# Shakhtar Donetsk

We Play OnWe Play OnVoroshilovgrad Andy Brassell Andy Brassell Serhiy Zhadan We Play On We Play On Voroshilovgrad Andy Brassell Andy Brassell Serhiy Zhadan

the most important thing is to play srna said to show the world that we are still alive that we are fighting that we are living that we will have a good future in 2014 the conflict in the donbas region of ukraine began and top football club shakhtar donetsk has since been in exile this book tells their story inevitably a story of the conflict and the recent russian invasion but also a testament to the power of the game and the will of the players it is ultimately a footballing story exploring the experience and meaning of being a shakhtar player through the lens of a country in the shadow of a huge aggressive neighbour there are moments of direct impact such as when a youth coach was killed by russian shelling earlier in 2022 but also what it means to just go out on the field and play freely andy brassell is a european football expert and has followed this story for years he regards shakhtar as the barcelona of eastern europe this book celebrates the team and its achievements while paying tribute to an occupied nation

a gripping account of how shakhtar donetsk came to represent embattled ukraine s hopes for the future sunday times we want to show to the world that we are alive that we are strong not just us the whole of ukraine we are continuing to play we are continuing to win darijo srna excellent a symbol of ukrainian resistance ada wordsworth shakhtar donetsk have not played in their home stadium since 2014 their matchdays now typically have no crowds air raid sirens interrupt games and thoughts of and fears for family friends and hometowns frontline troops loom large in the players minds ahead of every game these are extraordinary times but shakhtar is an extraordinary club displaced when fighting first began in the donbas region and then again when russia mounted a full scale invasion of ukraine in february 2022 this book honours a club players coaching staff management who choose to play on in a time of chaos and conflict they have become emblems of hope and unity they are winning on the pitch and winning hearts and minds across the world following the club s

meteoric rise from domestic team to domineering european contenders andy brassell expertly weaves a story of shakhtar through the ages their origin story after ukrainian independence their evolution and their reinvention the war forced an exodus of star players and staff and the club has had to find itself once again with direct testimony and exclusive interviews from those at shakhtar this book delivers unparalleled insight to the club s journey one that is all too often hidden from view the result is an ode to shakhtar donetsk shining a light on the beauty and force of their football and their fight to play on

the power source for zhadan s writing is in its linguistic passion die zeit one of the most important creative forces in modern ukrainian alternative culture kulturspiegel a city dwelling executive heads home to take over his brother s gas station after his mysterious disappearance but all he finds at home are mysteries and ghosts the bleak industrial landscape of now war torn eastern ukraine sets the stage for voroshilovgrad the soviet era name of the ukranian city of luhansk mixing magical realism and exhilarating road novel in poetic powerful and expressive prose serhiy zhadan one of the key figureheads in contemporary ukrainian literature and the most famous poet in the country has become the voice of ukraine s euro maidan movement he lives in kharkiv ukraine

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