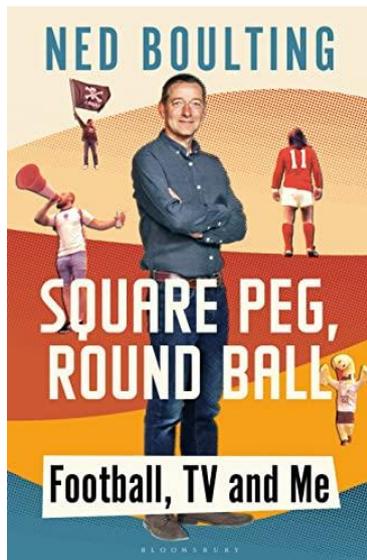




B L O O M S B U R Y



SQUARE PEG, ROUND BALL

Football, TV and Me

By Ned Boulting

Published 14 April 2022, £16.99, Hb

Ned Boulting's love affair with football started relatively late in life. Despite being born into a family of Chelsea supporters he was more interested in writing deep-meaningful poetry and playing saxophone than standing on the terraces. His epiphany came, at the age of 20, when he discovered the joys of the Bundesliga during a student placement in Hamburg. It changed his life.

In **SQUARE PEG, ROUND BALL** bestselling author and broadcaster **Ned Boulting** recalls the twenty years he spent covering football for television in the 1990s and 2000s. From criss-crossing the country in an old banger in the hope of a word or two with the latest big signing, to the glamour of the World Cup and the Champions League final, Ned has witnessed the shenanigans, the machinations and the idiocy of football at close quarters.

As he looks back with wit and affection Ned's stories provide real insight into the behind-the-scenes world of football reporting, whether it's falling out with **José Mourinho** or being chased away from **Roman Abramovich's** estate by burly men on quad bikes, sharing an uneasy coffee with **Roy Keane** and **Gianfranco Zola**, or treading mud into **Steven Gerard's** pristine white carpets. He interviewed **Brian Clough** just weeks before he died, was glared at by **Alex Ferguson**, enjoyed early morning runs alongside his, then, ITV colleague, **Gareth Southgate**, and was slapped on the back by **Arsène Wenger**.

Brilliantly written **SQUARE PEG, ROUND BALL** is both candid and insightful, and is packed with tales of the great and good of football.

About the Author: Writer and broadcaster **Ned Boulting** worked on Sky Sports' *Soccer Saturday* before moving to ITV Sport in 2001. He has covered a range of football events from Champions League to the FA Cup, but is now best known for his cycling commentary including on the Tour De France. He has written five books including the bestselling *How I Won the Yellow Jumper* and *On the Road Bike*. He lives in London and is available for interview.

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