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*Andrew Downie*

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**Andrew Downie : Doctor Socrates: Footballer, Philosopher, Legend** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Doctor Socrates: Footballer, Philosopher, Legend:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book about more than football. By DHAndrew Downie's biography tells the story of the larger-than-life sporting figure, Socrates, against the backdrop of Brazilian politics and society at a time when both were changing rapidly. It would be impossible to tell the story of Socrates without explaining the era in which he came of age and eventually dominated the national football scene. Downie achieves this in an engaging and conversational tone punctuated with richly researched and detailed anecdotes that offer a glimpse into what it was like to be present as the beautiful game became big business in Brazil. This is no dull history lesson, but rather a romp through an era accompanying perhaps the only person whose path threads the divided social, political and economic strata of the country. While non-Brazilians have sense of the Brazilian greats that have lifted the World Cup, stories of the "greatest team to never win it" are perhaps more interesting if not harder to come by. Thankfully Downie has meticulously curated a work comprised of countless primary sources and in-person interviews with the movers and shakers of the sport from all corners of Brazil and across Europe. To sum it up, this is a much more audacious undertaking than a book about a deceased football star. It is a sophisticated exposition of a life led at the intersection of Brazilian politics, culture and of course, football. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thoroughly enjoyable and I learned a lot. By expatspA thoroughly enjoyable book. I'm not even that much of a soccer fan -- I bought this book mostly because I'm interested in Brazil -- but it was a page turner, full of colorful stories. Socrates was clearly a fascinating man and this book also brings an era in Brazil to life. If you're a soccer fan, I imagine you'd get even more out of this, as it describes the point (if I understand it right) when world soccer/football changed from the beautiful game to the rougher, win-ugly sport it's often become. Well worth reading. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating read. By Kindle Customer Great insight on Socrates the man, not just the footballer. The Author really did his homework and in doing so uncovered the other side of the doctor that wasn't known to the outside world. Such an enjoyable read that finished quickly.

'Compelling from start to finish...Downie does full justice to an extraordinary life' Pete Davies, author of All Played Out. A stunning new biography of Socrates, the iconic captain of the greatest Brazil side never to win the World Cup. Socrates was always special. A hugely talented athlete who graduated in medicine yet drank and smoked to excess. The attacking midfielder stood out - and not just because of his 6'4" frame. Fans were enthralled by his inch-perfect passes, his coolness in front of goal and his back heel, the trademark move that singled him out as the most unique

footballer of his generation. Off the pitch, he was just as original, with a dedication to politics and social causes that no player has ever emulated. His biggest impact came as leader of Corinthians Democracy - a movement that gave everyone from the kitman to the president an equal say in the running of the club. At a time when Brazil was ruled by a military dictatorship, it was truly revolutionary. Passionate and principled, entertaining and erudite, Socrates was as contradictory as he was complex. He was a socialist who voted for a return of Brazil's monarchy, a fiercely independent individual who was the ultimate team player, and a romantic who married four times and fathered six children. Armed with Socrates' unpublished memoir and hours of newly discovered interviews, Andrew Downie has put together the most comprehensive and compelling account of this iconic figure. Based on conversations with family members, close friends and former team-mates, this is a brilliant biography of a man who always stood up for what he believed in, whatever the cost. 'Brilliantly written and researched. Amazing life.' Alex Bellos, author of *Futebol: The Brazilian Way of Life*

'Downie has done a grand job of juggling all the different facets of the captain of the greatest Brazil team; never to win the World Cup' (Aidan Smith *The Scotsman*) 'Brilliantly written and researched. Amazing life.' (Alex Bellos Author of *Futebol: The Brazilian Way of Life*) 'Socrates was one of Brazil's footballing icons... His posthumous fortune is having a biographer whose knowledge and understanding born of many years living in Brazil enables him to bring the reader "the full Socrates" in the colourful context both on and off the pitch... A valuable addition to the football bookshelf.' (Keir Radnedge *KeirRadnedge.com*) 'I love this book. It's a book about famous sporting figures that actually it turns out we don't know that much about... It's a great book, one of the best we've read this year so far. I fully recommend you pick that one up.' (Matt Williams *Sports Book Podcast*) 'Such a phenomenon [as Socrates] deserves the rounded, accomplished biography he has been accorded by Reuters writer Andrew Downie, who draws on a knowledge not merely of Brazil's football but of its wider politics and society based on 17 years of living there. Downie celebrates the brilliance and the achievements.' (When Saturday Comes) 'An excellent piece of work. Fascinating study of a complicated man.' (Tom English *BBC Scotland*) 'Compelling from start to finish - a vivid portrait of one of the greatest players of all time, and of the thrilling, fascinating country he represented. Highly intelligent, politically engaged, Socrates had an impact reaching far beyond the field of play. Downie does full justice to an extraordinary life, rich in joy, in sadness, and in inspiration.' (Pete Davies Author of *All Played Out*) 'The confounding contradictions of Socrates' genius, and his apparent unwillingness to place football at any special pedestal, that forms the basis for Andrew Downie's excellent new book; Doctor Socrates: Footballer, Philosopher, Legend... Socrates not only shaped the idea of what sport can mean to its fans... but he also showed the world that there was a place for dissent even in sport. (Suhrith Parthasarathy *The Hindu*) 'The fascinating story of a true legend... Downie... pieces together the gripping, remarkable and inimitable story of a man who was as prodigiously gifted as he was staggeringly self-centred. (Hindustan Times) '[Fans] now get the opportunity to read an honest biography of the Brazilian in Andrew Downie's magnificent work... This must-read sport book of our times... First-class journalism... untainted by hagiography.' (Times of India) 'Andrew Downie... manages to tread a narrow path in describing Socrates, with skilful writing, warmth in reporting and a clear eye. This biography should be compulsory reading for sports fans, but will also hold non-fans in thrall.' (India Today) About the Author Andrew Downie is the Brazilian football correspondent for Reuters, and has lived in the country for fifteen years. He has written on football for *GQ*, *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, and *The Guardian*, among others. He lives in Sao Paulo.

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