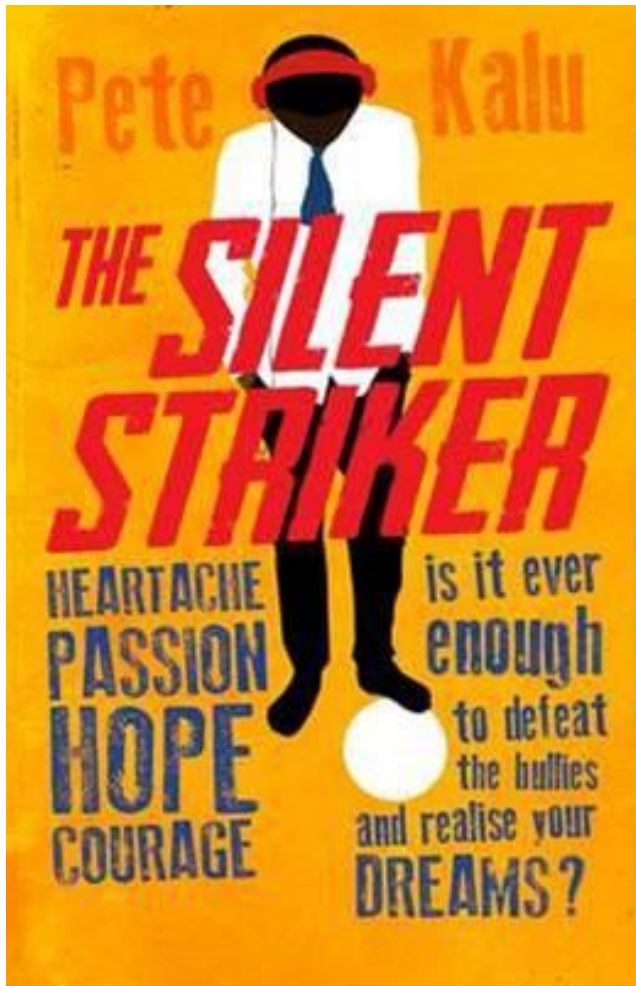


# If you love football

## Recommended Reading



Marcus lives and breathes football. It seems he might even have the makings of a professional player. However, Marcus' life is about to change.

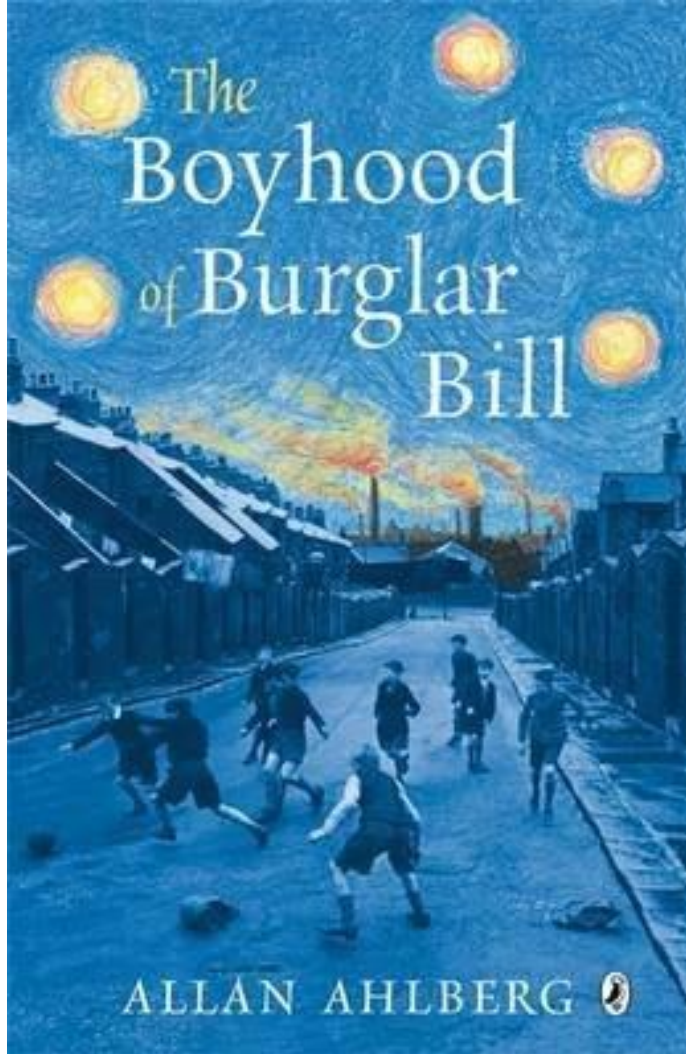
For one thing, Marcus finds that he has acquired a girlfriend. Then there's the fact that he's getting into trouble in school. Finally, he discovers that he is losing his hearing.

