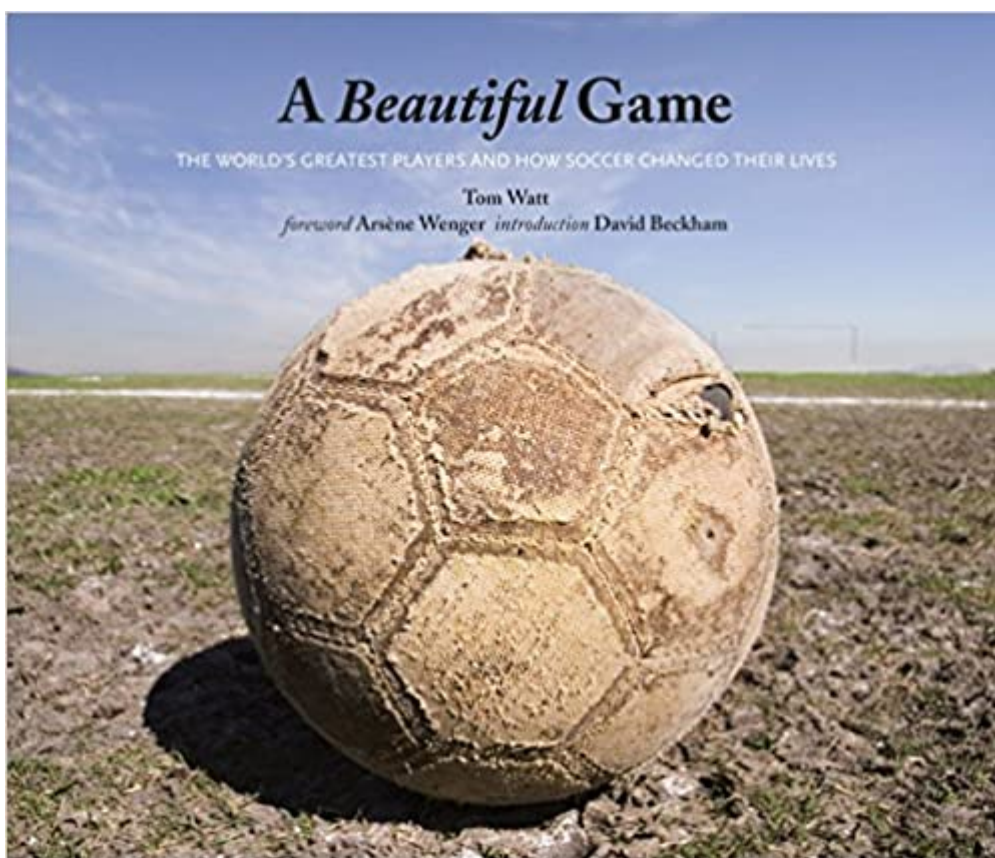


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A Beautiful Game: The World's Greatest Players And How Soccer Changed Their Lives



Synopsis

From Tom Watt, author of *My Side*, the best-selling autobiography of David Beckham, comes *A Beautiful Game*. Combining stunning photographs with the world's greatest players sharing their personal stories of how soccer transformed their lives, this inspiring book is an intoxicating celebration of the beautiful game. • Available in time for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Don't let the long title intimidate you: This large-format offering is filled with gorgeous photos and candid interviews with some of the sport's most accomplished players, who share their love of the game. • (Washington Post) ...lush, evocative photography... • (goal.com) ...readers will no doubt find something to identify with in the anecdotes of great players. • (goal.com) ...the undemanding book is fun to flip through and 5 percent of the revenue from the book goes to UNICEF. Recommended. • (Los Angeles Daily News) ...a generous collection of eye-catching photographs, this coffee-table book lets some of the world's best players track back to their days as youngsters and write about how the sport seduced them. • (New York Times) *A Beautiful Game* also offers an interesting data set: a rare chance to consider the question of what makes a player from the perspectives of the players themselves. • (Pitch Invasion) ...Full of vibrant images, the book is an inspiring ode to the sport. • (San Francisco Chronicle) ...a great promise that's beautifully executed. • (Oregonian (online))

