait of a true icon of modern football who has reached the very heights of the beautiful game and cemented his place as one of the greatest players of all time

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enthralling fourfourtwo stirring dublin herald fascinating red and white kop astonishing bleacher report the sunday times bestseller twentieth anniversary edition fully updated with a new foreword from rafael benitez when rafael benitez was appointed manager of under achieving liverpool at the start of the 2004 05 season the reaction of many fans was who the is rafael benitez after a wonderful spell at valencia the spaniard arrived to take over liverpool s famous boot room determined to change the club s fortunes and win over a disillusioned kop in just one season benitez s importation of spanish players coaching methods and diet led to a revolution usurping josé mourinho s chelsea to reach the european champions league final in istanbul it was a match that would go down in history as one of the greatest of all time at half time liverpool were 3 0 down to carlo ancelotti s ac milan a team many regarded as the best in the world filled with stars such as paolo maldini kaká and andrea pirlo however against all the odds liverpool produced a stunning comeback with goals from club captain steven gerrard vladimir Šmicer and xabi alonso before a dramatic penalty shoot out saw the reds clinch european glory featuring exclusive interviews with benitez himself assistant manager pako ayestarán and key first team players this is the behind the scenes story of rafa s remarkable success with liverpool

maradona is the definitive new biography of a true global icon from world renowned football writer and journalist guillem balagué diego armando maradona was widely acclaimed as a genius one of the greatest footballers of all time he was also one of the most controversial in an international career with argentina he earned 91 caps and scored 34 goals and played in four fifa world cups with his unforgettable hand of god goal and unsurpassed second one in the 1986 quarter final against england he captained his nation and led them to victory over west germany in the final in mexico his vision passing ball control and dribbling skills and his presence and leadership on the field often electrified his own team s overall performance maradona s club career included dazzling spells in his own country at argentinos juniors boca juniors and newell s old boys and in europe with barcelona napoli and sevilla yet his life was one of relentless media attention including tales of drug abuse and constant health issues based on in depth interviews and first hand stories guillem balagué s masterly biography represents a psychological and sociological approach to the legend this journey of exploration takes guillem to argentina spain italy and dubai along the way he asks what fosters such adulation and how this adoration engendered a self destructive personality even after his untimely death in 2020 maradona continues to fascinate his divine status seemingly preserved for ever

the sunday times bestseller the exclusive behind the scenes story of the mauricio pochettino revolution at spurs told in his own words since joining the club in 2014 mauricio pochettino has transformed tottenham from underachievers into genuine title contenders in the process he has marked himself out as one of the best managers in the world he has done so by promoting an attacking pressing style of football and by nurturing home grown talent fully endearing himself to the spurs faithful along the way guillem balagué was granted unprecedented access to pochettino and his backroom staff for the duration of the 2016 17 season and was therefore able to draw on extensive interview material with pochettino his family his closest assistants players such as dele alli and harry kane and even a very rare conversation with daniel levy to tell the manager s story in his own words from pochettino s early years as a player and coach to his transformation of tottenham into one of the best teams in england the book uniquely reveals the inner workings of the man and of his footballing philosophy it also lays bare what it takes to run a modern day football team competing at the highest level over the course of a single campaign the result is the most comprehensive and compelling portrait of a manager and of a club in the premier league era

follow the history of fc barcelona on their meteoric rise to fame from 1899 to the present day barca celebrates the rise of the most dominant soccer team in the modern era it is not just that the team has won everything there is to win it is that they do it with a style rarely seen in the world of soccer they have excited fans not just in catalonia but all around the globe making household names of xavi messi iniesta ronaldinho romario maradona cruyff and many more over more than a century of soccer excellence this book traces the club s history from its formation in 1899 the trials and tribulations of growth the battle to emerge from the shadow politically and sportingly of madrid the blossoming of the club in the 1970s european glory in the 1980s and 1990s and now this juggernaut of soccer that brushes aside all comers features on the legends of barcelona give deeper insight into the clubs key players and the lively informative text is brought to life by dramatic action images

featuring exclusive interviews with unai emery monchi morgan rogers and more this is the behind the scenes account of unai emery s aston villa revolution from the award winning bestseller guillem balagué in october 2022 unai emery was appointed manager of aston villa despite being one of england s most historic clubs emery was taking charge of a team in turmoil and hovering above the relegation zone in the premier

league but in his very first match villa produced a statement victory deftly beating manchester united 3 1 at villa park it was a sign of things to come in his first full season in charge emery would lead the club to a top four finish qualifying for the champions league for the first time in over four decades guillem balagué has had unparalleled access to unai emery his backroom staff and the villa squad ever since the spaniard was appointed manager in 2022 from growing up in the basque region to becoming one of the most exciting coaches today rise of the villans reveals the inner workings of emery s psyche guillem takes readers inside bodymoor heath to show how unai has transformed villa into an exciting side renowned for their direct passing high energy and devastating counter attacks at the core of the book are villa s passionate fans who outline why they believe club and manager are the perfect match with the holte end roaring into life as villa park welcomed the return of european football s most prestigious club competition it was clear for all to see unai emery had awoken the sleeping giant

whether it s terry venables keeping his wife up late at night with diagrams on scraps of paper spread over the eiderdown or the classic tv sitcom of moving the salt pepper around the table top in the transport cafe football tactics are now part of the fabric of everyday life steve mclaren s recent switch to an untried 3 5 2 against croatia will probably go down as the moment he lost his slim credibility gained from dropping david beckham jose mourinho meanwhile is often brought to task for trying to smuggle the long ball game back into english football his defence being his need to break the lines of banks of defenders and midfielders jonathan wilson is an erudite and detailed writer but never loses a sense of the grand narrative sweep and here he pulls apart the modern game traces the world history of tactics back from modern pioneers such as rinus michels and valeriy lobanovskiy the swiss origins of catenaccio and herbert chapman right back to beginning where chaos reigned along the way he looks at the lives of great players and thinkers who shaped the game and probes why the english in particular have proved themselves unwilling to grapple with the abstract this is a modern classic of football writing to rank with david winner s brilliant orange and simon kuper s football against the enemy

