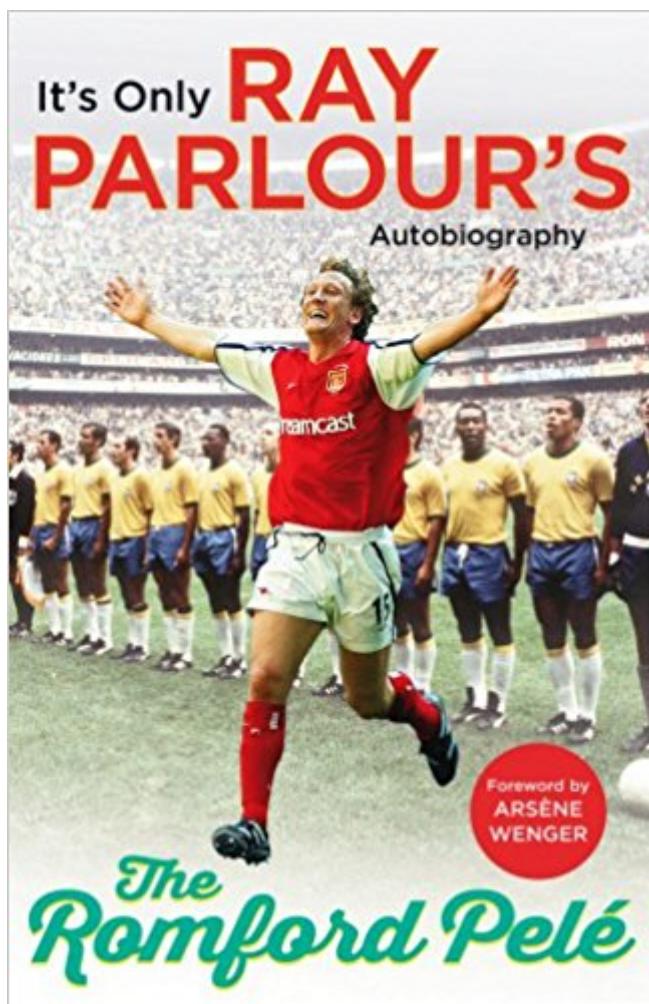


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The Romford Pelé: It's Only Ray Parlour's Autobiography



Synopsis

Marc Overmars may have given him the nickname, but the Romford Pelé is a legend in his own right. Over 16 action-packed years, from a trainee scrubbing the boots of the first XI, to a record-breaking 333 Premier League appearances, Ray Parlour's never-say-die performances, curly locks and mischievous sense of humor have gone down in Arsenal history. Battling tirelessly on the pitch, often in the shadows of his star-name teammates, Parlour won three premier league titles and four FA Cup trophies with the Gunners. But he was also the heart and soul of the dressing room, the training ground and the after work drink. From nights out with Tony Adams, to teaching Thierry Henry cockney rhyming slang, from playing golf with Dennis Bergkamp to trading Inspector Clouseau jokes with Arsène Wenger, this wonderfully funny and candid autobiography looks back on a golden age of the beautiful game, reliving the banter, the stories and the success.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Brilliant, hilarious . . . Bound to have you in stitches." — "Sun" "A riot of anecdotes and escapades."

— "Sunday Times" "Hilarious." — "Soccer AM"

Ray Parlour is an Arsenal legend. A loyal club servant for over 14 years (1992-2007), he joined the club as a trainee. With the club he won three Premier League titles, four FA Cups and the UEFA Cup. One of the most underrated players of his generation, he was also part of Arsenal's famous Invincible team of 2003/04, which went the entire Premier League season unbeaten. He is now a regular pundit on Talk Sport and Sky Sports.

A funny and sometimes hysterical look back at a fine career. Thanks for the memories Ray!

A fun read for all fans of EPL. Fortunately he was able to conquer the drink.

It's only ray parlour...what more needs to be said?

Firstly I have to say that I am neither an Arsenal supporter nor particularly a fan of Ray Parlour. I do however love my sport autobiographies which is why I wanted to read this book. I also do like listening to him these days as a pundit/commentator/presenter on TALKSport. So, this biography is pretty similar to the majority I have read. He does jump about a little in time but it is pretty much chronological in nature. He goes through his early days, his apprenticeship and what they had to do back in the days. Continues on through the George Graham era and then the Arsene Wenger time bringing up nicely to current day. Personal life is obviously mentioned, he comes across as pretty big on family and he is quite frank in places especially regarding the high profile divorce and aftermath of that. I would have to say though that the majority of the book does mostly focus around the football and social side of things. The book is full of anecdotes detailing shenanigans - remember that these were the days when the football drinking culture is high and there are several amusing stories involving Merson and Adams. As I am very familiar with his voice, occasionally whilst reading, I was hearing it read in that very distinctive voice. I did find that quite a few of the later stories did fall a bit flat for me. There was all the build up and then, at the end, they kind of fizzled out. Maybe that's cos I am not a fan. Dunno! At the end of the book, there is a good section where he has selected teams of variously themed favourite players with explanations for inclusion. I agree with some, others notsomuch. But hey, I support Villa so, what do I know! One really good reason for reading this book would be the descriptions of life as a footballer in that era. The pay, the work rate, the drinking culture; all things that have really changed these days. It really is eye opening to see what people like him got paid then compared to if they were playing these days. All in all, it is a good sports autobiography. I do feel however that Parlour/Arsenal fans would probably get more out of reading it than just fans of the game due to the balance between life and sport as depicted. I received a free ARC of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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