Wherever you are on earth, it's only a matter of time before you come across children playing

soccer. Another five minutes and you will probably find yourself having a ball rolled to your feet as an invitation to join in the game. Soccer is a common language and a culture shared: a joy, a passion, an escape, and an affirmation of identity understood and celebrated by children and their parents in every country around the globe. For this unique collaborative project, soccer writer Tom Watt talked to the world's top players about growing up and falling in love with the game:

Argentina's Lionel Messi and Brazil's Gilberto Silva; England's David James and Scotland's Craig Gordon; Italy's Fabio Cannavaro, Spain's Iker Casillas, and France's Franck Ribéry; South Africa's Benni McCarthy and Nigeria's Nwankwo Kanu; USA's Landon Donovan and Japan's Shunsuke Nakamura; and the world's most famous player, David Beckham. *A Beautiful Game* tells their stories, in the players' own words—stories of boys who would grow up to be heroes for a new generation of young players and fans. They look back to their childhoods: to their family homes, to their schoolrooms, to the friends they grew up with, and to the places where they first played the game that has made them stars. The players' words are brought to life with over 160 full-color images that offer rare, emotive, and striking insights into childhood all over the world, and celebrate soccer's ability to touch the lives of children and adults wherever the beautiful game is played. Five percent of the originating publisher's revenue from sales of the book worldwide will benefit selected UNICEF sports-related projects.

A moving read even if you aren't a fan of soccer. This book is about people who have an intense passion for something and follow it - no matter the struggle. It also shows how different soccer players got to where they are in very different ways. Some arrive on the world stage by playing 3 v 3 with their friends on the street with a makeshift ball while others have technical coaches from the age of 3. This book shows the beauty of soccer and how it can bring all backgrounds together for the love of a game. For those aspiring soccer players, it will inspire them by seeing the passion these guys have and reading the wisdoms they acquired to become the best. This is a great read for those who love true stories of the indomitable human spirit and those who love soccer. I wish there was another book to follow this one with some of the newer players arriving on the scene.

When I purchased this book I was a little surprised by its physical size as it is very large. That being said, I think this book is a great representation of the beauty of soccer, the way that it is written where the players tell about how they fell in love with the game is really interesting especially because some great players are featured. This book more or less changed the way I address the game whenever I am able to play where now I try to smile as often as possible while playing and

remember the game for what I loved when I was younger growing up.

We bought this book for christmas 2011. I have 4 sons between 9-13 who have almost memorized the book. short bios on players from humble backgrounds are not only inspiring, but a geography lesson as well. The big format makes the book easily approachable, and you find yourself wanting to read "just one more". The book puts a human face on professional soccer, and helps focus on the journey more than the success. Highly recommended for young and old alike.

My life long friend over the past 70 years grew up in England and played and coached soccer for most of his life. What could I give him for Christmas that he would actually acknowledge and even read for pleasure. This book was a real winner. It proudly sits on his coffee table and he won't shut-up about its contents. I don't like soccer and I love silence. But in the long run, I pleased my friend. It's all worth it.

For a budding soccer high school player He said he heard of this book, but thought you couldn't get. His mother (also a soccer player) was as happy to receive this into their home!

For any enthusiast of the game, this book not only illuminates the game we all know and love, but it's also a tool for learning what's not taught enough on and off the field: a love for the game, respect for it, and a desire to see it flourish. It's insightful through the stories between the covers, each player giving his perspective of soccer and sharing therein a little of what drives them to lace up their cleats time and time again.

I bought this as a gift for one of my nephews who loves the sport. I come from a "die-hard soccer family" - 3 generations strong; coaching, refereeing and playing, This is the perfect book for all soccer fans who are interested in the history and techniques of soccer, whether a coach, referee, player, or armchair warrior.. "A Beautiful Game..." is being enjoyed by my nephew and entire family.

I gave it as a present.

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