This is neither a book 'about' deafness or disability, nor is it just another stock football story. Kalu deftly blends these themes together as part of a richly convincing backdrop of inner city life, a special measures school, and a family with its own set of problems, preoccupations and quirks.

There are uncomfortable reminders that racism hasn't yet been fully 'kicked out' of grassroots football, as well as a constructive message about how to confront the unacceptable and bigoted 'banter'.

Meanwhile, where deafness is concerned, the overriding message is both positive and powerful. Marcus' reaction to the diagnosis is typically teenage (indeed human). It's sensitively handled, and we understand his conflicting feelings on trying out hearing aids.

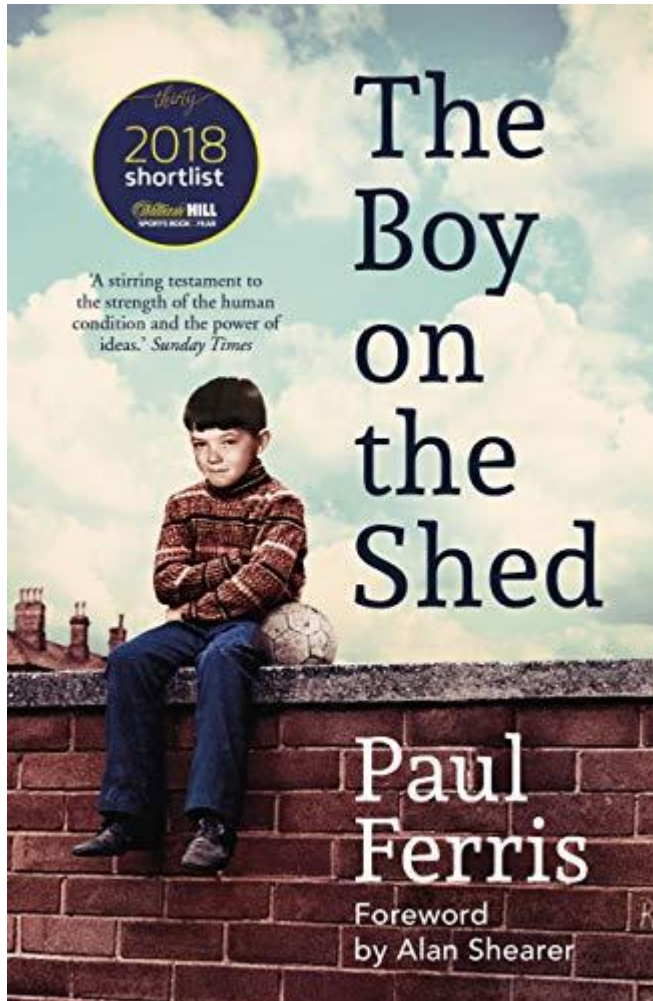
Ultimately, however, Marcus comes to realise that the greatest obstacle he faces is his own attitude.



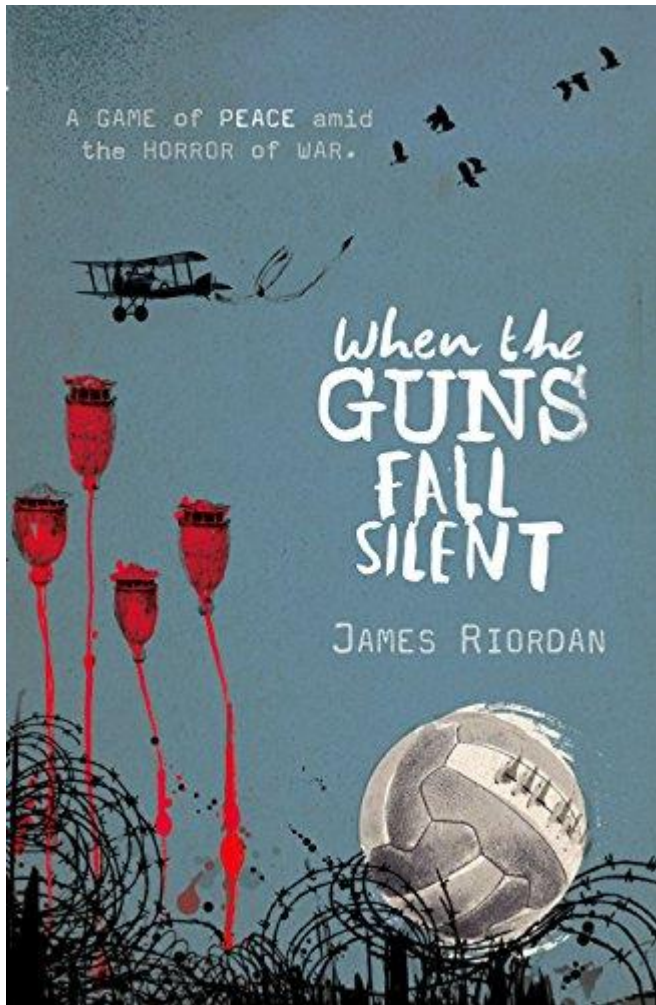
It is 1953, Coronation Year, and in Oldbury Town there is to be a local football competition, the Coronation Cup. Rood End Primary enters its two best teams, but there are a few others who want to make their mark too.

Malt Shovel Rovers is a team of odds and ends that includes: a girl, an infant and a wordless goalie. They acquire, in suspicious circumstances, a parcel of football shirts, and before long they have started to win games and supporters.

This is a warm-hearted and humorous story. It is as much about friendship and relationships as it is about football and is the second book in which Allan Ahlberg explores his own childhood. The pull of nostalgia will ensure the interest of adults too.



*The Boy on the Shed* is a story of love and fate. At 16, Paul Ferris becomes Newcastle United's youngest-ever first-teamer. Like many a tricky winger from Northern Ireland, he is hailed as 'the new George Best'.



Jack, standing among the war graves, sees a face he recognizes. Suddenly, it's 1914 again and he's a young lad back in the trenches. Visions of killing and misery come to him with horrible clarity.

But then Jack remembers too the incredible moment when the guns fell silent for a short time, and fighting gave way to football on the frozen ground of No-Man's-Land.

This amazing story, based on true facts from the First World War, will transport readers back to the war fields of France and show that even in times of conflict and extreme sadness, there is always hope.

# A LITTLE PIECE OF GROUND

ELIZABETH  
LAIRD

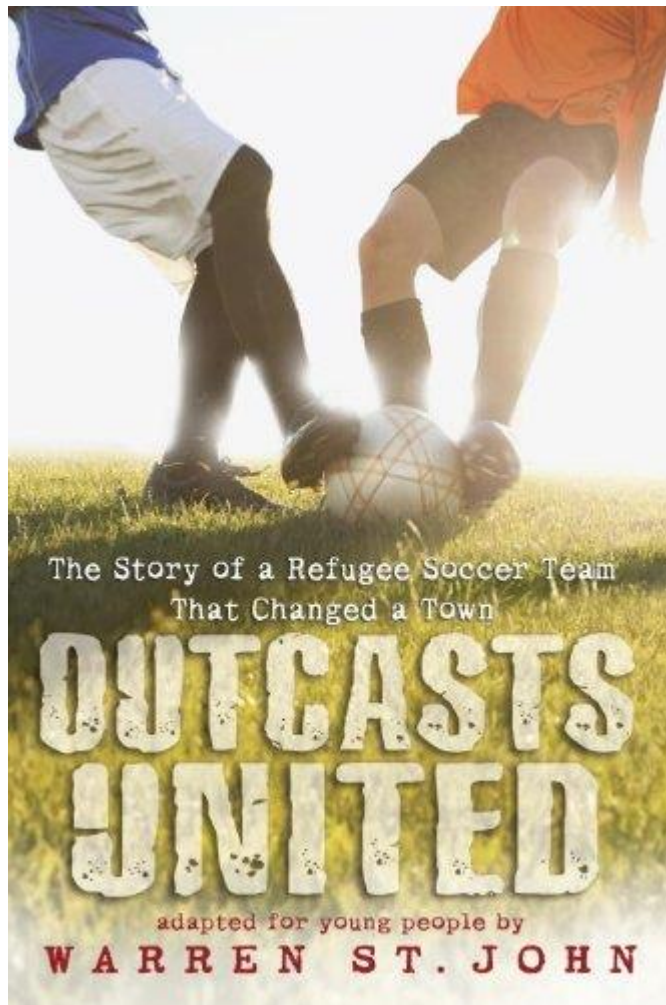
'A fine book,  
and a daring book'

