

HGS Book Recommendations

Sept 2023



New Arrivals in the LRC



With the Rugby World Cup underway in France, here are some recommended rugby reads.



KS
3

Borderlands First XV have their sights set on becoming the best school rugby team in the world.

But while the boys focus on their matches, many of their parents are serving overseas in the armed forces, and everyone is worried as conflict grows in the Central Asian Republic.

New pupil Woody is a footballer by nature and must decide if he's prepared to give rugby his all.

Rory feels like he's losing his focus, distracted by thoughts of his parents in danger. And Owen finds himself at the centre when conflict breaks out within the team.

With so many hurdles to face along the way, how far will they get in the rigorous schools' tournament?

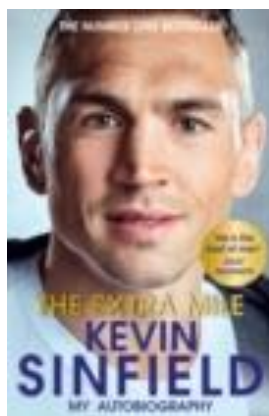


KS 3 KS 4

It looks like Eoin Madden's busiest term ever! He's Castlerock College's star player and he's been called up for Ireland in the Under 16 Four Nations - how will he juggle sport and school work?

But his biggest challenge of all goes way beyond his own concerns and right to the heart of Irish rugby. When his oldest and best ghostly friend calls for help, can Eoin and his band of heroes solve their deadliest mystery yet? Take a dive into history - with some help from rugby legends of the past!

Part of the Rugby Spirit series.



KS 4 KS 5

Kevin Sinfield is no ordinary sportsman. A one-club legend of Leeds Rhinos, who has now crossed codes as a defence coach for the England national rugby union team, Kevin Sinfield is a rugby icon.

But in recent years Kevin has shown heroism of a very different kind through his selfless and extraordinary fundraising for motor neurone disease (MND), the terminal illness that has affected his best mate and former teammate Rob Burrow. Sinfield's epic challenges have included running 7 ultra marathons in 7 days, and running over 101 miles in 24 hours.

The Extra Mile is the story of an astonishing life, of an enduring friendship, of perseverance against the most difficult of challenges, and of a remarkable, humble human being who has defied the odds.

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KS 4 KS 5

Catherine Spencer was the captain of the England women's rugby team for three years.

She scored eighteen tries for England, won six of the eight Six Nations competitions she took part in, and captained her team to three championship titles, a European cup, two Nations Cup tournament victories and the World Cup final held on home soil in 2010, which thrust women's rugby into the limelight.

All of this while holding down a full time job, because the women's team, unlike the men's, did not get paid for their sport.

Painfully honest about the mental struggles Catherine faced during, and after, her career as an elite athlete, it is also warm, funny and inspirational - a book for anyone who has ever had a dream, or self-doubt, or a yearning for a really good, mud-proof mascara.

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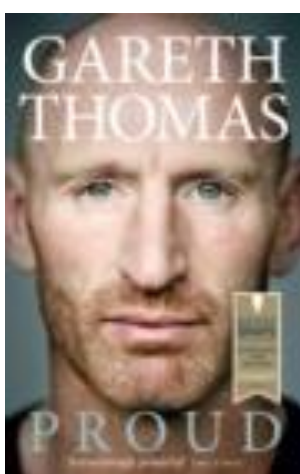
KS
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World Rugby Records covers the biggest, the best and the most exciting aspects of a game that is unlike any other.

World Rugby Records is a special celebration of rugby excellence, featuring not only a host of records from teams and tournaments around the world (in all the game's formats), but also the stats and stories behind them as well as a series of detailed biographies on some of the greatest players ever to have played the game.

Whether you are an armchair fan or a Twickenham regular, it is essential reading for any student of the game.



KS
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He was a national hero, a sporting icon. He was a leader of men, captain of Wales and the British Lions. To him, rugby was an expression of cultural identity, a sacred code.

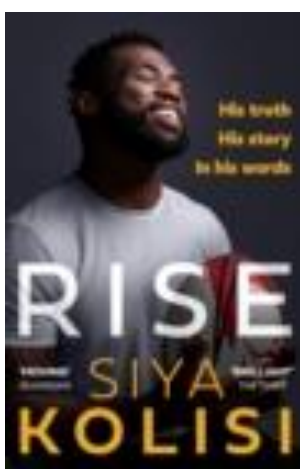
It was no mere ball game. It gave him everything, except the freedom to be himself. This is the story of a man with a secret that was slowly killing him. Something that might devastate not only his own life but the lives of his wife, family, friends and teammates.

The only place where he could find any refuge from the pain and guilt of the lie he was living was on the pitch, playing the sport he loved.

But all his success didn't make the strain of hiding who he really was go away. His fear that telling the truth about his sexuality would lose him everything he loved almost sent him over the edge. The deceit ended when Gareth became the world's most prominent athlete to come out as a gay man.

Gareth's inspiring and moving story transcends the world of sport to tell a universal truth about feeling like an outsider, and facing up to who you really are.

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KS
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His story. In his words. There have been many comments made and books written about Siya Kolisi, captain of the Springboks, and the first black man to lead his country in over 128 years of South African rugby. But now, for the very first time, Siya Kolisi shares his story in an extraordinarily intimate memoir, charting his journey from being born into the impoverished Zwide township, to leading his proud nation to an astonishing victory at the Rugby World Cup in 2019.

However, Rise is not simply a chronology of matches played and games won; it is an exploration of a man's race and his faith, a masterclass in attaining a positive mindset, and an inspirational reminder that it is possible to defy the odds, no matter how they are stacked against you.

In 2020, partly in response to the pandemic, Siya and his wife, Rachel, launched The Kolisi Foundation, providing personal protective equipment to healthcare workers and delivering food parcels throughout South Africa. The title Rise is inspired by Siya's mother - Phakama - which translates to the book's name, as well as a celebration of his Xhosa heritage.

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