



Title information



Once Upon a Time in La Liga

Spanish Football's Forgotten Tales

By Brendan Madden

Key features

- Scours Spain's rich modern history, uncovering extraordinary untold football stories
- Madden delves into archives and secret government files and conducts exclusive interviews with key figures, offering unparalleled insights into hidden layers of Spanish football
- Introduces compelling characters, unsung heroes and cunning villains, giving a voice to their astonishing stories
- Explores the intricate relationship between Spanish football and the country's complex politics, vibrant culture and diverse regional identities
- Takes you all across Spain, from Galicia's rugged coast to the musical streets of Cádiz, capturing the essence of the nation's footballing spirit
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

Description

Brendan Madden delves into archives and secret files, and speaks to those who were there, to uncover Spanish football's most incredible hidden stories. In this passionately crafted collection brimming with compelling characters, you'll learn about the team-mates persecuted by Franco's regime for a humble protest, how the fastest winger in the land became a Nazi spy, the boy abandoned at an orphanage who became a rebellious talent, plus the two rising stars caught up in a deadly hotel fire. Then there are the boardroom figures who defied ETA and Galicia's drug cartels, Johan Cruyff's bizarre stint at Levante, and the extraordinary life of the man who gave the world 'tiki-taka'. Discover how a Blackpool lad became the cherished voice of Spanish TV, the seismic goal that shook Camp Nou in the middle of the night, and the bond between Cádiz's carnival and its football club. This meticulously researched anthology offers a vivid, deeply human glimpse into Spanish football – and the culture, politics and history that shaped it.

Details

Publication: 8 September 2025
Price: £16.99
ISBN 13: 9781836801689
Format: 216mm x 138mm
Binding: Paperback
Extent: 288 pages
Category: Football

Trade Orders to:

Macmillan Distribution (MDL),
Cromwell Place, International Business Park,
Lime Tree Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 8YJ

Telephone: 01256 302692
Email: orders@macmillan.co.uk