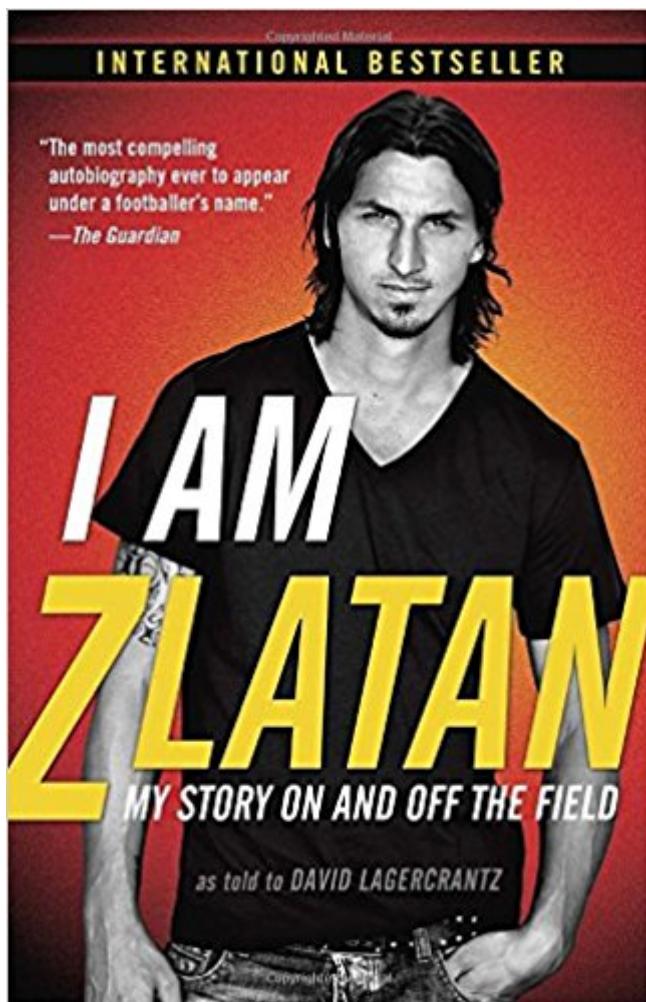


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# I Am Zlatan: My Story On And Off The Field



## Synopsis

Daring, flashy, innovative, volatile—no matter what they call him, Zlatan Ibrahimovic is one of soccer's brightest stars. A top-scoring striker and captain of the Swedish national team, he has dominated the world's most storied teams, including Ajax, Juventus, Inter Milan, Barcelona, AC Milan, and Paris Saint-Germain. But his life wasn't always so charmed.

Born to Balkan immigrants who divorced when he was a toddler, Zlatan learned self-reliance from his rough-and-tumble neighborhood. While his father, a Bosnian Muslim, drank to forget the war back home, his mother's household was engulfed in chaos. Soccer was Zlatan's release. Mixing in street moves and trick plays, Zlatan was a wild talent who rode to practice on stolen bikes and relished showing up the rich kids—opponents and teammates alike. Goal by astonishing goal, the brash young outsider grew into an unlikely prodigy and, by his early twenties, an international phenomenon. Told as only the man himself could tell it, featuring stories of friendships and feuds with the biggest names in the sport, *I Am Zlatan* is a wrenching, uproarious, and ultimately redemptive tale for underdogs everywhere. Praise for *I Am Zlatan*—“Terrific . . . Far more insightful than your typical jock memoir, Ibra’s book tells his story of growing up as the son of immigrants in Sweden and pulls no punches when it comes to his opinions of some of the biggest names in the game.” •Sports Illustrated—“The most compelling autobiography ever to appear under a footballer’s name.” •The Guardian—“The story of Zlatan—from his days as an immigrant kid juggling a soccer ball so he won’t get bullied to his emergence as the genius player who scored the greatest goal ever—is as compelling and fancy-footed as his game.” •Aleksandar Hemon, National Book Award finalist and author of *The Lazarus Project*—“I love this book. I love it because it’s so much bigger than soccer.” •I Am Zlatan is a story of hope and grit and what an immigrant kid who comes from nothing can accomplish with hard work and belief in himself. It’s also a beautiful window into our new, more open, more diverse world. •Marcus Samuelsson, bestselling author of *Yes, Chef*—“Probably the bestselling European immigrant’s tale since Zadie Smith’s *White Teeth*. . . . Once you get past the obligatory snigger prompted by the phrase ‘footballer,’ you can see that Zlatan’s book strangely resembles an earlier immigrant’s tale: *Portnoy’s Complaint*. Financial Times—“He is skillful. He is outspoken. He is Zlatan.” •The New York Times—“The best sports autobiography in years.” •PolicyMic

