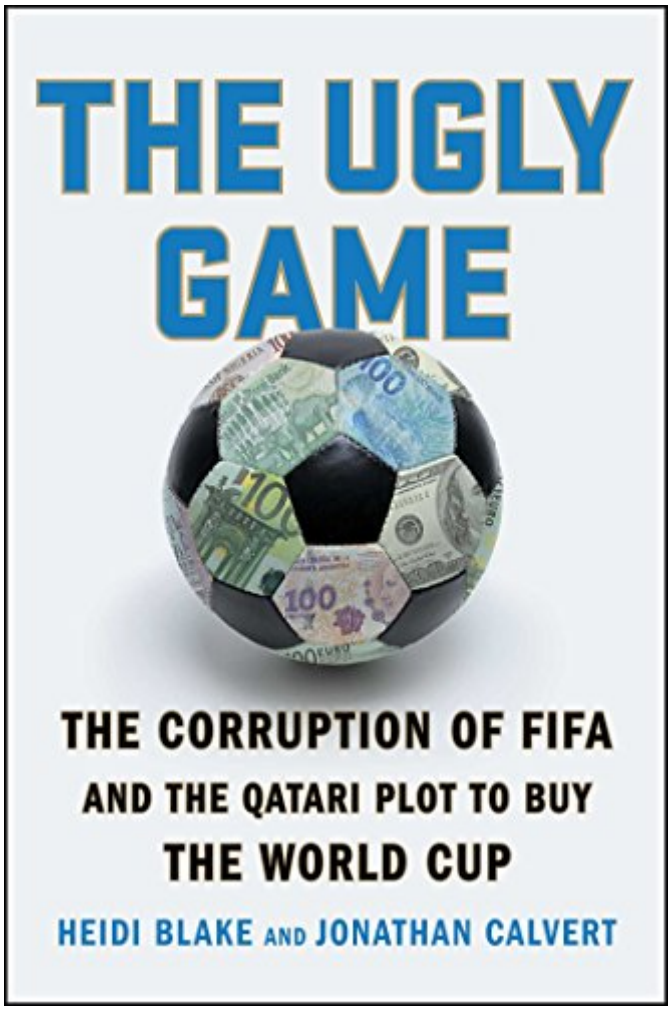
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The Ugly Game: The Corruption Of FIFA And The Qatari Plot To Buy The World Cup



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“The book that reminds you exactly whatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s wrong with FIFAÃ¢â ¬Â• (Esquire UK): This meticulously reported account by two award-winning, investigative journalists at BritainÃ¢â ¬â„¢s The Sunday Times explains how the 2022 World Cup was secured for QatarÃ¢â ¬â •a key element in the ongoing, international FIFA controversy.When the tiny desert state of Qatar won the rights to host the 2022 World Cup, the news was greeted with shock and disbelief. How had a country with almost no soccer infrastructure or tradition, a high terror risk, and searing summer temperatures, beaten more established countries with stronger bids? The story behind the Qatari success soon developed into a global news sensation. In 2014 The Sunday Times Insight team in the UK spilled the secrets of a bombshell cache of hundreds of millions of secret documents, which were leaked by a whistleblower. In forensic detail, they reported how Mohamed Bin Hammam, QatarÃ¢â ¬â„¢s top soccer official, used his position to help secure the votes that Qatar needed to win the bid. The investigative team spent three months painstakingly piecing together Bin HammamÃ¢â ¬â„¢s activities and reporting on cash handouts, lavish junkets, and evidence of payments to soccer officials around the world. Now in this remarkable book by The Sunday Times journalists at the center of the investigation, Heidi Blake and Jonathan Calvert, comes a comprehensive account of what happened and who was involved. A bestseller in the UK, The Ugly Game is undoubtedly the biggest sporting story of recent times.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The Ugly Game" recounts the feverish efforts of The Sunday Times' investigative journalists Heidi Blake and Jonathan Calvert to piece together the tale of Qatar's successful efforts to buy the World Cup for its country in 2022. Provided safe-room access to a mountain of electronic data by a still confidential source, the veteran duo go into a bunker for months sequestered from family, friends and co-workers. The goal: assemble this almost insurmountable trove of firsthand documents into a blockbuster narrative. The Sunday Times aims to publish just before FIFA-dom assembles in Sao Paulo for the self-congratulatory circle jerk that was WC 2014. Mission accomplished: when the story hits the press on June 1, 2014, the authors report that they "felt like they had detonated a nuclear bomb from [our] dark little cluttered bunker in this anonymous British suburb."The book's hero/anti-hero is Mohammed bin Hammam, the Qatari business magnate and long-time FIFA ExCo member. He's a classic behind-the-scenes fixer/facilitator. Never fully acknowledged by the Qatari ruling family that spearheaded the bid, it was bin Hammam's largesse, wiles, indefatigable spirit and -- most importantly -- understanding of the way inside an ExCo members' hearts (and there's only one way) that won the day.As I write this review, news has surfaced -- knock me over with a feather -- of Germany's bribes to secure the 2006 World Cup. Blake & Calvert also pack in other well-known tales: that South Africa out-largessed Morocco to secure 2010; that Russia used its oil wealth and oligarchic class do to the same for 2018 rights; and that Qatar knew the score and simply resolved to outpace the other bidders on this same metric to lockdown 2022.As the authors conclude (referring to the thoughts of a confidential source:) 'As far as he was concerned, Qatar had secured the 2022 tournament simply by playing the corrupt FIFA system, and who could blame them? ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœWhat Qatar did,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ he said, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Ëœwas they excessively applied the rules of FIFA. They always did that. What they did was the way in FIFA. They were playing by FIFAÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s unofficial rules.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢The most delicious part of the book: reading the parts about the duplicitous, scheming, supremely machiavellian Sepp Blatter and -- instead of experiencing a sense of rage and swallowing a mouthful of bile -- smiling with the knowledge that great American Loretta Lynch and her federal counterparts in Switzerland have taken the measure of this almost comical villain. [You can just about picture him stroking his

pet cat in his secret lair on these pages.]The book concludes right before Lynch launches her first dramatic strike. When Blatter's hall-of-mirrors, pious performance gets to be too much, Blake quotes herself as saying "ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœThis is too ridiculous for words...[t]he man has become some sort of ludicrous parody of a dodgy dictator clinging to power." The authors then write that 'It would have been funny if it wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t so deeply insulting.' Indeed. But knowing what comes next makes this book oh so satisfying. The Ethics Committee -- a body of Blatter's own disingenuous making -- has hoisted the boss on his own petard.Every fan of football needs to read this book.

This is a well written expose' of the corrupt organization that is FIFA. The facts don't lie and the weight of the evidence is overwhelming. I love soccer/football, but FIFA is as evil and corrupt an organization as there is. Blatter is an evil man. Congratulations to the authors for exposing the truth.

The story is pretty juicy; stunning, actually. Plenty of raw greed to go around the entire FIFA organization. But the story could have been told in about 100 fewer pages. The authors got too wrapped up in the boatloads of data they managed to assemble. Their investigation is certainly praiseworthy but the book could have used an editor's red pen in many places.

This is really good if you are interested in the story of BinHamman and the world cup bidding; or how FIFA operates in general. The parts about the Blatter's re-election are really good to.

For all the football fans that love soccer this is a great book on what is going on in FIFA.

Too long

Actually I haven't read it because her latest gig is an editor of false news "Buzzfeed." How much should readers believe about "The Ugly Game?"

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