though forever in the spotlight the latest act of david beckham s career played out on foreign fields has outshone all previous drama full of intrigue subplots and emotional highs and lows his falling out with ferguson and leaving old trafford the bitter power struggle for his signature between barca and real the hype of his inauguration and the tour of the far east the media circus decamping to madrid monitoring his every move the behind the scenes politics of marketing and spin and the accusations that he had been bought to sell shirts silencing his critics with performances that made him the fulcrum of the team then finally falling from grace with the rest of the galacticos as their pursuit of footballing perfection began to crumble this is the story of that season told through spanish eyes the players backroom staff pundits and ordinary fans by a man who was there as it happened

when rafael benitez was appointed manager of under achieving liverpool at the start of the 2004 2005 season the reaction of many fans was who the is rafael benitez the liverpool fans had grown used to french manager gerard houllier but he had been a fan of the club himself since his days as a teacher on merseyside a spaniard with admittedly a wonderful record at valencia was going to take over management of liverpool s famous boot room and try and win over a disillusioned kop but in one season benitez s importation of spanish players coaching methods and diet has led to a revolution even usurping jose mourinho s chelsea whereby the team has ended the season winning the ultimate trophy for any european club the european champions league no fan will ever forget the comeback from a 3 0 deficit to a 3 3 scoreline then dramatic success in the

penalty shoot out with the co operation of benitez himself highly regarded spanish soccer pundit guillem balague explains how he did it

other spanish theatres challenges established opinions on modern iberian theatre by considering the roles of contrasting figures and companies who have impacted upon both the practice and the perception of spanish and european stages in questioning the primacy of the dramatist this pioneering study offers a new interpretation of a nation s theatrical culture that has been viewed primarily through the prisms of a select number of playwrights accordingly many of the conclusions reached are new ones and the case for acknowledging the wide influence of spanish practitioners on theatre in europe and the americas is made in persuasive terms through a bold documentation and interrogation of key productions and their reception both at home and abroad other spanish theatres focuses on the doing of performance asking provocative questions around how performances are tested against the texts that remain in a broad and detailed study delgado selects six case studies which map out alternative readings of a nation s theatrical innovation through the twentieth century muse and mentor to federico garcia lorca margarita xirgu theatrical innovator and influence on orson welles enrique rambal tragedienne maria casares feted by george craig camus genet and cocteau actress producer and director nuria espert international director lluis pasqual and catalan performance company la cubana

issues for nov 1957 include section accessions aanwinsten sept 1957

la biographie la plus complète jamais écrite du footballeur le plus populaire de la planète au départ il y avait une promesse celle faite à guillem balague par ronaldo et son célèbre agent jorge mendes de collaborer à une biographie autorisée de la star mais une petite phrase du messi de balague déplut à cr7 la promesse s envola et balague y gagna en liberté et son travail en intérêt ce qu il y perdit en parole officielle cette liberté et son talent pour l investigation lui permettent notamment de revenir sur l enfance difficile de ronaldo à madère auprès d un père alcoolique et dépressif son bizutage humiliant à old trafford et ses relations parfois tumultueuses avec ferguson à manchester ses transferts avortés à liverpool ou arsenal son incroyable obsession pour sa propre image des révélations inédites sur les coulisses tortueuses de son transfert au real et bien sûr les raisons de penser qu il pourrait très bientôt porter le maillot du psg mais balague décrit aussi un génie du football que son culte de la perfection amène à se dépasser sans cesse et à affoler à la fois les groupies et les statistiques sommaire 1 madère une si paisible petite île 2 lisbonne un destin en marche 3 l arrivée à manchester united quand le football n est plus un jeu d enfant 4 l épanouissement à manchester 5 la vérité sur son transfert au real madrid 6 cinq années de rêve au real 7 ronaldo le real et l avenir les montagnes russes calendrier la sortie du livre coïncide avec les demi finales de la ligue des champions dont le real madrid est l un des principaux favoris elle précède l euro dont ronaldo sera l une des stars mais surtout elle intervient au moment où doit se décider la destination de cr7 pour la prochaine saison le psg fait le forcing et est l un des clubs les plus évoqués a fortiori depuis la conversation mystérieuse entre ronaldo et laurent blanc à l issue du récent real psg

from johan cruyff to lionel messi discover the legacy of the world s greatest football club through the players that captained it to glory award winning author guillem balagué takes us on a fascinating tour of fc barcelona journeying through the storied walls of the camp nou and the legacies of barça s captains to offer a history of the catalan club guillem covers captains from all eras of barça s past from historic greats such as joan gamper and johan cruyff decorated legends like carles puyol and xavi to recent captains alexia putellas lionel messi and sergio busquets in doing so balagué crafts a portrait of barcelona s unique place in football as a sporting cultural and social institution guillem

analyses the psychological profiles of barça's captains delving into the reasons why they were chosen to wear the armband and the leadership skills necessary to guide a team to victory through exclusive interviews with some of the most emblematic captains including lionel messi and andrés iniesta balagué offers a vision of their commitment character dedication and responsibility we discover how they led barça to glory how they maintained focus and discipline on the field and how they left a lasting legacy on the catalan club and its fans in turn we also witness their most difficult moments and their weaknesses but it is their ability to overcome them that makes them true giants of football and legendary captains of fc barcelona this is the definitive history of fc barcelona told through its captains

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