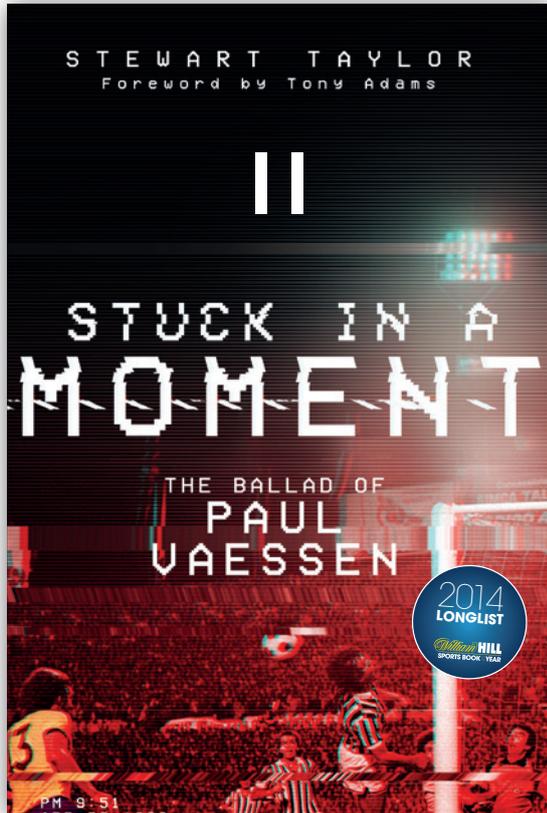




Title information



Stuck in a Moment

The Ballad of Paul Vaessen

By Stewart Taylor

Key features

- Important reminder of the fate which can await footballers once the adoration and applause comes to an end
- An emotional book, full of depth and sensitivity
- Long-listed for William Hill prize 2014; short-listed for Cross Awards Best New Sports Writer 2015
- Includes the bittersweet stories of fellow apprentice, Nicky Law, plus Paul's family and many star Arsenal team-mates
- Foreword by Arsenal and England legend Tony Adams
- 'Story retold with great feeling and skill by Stewart Taylor in a fine biography' – *Backpass*
- 'A gripping read' – *FourFourTwo*

Description

For some players, the final whistle heralds the beginning of an infinitely more difficult chapter in their lives. Some simply find it impossible to cope, replacing one addiction with another. Not well known is the story of Paul Vaessen, perhaps the most powerful and tragic tale of them all. Paul was the Bermondsey boy who rose from working-class roots to overnight fame in Turin when in April 1980, as an unknown 18-year-old, he scored one of the most dramatic goals in Arsenal's distinguished history. But all too soon Paul would discover how fragile and fickle the world of football could be as he experienced unforgiving injuries, loss of form and merciless barracking by his own fans. Just three years down the line, he was on the scrapheap, discarded by the game he'd devoted his young life to, and descending quickly into the only other world he knew, that of drugs. Paul would spend his lonely final days reliving his moment of glory with anybody willing to listen, that one moment in which he had effectively become stuck.

Details

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