

# TOM PALMER

is coming  
to meet you!



Tom is the award-winning author of 55 books about spies, detectives, ghosts, history and war. Many of them are in sporting settings – football, rugby and running. His best known stories are ***Roy of the Rovers*** and Puffin's ***Football Academy*** and ***Foul Play*** series.

His latest novel, ***Resist*** is inspired by the Dutch Second World War resistance childhood of the famous actor and dancer Audrey Hepburn.

*"Excellent fast-paced detective novels." The Times.*

Read this booklet to find out more about Tom and his books.

What are his three top tips for writing?

Which football team does he support?

And... is it true he didn't enjoy reading until he was 17?

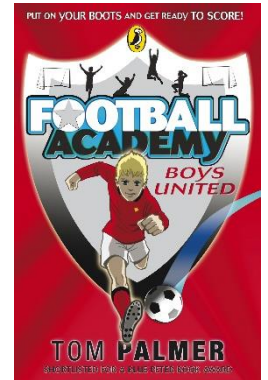


Find out more about Tom's sports books here:

## Football Academy

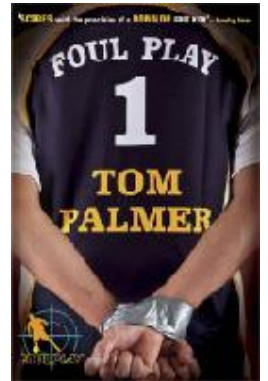
Six straightforward books set in a realistic Premier League football academy. Read together they make up one season in the life of a team of under-twelve football hopefuls. The first one is called *Boys United*.

[www.tompalmer.co.uk/football-academy](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/football-academy)



In Tom's five *Foul Play* books, Danny and Charlotte take on football kidnappers, ex-players out for revenge against former teammates and Russian billionaires who want to murder England players.

[www.tompalmer.co.uk/foul-play](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/foul-play)

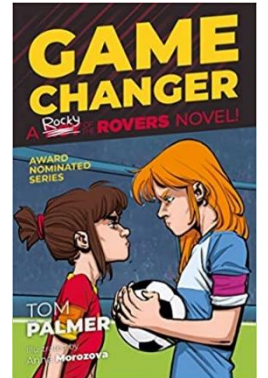


## Roy of the Rovers

Roy Race is a totally normal 16 year old – he just happens to be the best footballer his age in Melchester, too. Trouble is, he's so good that he's not playing against kids his age any more.

And don't miss his sister Rocky's adventures in 3 books of her own.

[www.tompalmer.co.uk/roy-of-the-rovers/](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/roy-of-the-rovers/)

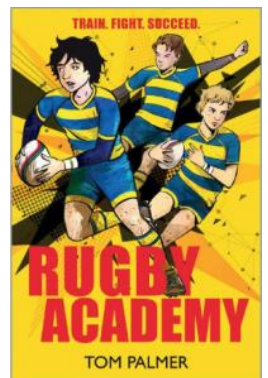


## Rugby Academy

Borderlands First XV have their sights set on becoming the best school rugby team in the world.

★★★★★ *Rugby World*

[www.tompalmer.co.uk/rugby-academy/](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/rugby-academy/)



*"Turning book-phobic boys into page-turning maniacs."* **Sunday Telegraph**

Find out more about Tom's history stories here:

## First World War

In *Over the Line*, a young footballer volunteers for the **First World War Footballers Battalion**. Based on a true story.

[www.tompalmer.co.uk/over-the-line/](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/over-the-line/)

*Armistice Runner* Lily is 13 - a cross-country and fell runner inspired by her great-great grandfather's **First World War** trench-running diary. [www.tompalmer.co.uk/armistice-runner/](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/armistice-runner/)

## Second World War

*Resist* is the story of Edda, inspired by the Dutch Second World War resistance childhood of the famous actor and dancer **Audrey Hepburn**. [www.tompalmer.co.uk/resist/](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/resist/)

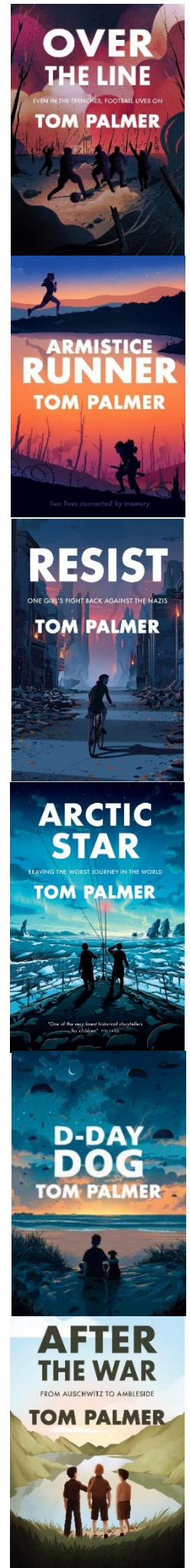
*Arctic Star* Winter 1943. Teenagers Frank, Joseph & Stephen are **Royal Navy** recruits on their first Arctic Convoys sea mission. [www.tompalmer.co.uk/arctic-star/](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/arctic-star/)

*D-Day Dog* Jack is going on a school trip to the **D-Day** landing beaches to learn about his war heroes and a parachuting **dog**. [www.tompalmer.co.uk/dday-dog/](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/dday-dog/)

*After the War* Surviving the horrific Nazi concentration camps, Yossi, Leo & Mordecai begin their hopeful recovery in the Lake District. [www.tompalmer.co.uk/after-the-war/](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/after-the-war/)