*Michael Morpurgo*

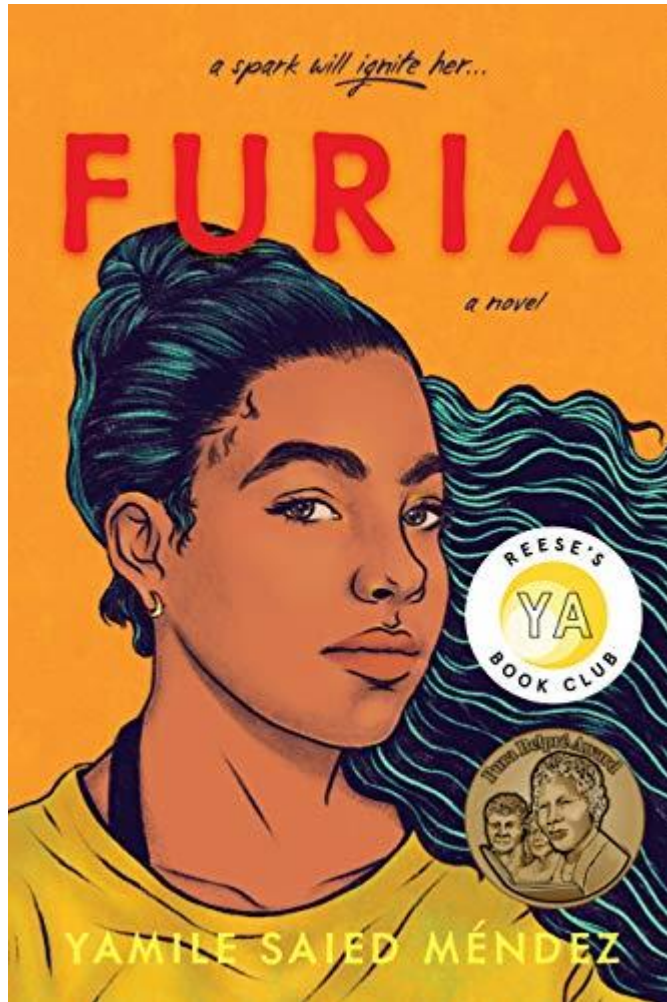


Twelve-year-old Karim Aboudi and his family are trapped in their Ramallah home by a strict curfew. Israeli tanks control the city in response to a Palestinian suicide bombing. Karim longs to play football with his mates – being stuck inside with his teenage brother and fearful parents is driving him crazy.

When the curfew ends, he and his friend discover an unused patch of ground that's the perfect site for a football pitch. Nearby, an old car hidden intact under bulldozed buildings makes a brilliant den. But in this city there's constant danger, even for schoolboys. And when Israeli soldiers find Karim outside during the next curfew, it seems impossible that he will survive . . .

