



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 7

1 WAR AND PEACE 11

The Christmas Truce, 1914	12
The Elephants Who Played for Peace	18
The Lancashire Lassies Who Changed Football	25
The Superstar Manager Who Survived the War	36
The War Adventures of the FA Cup Trophy	45
WEIRD & WONDERFUL: Aston Villa's Stolen Trophies	51

2 OVERCOMING THE ODDS 55

The Shepherd Boy Who Stopped Ronaldo	56
Leicester City, the Unbelievable Season	69
The Remarkable Rise of Queen Fara	79
The Football Legend Loved by Everyone	87
The Girl Who Just Wanted to Play	96
The World Cup Star Who Saved His Best Until Last	100
WEIRD & WONDERFUL: Beach Ball Scores the Winner!	110

3 AMAZING ANIMALS 113

Pickles the Dog Detective	114
Hennes the Goat	121
The Dog that Saved Manchester United	124

The Police Dog that Rescued a Team from Relegation	129
WEIRD & WONDERFUL: Paul the Octopus	134

4 UNBELIEVABLE COMEBACKS 139

The Busby Babes	140
The Miracle of Istanbul	149
The World's Worst Team Who Didn't Give Up	158
Amazing Zambia, Champions of Africa	166
WEIRD & WONDERFUL: Pelé's Lucky Shirt	174

5 WHO ARE YA? 177

The One-Game Wonder	178
Football's Greatest Conman	185
The Fake Football Friendly	194
The Girl They Called 'Ray'	199
WEIRD & WONDERFUL: A Faked Death and a Game of Football	203

6 FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME 207

Saving Lives on the Pitch	208
The Trailblazer Behind the Women's World Cup	213
The Injured Keeper Who Became an FA Cup Hero	221
The Flying Football Stars	229
WEIRD & WONDERFUL: An Awkward Minute's Silence	235

CONCLUSION 237

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 238

REFERENCES 239