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Terrific . . . Far more insightful than your typical jock memoir, Ibrahîm’s book tells his story of growing up as the son of immigrants in Sweden and pulls no punches when it comes to his opinions of some of the biggest names in the game.” *Sports Illustrated* “The most compelling autobiography ever to appear under a footballer’s name.” *The Guardian* “The story of Zlatan’s from his days as an immigrant kid juggling a soccer ball so he won’t get bullied to his emergence as the genius player who scored the greatest goal ever” is as compelling and fancy-footed as his game. Aleksandar Hemon, National Book Award finalist and author of *The Lazarus Project* “I love this book. I love it because it’s so much bigger than soccer.” *I Am Zlatan* is a story of hope and grit and what an immigrant kid who comes from nothing can accomplish with hard work and belief in himself. It’s also a beautiful window into our new, more open, more diverse world. Marcus Samuelsson, bestselling author of *Yes, Chef* “Probably the bestselling European immigrant’s tale since Zadie Smith’s *White Teeth* . . . Once you get past the obligatory snigger prompted by the phrase ‘footballer,’ you can see that Zlatan’s book strangely resembles an earlier immigrant’s tale: *Portnoy’s Complaint*. ” *Financial Times* “He is skillful. He is outspoken. He is Zlatan.” *The New York Times* “The best sports autobiography in years.” *PolicyMic*

Zlatan Ibrahimovic is a professional soccer player, one of the world's most prolific strikers, and captain of his native Sweden. He has played for many of Europe's top teams, including Ajax, Juventus, Inter Milan, Barcelona, AC Milan, and, currently, Paris Saint-Germain, where he is the league's leading goalscorer. He is widely regarded as one of the best soccer players of his generation, and is the most highly valued player of all time in combined transfer fees. His bicycle kick for Sweden against England won the 2013 FIFA Award for Goal of the Year.  David Lagercrantz made his debut as an author with *Ultimate High: My Everest Odyssey*, about the Swedish mountaineer Göran Kropp, which became an international bestseller. Since then he has devoted his career to writing about geniuses and exceptional people who go against the flow and blaze their own trails. Lagercrantz achieved critical and commercial success with a novel based on the life of the computer pioneer Alan Turing. He has written several other works of fiction and nonfiction, and he also lectures on creative writing.

Great for a tween/teen...but some 'language'. My son loved it since he is a blackbelt in teakwondo & a soccer star too!

Really good read. He contradicts himself constantly, but you get what he is trying to say. I like to peek behind the scenes of the football industry and this is the view from one of the most controversial, but incredibly talented footballers of the modern era. I picked up the book with a neutral, if not slightly negative view of Ibra, but put it down a definite fan. I would highly recommend this book.

My son loves it. He's our favorite soccer player to watch & follow. He's a charismatic player, down to earth, a hard-working perfectionist, and also witty. We're not "fan" types, but his story is inspirational in a healthy way.

I bought this for my 14 year old son, and he absolutely LOVED this book. For you parents...there is some swearing, but my son found it completely intriguing, interesting, and only furthered his love for Zlatan, his favorite striker. For soccer enthusiasts, you will enjoy the insights, honesty, and the personality that you expect from Zlatan. As a mom... biographies, autobiographies, and books about soccer are what gets my kid to read for school. I recommend. cool book.

What sets this book apart from all the other bland sports books out there is that Zlatan is never afraid to speak his mind. In his own one-of-a-kind style, Zlatan writes about every struggle, every goal, and every training ground dust-up on his journey to dominate the world's top clubs. He doesn't use any of the same old bland clichÃ©s that every other sports star uses (cough, Messi, Ronaldo, cough, cough). He definitely lifts the lid on some of the biggest names in the sport, but more than that, this is a classic story of an underdog and an outsider. Zlatan describes his hard-knocks upbringing - the one rough, poor kid, a son of immigrants, among entire teams of rich boys and their hypocritical parents - and explains his impulses to break all the rules and still be the best player in the world. All this makes for the best sports book I have ever read. Seriously, Zlatan is the greatest - so if you want to Zlatan like Zlatan, you better read this book.

Great gift for soccer fan

The book succeeds in tracing out the journey of an impoverished awkward kid from the housing projects to becoming an international phenomenon. It gives good insight about how Zlatan matures as a person and a player over the years yet retains the characteristics that define him as an individual no matter what the circumstances. It is inspiring to understand how Zlatan used all the negativity about him and spin it to urge him to be better ...

One of the most entertaining books I've had the pleasure of reading. The cover is made with this nice material and it feels good in your hands.

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