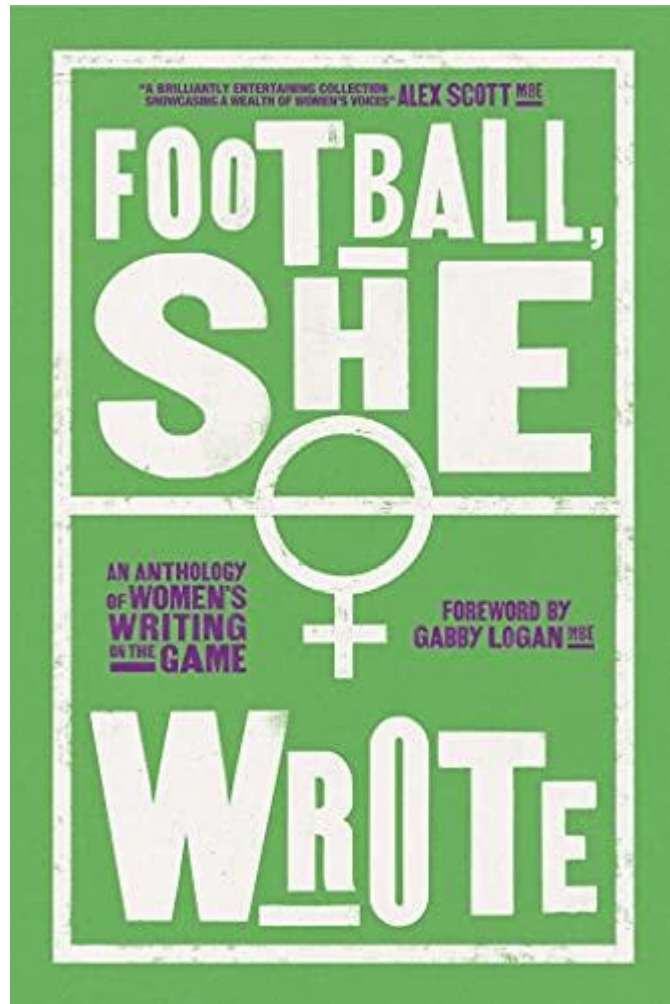


A complex and inspirational story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach, Luma Mufleh., a young Jordanian woman educated in the United States and working as a coach for private youth soccer teams in Atlanta, was out for a drive one day and ended up in Clarkston, Georgia, where she was amazed and delighted to see young boys, black and brown and white, some barefoot, playing soccer on every flat surface they could find. Luma decided to quit her job, move to Clarkston, and start a soccer team that would soon defy the odds.

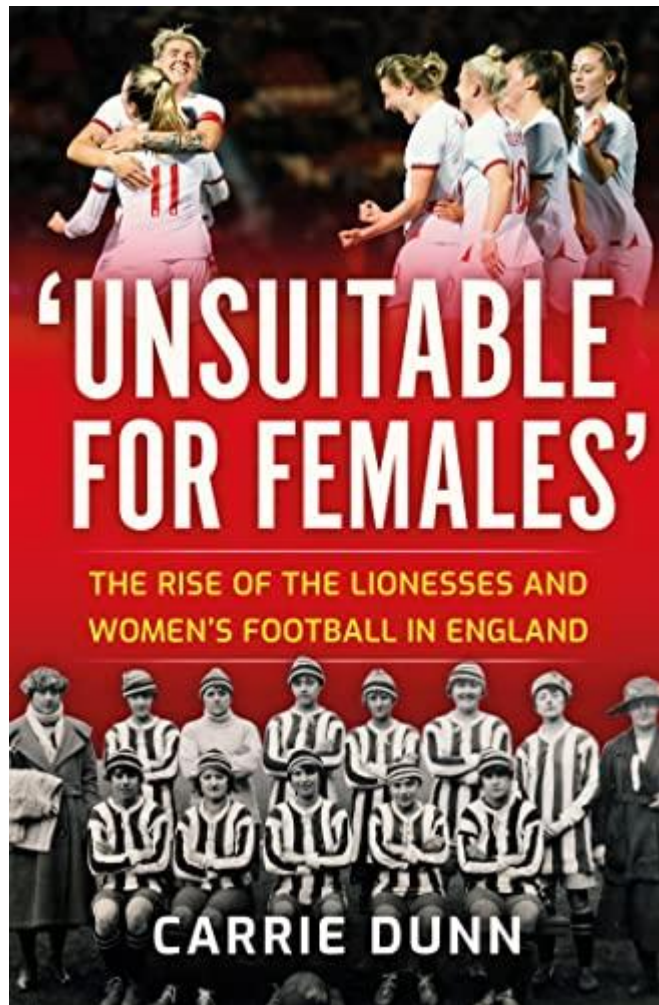


The book follows a footballer who will have to sacrifice many things and juggle her priorities to make her dreams come true. It's a book ultimately about a young girl grappling with trying to make her life what she would like it to be.





Football, She Wrote is a first: a unique collection of 20 women's voices on the game they love. Penned by a group of experienced and new writers, and embracing memoirs, profiles, interviews and talking points taking in sexuality, diversity and inclusion, it is an anthology to make you think and feel, laugh and cry.



England's Lionesses are on the front and back pages; their stars feature on prime-time television; they are named in the national honours lists for their contribution to their sport and to society. The names of Lucy Bronze, Steph Houghton and Ellen White are emblazoned across the backs of children's replica jerseys. These women are top athletes – and top celebrities. But in 1921, the Football Association introduced a ban on women's football, pronouncing the sport 'quite unsuitable for females'.

That ban would last for half a century - but despite official prohibition the women's game went underground. From the Dick, Kerr Ladies touring the world to the Lost Lionesses who played at the unsanctioned Women's World Cup in Mexico in 1971, generations of women defied the restrictions and laid the foundations for today's Lionesses - so much so that in 2018 England's Women's Super League became the first fully professional league in Europe...when just a few decades previously women were forbidden to play the sport in England at all.