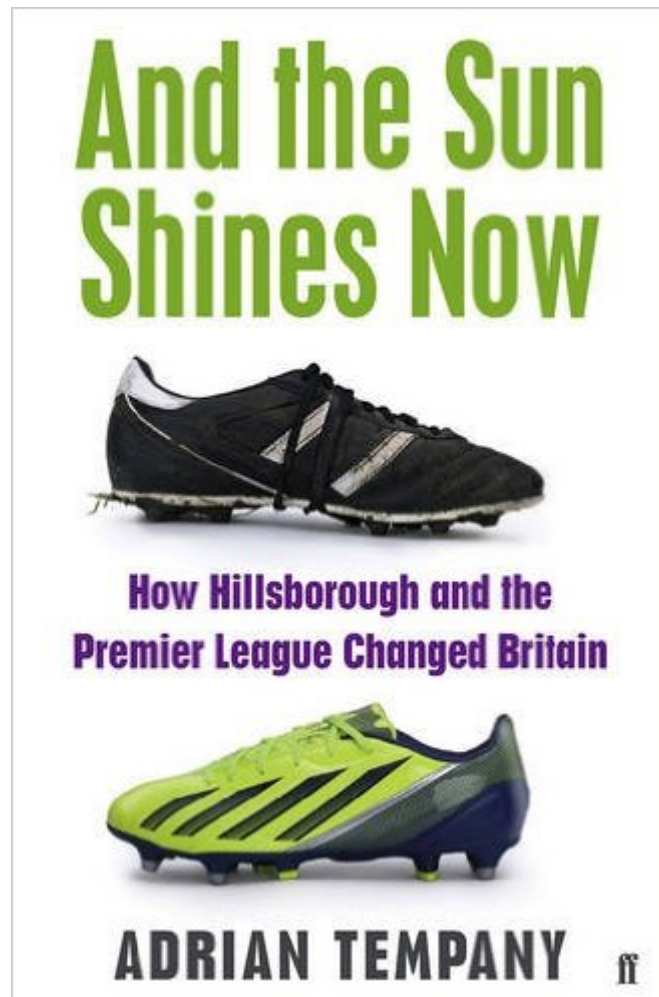


The book was found

And The Sun Shines Now: How Hillsborough And The Premier League Changed Britain



Synopsis

On April 15, 1989, 96 people were fatally injured on a football terrace at an FA Cup semi-final in Sheffield. The Hillsborough disaster was broadcasted live on the BBC; it left millions of people traumatized, and English soccer in ruins. *And the Sun Shines Now* is not a book about Hillsborough. It is a book about what arrived in the wake of unquestionably the most controversial tragedy in the post-war era of Britain's history. In powerful polemical prose, against a backbone of rigorous research and interviews, Adrian Tompkins deconstructs the past quarter century of English soccer and examines its place in the world. How did Hillsborough and the death of 96 Liverpool fans come to change the U.K. national game beyond recognition? And is there any hope that clubs can reconnect with a new generation of fans when you consider the startling statistic that the average age of season ticket holder in the U.K. is 41, compared to Germany's 21.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have been fascinated with the Hillsborough Disaster since seeing ESPN's 30 For 30 Documentary on Hillsborough in April 2014, so much so that I picked up this book from the publisher even before it was available through Amazon. Author Adrian Tompkins is a Liverpool fan who was caught in the crush inside Pen 3 at Hillsborough on April 15, 1989. The first two chapters of the book are as amazing as anything I have read about what it was like to be in the middle of the disaster. Tompkins writes about a stack of bodies he believed to be alive simply falling over in a heap once the gates separating the pitch from the terraces were finally opened. He also writes about the stench of vomit, urine and excrement, and his entire body going numb from the crush of people inside the pens at

Hillsborough. But only the first two chapters and the final chapter are about the Hillsborough Disaster itself. In between, Tempany focuses on the many changes to English soccer in the quarter century since Hillsborough. The book is fascinating, but it is also a long and difficult read at places. The book is 396 pages without any pictures. At times, the book takes a left-wing political slant in the context of how the Thatcher administration viewed soccer fans in the 1980s, and the working class in general. The book does go deep into a sociological examination of how English soccer has priced out working-class and lower middle class fans in the decades since Hillsborough. The book takes a harsh view of the emergence of the Premier League, skyrocketing ticket prices and television packages than mean viewers in Europe and the United States are more important to Premier League teams than the local supporters who identified with the clubs for generations.

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