



## Title information



### Out of the Blue

Chelsea's Unlikely Champions League Triumph

By Gary Thacker

#### Key features

- Explores the troubled era of Andre Villas-Boas and the club's revival under Roberto Di Matteo using a range of contemporary sources
- Examining the events of Chelsea's Champions League Final defeat four years earlier, the book reaches back to place the story of the 2012 campaign into context
- Tells the story of the unlikely recovery against Napoli, the hairy night of the second leg against Benfica at Stamford Bridge, the pulsating games against Barcelona and a dramatic denouement in Bayern Munich's own stadium
- Features thoughts and reflections of journalists working during that season, interviews with Chelsea fans and the views of celebrated writers from across Europe
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

#### Description

By the early months of 2012, it was clear that the appointment of Andre Villas-Boas as head coach at Chelsea wasn't delivering the required success. Instead, the club was spiralling towards its worst season of the Roman Abramovich era. On 4 March, Villas-Boas was dismissed, with his former assistant Roberto Di Matteo made interim head coach until the end of the season. Struggling in the league and with their place in the Champions League in peril, it was an appointment designed to make the best of things until a permanent replacement could be sought in the summer. Instead, under Di Matteo's guidance, Chelsea embarked on a run of performances that not only led to an FA Cup triumph, but resurrected their European hopes with improbable victories over Napoli, Benfica and Guardiola's all-conquering Barcelona before, against all odds, winning the Champions League by defeating Bayern Munich in their own stadium. This is the story of a triumph that came out of the blue.

#### Details

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