

## **Praise for *Roy of the Rovers***

“It has **everything that a football fan needs...** match day action, local club rivalry, modern football politics, trials, crunching tackles, tricks, misses and goals.

It also has everything that today's children need as they grow up. It is jam-packed with positive role models, girls involvement in Women's Football, respect, mental well-being, good work ethic, education and aspiration.” – *Books for Topics*

“Packs a lot of punch in its short and simple to read pages... **It captures the feel of playing and having a passion for football** at an early age very well. More than that it sets out the stall of the new Roy Race, his family background, his friends and enemies, where he lives and his work ethic.” – *Comic Scene Magazine*

“**I give it 5,000,000 stars!** I recommend it to 9+ football fans but also non-football fans. I'm not a football fan but I still really enjoyed reading this book. Look out for the graphic novels and the rest of the series. Amazing!” – *The Book Brothers*

“**Football-lovers will love the description of on-pitch action** which is pacy yet satisfyingly detailed. This is a book that I am looking forward to putting on the shelves at school – I know already that it will be a popular title amongst our football-loving children (not just boys!).” – *That Boy Can Teach*



First published 2019 by Rebellion Publishing Ltd,  
Riverside House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, UK

ISBN: 978 1 78108 722 0

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available  
from the British Library.

Printed in Denmark

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## The story so far...

Roy Race is a totally normal sixteen-year-old; he studies at college, fights with his little sister - and plays centre forward for Melchester Rovers.

Ok, so he's not *that* normal.

And while it might sound like Roy's got the perfect life, he's got a lot on his plate.

He's had to overcome injuries, social media scandals, the perils of fame and the pressure of performing as one of the best young footballers in the country.

Plus, things aren't exactly easy at home. Roy cares for his disabled father, helps his over-worked mother out as much as he can, *and* coaches his little sister Rocky as she attempts to start a football career of her own.

Of course, all of this would be a lot easier if Melchester Rovers were the biggest club in the country.

But they're not.

In fact, the once-mighty Rovers are in League Two, and although Roy and his teammates have managed to save the club's season, now comes the real test: can they make it to the play-off finals and a shot at promotion to League One?

And what will happen to their club - and their football careers - if they don't?

Roy might be the youngest striker in the football league, but he still carries the hopes and dreams of every Rovers fan on his shoulders when he steps on the pitch...





IMAGINE THIS.

You're playing up front for the team you've supported all your life. The striker alongside you is your best friend from school. If you win this game your team will be through to the play-offs, with the chance of promotion and a trip to the National Stadium.

It's the stuff of dreams.

And it happened to Roy Race.

MINUTES INTO THE game – the home fans making so much noise the players couldn't

hear each other's calls – a long ball came upfield from the Melchester Rovers keeper, Gordon Stewart.

Blackie Gray – Roy Race's best friend – took the ball and knocked it on to Roy.

Roy read the fall of the ball right and powered into the D on the edge of the penalty area. The ball bounced once, twice, then Roy hit it low and hard. A half-second later it thumped off the post and span out for a goal kick to Holverton Wanderers.

Close.

But not close enough.

Even so, Roy grinned. He stretched his ankle out, put some weight on it. It felt okay. In fact, it felt good. He knew that he had recovered from the ankle injury that had kept him out for weeks. Now, he just had to get over that nagging fear he had every time he ran with the ball. Fear of



being fouled. Fear of being injured.

Coach had told him this might happen.

But Roy Race was back all the same.

And just in time. Because there was more to this game than first met the eye. If Melchester beat Holverton Wanderers they would be in the play-off semi-finals vying for promotion to League One. If they didn't, then the football club Roy loved, his local team, might stop playing in Melchester altogether and be moved to another town. And then what would happen to Roy's dream of playing professionally for his beloved Rovers?

Holverton had already been promoted after finishing second in League Two and were playing showboat football now, looking forward to a summer of rest.

Their goal came from nothing.

A quick one-two in the centre circle and

the Holverton winger, Martin Millar, was powering between Melchester's two central defenders, Lofty Peak and Dan Paconowski. Suddenly, Millar was in.

He needed one touch to control the bounce.

Then one shot.

Goal.

Melchester Rovers 0-1 Holverton Wanderers.

The goal was met with a stunned silence inside Mel Park. Now Melchester needed *two* goals against League Two's meanest defence.

Roy caught the ball that Gordon Stewart had angrily hoofed out of his net, then tossed it to Blackie Gray for kick-off. They looked into each other's eyes.

'Right then,' Roy said. 'We score two.'

'Yeah,' Blackie agreed.

But by half time – and with no more goals – Roy and his teammates trooped off. Losing. They had just forty-five minutes to win the game, salvage their season, and save their club.



