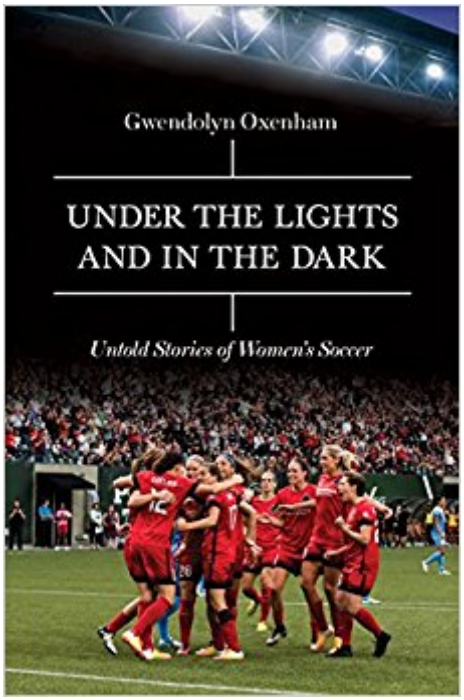
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Under The Lights And In The Dark: Untold Stories Of WomenÃ¢â‚¬â„¢s Soccer



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Synopsis

In 2004, journalist and award-winning documentary maker Gwendolyn Oxenham playedÃ Â futebol femininoÃ Â for Santos FC, Brazil. The team hitchhiked to practice, shared their field with a horse and wore hand-me- downs from the men's team. If this was Brazil, the mecca ofÃ Â futebol, what did the women's game look like in other countries? Under the Lights and in the DarkÃ Â takes us inside the world of womenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s soccer, following players across the globe, from Portland Thorns star Allie Long, who trains in an underground men's league in New York City; to English national Fara Williams, who hid her homelessness from her teammates while playing for the English national team. Oxenham takes us to Voronezh, Russia, where players battle more than just snowy pitches in pursuing their dream of playing pro, and to a refugee camp in Denmark, where Nadia Nadim, now a Danish international star, honed her skills after her family fled from the Taliban. Whether you're a newcomer to the sport or a die-hard fan, this is an inspiring book about starsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ beginnings and adventures, struggles and hardship, and, above all, the time-honored romance of the game.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Gwendolyn is the master at finding incredible soccer stories. These are stories that need to be heard- told in a way that leaves you begging for more. Thank you, Gwen, for shining a light on the natural, raw, real beauty of the beautiful game." (Julie Foudy, ESPN, USWNT captain)"A startlingly good book. Oxenham is a marvelous observer. These are moving, uplifting stories from around the world- what top soccer is like when there's no money or fame in it and you just do it for love."

(Simon Kuper, author of Soccernomics)"Oxenham is one of my favorite soccer writers; she connects on a deeply human level with the people who are the soul of the global game. I love this book." (Grant Wahl, Sports Illustrated)

Gwendolyn Oxenham is the author of Finding the Game: Three Years, Twenty-five Countries and the Search for Pickup Soccer (St Martin's Press) and the director of Pelada, an award-winning documentary. She has written for The Atlantic, Sports Illustrated, and Slate, and has an MFA in creative writing. A Duke University soccer alum who played for Santos FC in Brazil, she currently lives in Dana Point, California.

What are people capable of doing to pursue their passions? This set of stories provides the answer. From overachieving suburbanites playing for the U.S. national team to Nigerians and others finding soccer as a way out of poverty, all of these stories inspire.

Someday when women's football is just football we will look back on these stories of the pioneers aghast at their struggles. Is the Portland environment the future norm? Or just an outlier, a quaint effort to the 22nd century historian? Time will tell, but we live in the now and this book is a fantastic telling.

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