*"Over the Line deserves to sit alongside War Horse and Private Peaceful on any bookshelf."* **Helena Pielichaty**

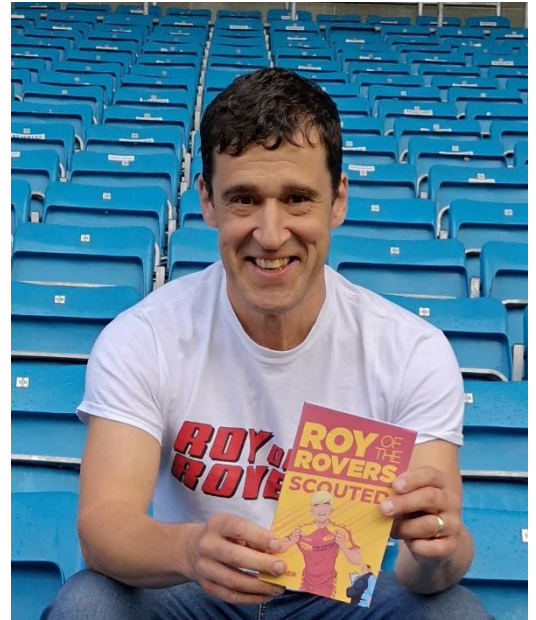
*"After the War is the best children's fiction book I've yet read about the Holocaust. No-one should miss it"* **CEO Anne Frank Trust UK**



# Ask Tom Palmer

## How did you become a writer?

I was reluctant to read before I reached 17, so being a writer was the last job on my list. But my mum used football newspapers and magazines to encourage me to enjoy reading. It worked! I started to really love stories, wanting to try my own. Reading made me a writer.



## Where do you get your ideas and inspiration from?

First of all it comes from something I am interested in. (Like football or a war.) I can walk past an old football stadium or do something fun with my family that makes me think about a story. Then I try and find more out by reading about it and watching films and going to places to discover more. I always keep a notebook with me to write ideas down.

## How do you start writing your stories, and how long do they take?

Longer books, like *Foul Play*, take four months to write. The *Football Academy* books take about a month each. I start by going to the places the book is set, make a plan, then I write a first draft. I spend a lot of time making changes to improve it.

## Do you base your characters like Danny Harte in the *Foul Play* books on anyone in real life?

Sort of. Danny is what I wish I'd been when I was 14. But wasn't brave like he is. A lot of my villains are based on real people. You might be able to work out who. Basing characters on real people can be a good way to make characters more believable.

In my historical fiction, I research real people's experiences through interviews and articles to make sure they are accurately and authentically represented.

### **What books do you enjoy reading?**

Stories. Books about travelling to foreign countries. Crime fiction. Books about football abroad. I am open to reading anything - I am currently reading *Anne of Green Gables!*



### **What advice do you have for anyone who wants to be a writer?**

- 1** Read books by lots of different authors so you can learn what you like and don't like.
- 2** Write about what you love or hate: then you will write with passion.
- 3** And never give up if you want to get published.  
If I can do it, then why not you?

### **What do you do when you're not writing?**

Spend time with my wife and daughter. Watch football and rugby. Read. And I like fell running.

### **Which football team do you support, and why?**

Leeds. Because I always have. And I was born there.

### **Where is your favourite place to read or write?**

Writing in the kitchen. Reading in bed.

### **1What's the most unusual fact about you and your life?**

Probably that I met my wife in the Sahara Desert.

**When Tom comes into school you can ask him questions too.**

**You can pop your question to ask Tom on the back as a reminder**



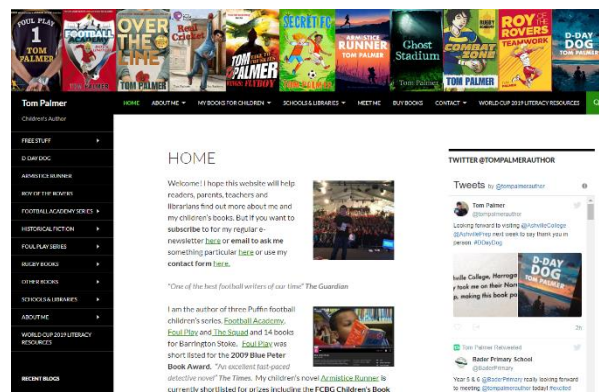
## **Answer these questions then fit them in the grid opposite**

- 1** In which book does a headmaster ban football?
- 2** The third Foul Play story features a young footballer from a cocoa growing family in Africa, but what is it called?
- 3** To research which book did Tom sleep in a tent in Wrexham stadium?
- 4** In which of the Football Academy series is the main character an under twelve player called Ryan Flynn?
- 5** Which story starts with 5 children in the Saharan desert and ends in Poland?
- 6** In which book does Jatinder learn to fly like his Ace Flyer hero Hardit Singh Malik?
- 7** What is the name of the book that opens with Woody arriving at a British boarding school?
- 8** What is the name of Tom's trilogy about Seth and Nadiya, who specialise in solving hauntings at football venues by ghosts from famous historical periods?
- 9** Which book follows footballer Jack from the football pitch to the trenches of the First World War?

## What next?

**Find** lots more about Tom on his website where he also writes a blog about his writing, his life and the schools he has visited.

[www.tompalmer.co.uk](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk)



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**Write** down your question to ask Tom here:

**Get** Tom's signature here: