



Bring the Noise: The Jürgen Klopp Story

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Jürgen Klopp's coaching career began in the German second tier at the unfashionable club of FSV Mainz 05, whom he steered to the Bundesliga for the first time in forty-one years. In 2008, he joined Borussia Dortmund, where he achieved back-to-back league titles and took the club to the UEFA Champions League final. He left Germany for one of the England's most challenging jobs: to manage Liverpool, a once-mighty club that had not managed sustained success since the 1980s.

It was not a task for the fainthearted. Anfield, Liverpool's home, is a temple to flamboyant attacking soccer powered by passion. In Klopp, Liverpool finally found a manager who embodied the essence of the club. Klopp is dynamic, expressive, restless, driven—he feels every move and play, every tactical shift, every contact on the field. His eyes betray a wild ecstasy and agony as his team thrives or falls. His game plan demands relentless commitment—the famous gegenpress—and he is one of the great personal motivators in all sport.

Raphael Honigstein, author of *Das Reboot* and Bundesliga correspondent for the Guardian, has interviewed Klopp and followed his career since his early years, and better than anyone knows how to "bring the noise" to his subject.

Bring the Noise: The Jürgen Klopp Story Details

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From Reader Review Bring the Noise: The Jürgen Klopp Story for online ebook

James says

This is the second biography of Jürgen Klopp I've read, and while this one had less focus on a quite bland early life, I was expecting more personality from Honigstein and it felt quite repetitive despite a raft of high-profile contacts.

The main problem with the Elmar Neveling biography was its focus on first hand accounts from Klopp's less well-known early life and career, with his more famous exploits only using newspaper reports as colour. The first 100 pages or so were therefore a welcome change, as Honigstein interviewed Mainz sporting director Heidel and Dortmund CEO Watzker, which painted a much more personal account of how Klopp succeeded as manager.

However the last two thirds just didn't hold my attention as much. The sections on Klopp's times at Dortmund and Mainz in particular were quite concise (compared to the timespan, they still took up a lot of the book), mostly describing the patterns of results in fairly generic writing, broken up by describing which players left and were bought by the club.

In part this seemed deliberate - the chapters were themed rather than chronological, and aspects of his personality were covered in one go rather than at points on a standard timeline, but on me this had the effect of making some chapters much more interesting than others. There comes a point too when another person describing Klopp as a great guy in a rather vague manner just doesn't add anything - variants of 'Klopp took time to see my Nan/Aunt/fans' do add to the authenticity of his personality, but don't add to the book when dotted about its pages.

It was a shame some of this detail didn't really translate to the match-day, as I can't remember feeling transported to the dressing room or the pitch in the same way that we were transported to the training ground with Klopp willing to listen to us, despite interviews with Lallana, Hummels and others. The overall impression is of an infectiously enthusiastic figurehead, and the results it brought on the pitch, but despite talk of his tactics I still don't quite understand what playing for him is like on matchday. This might seem a niche criticism but I just didn't find the last two-thirds or so as good as the promising start, while it felt like the potential was there.

Steffi says

Ich bin seit über 20 Jahren BVB-Fan und da Jürgen Klopp eine sehr prägende Zeit in der jüngeren Vereinsgeschichte hatte war ich sehr gespannt auf seine erste Biographie, auch wenn ich sonst gar nicht in dem Genre unterwegs bin.

Das Buch beginnt mit der Geburtsstätte von Jürgen Klopp, was in einer Biographie definitiv Sinn macht, aber bereits da merkt man, dass viele Details einfließen, die nur bedingt mit seinem Leben zu tun haben. Es wird oft seitenweise beschrieben was seine Schwestern und sein Vater so machen, das war für mich leider so gar nicht interessant und hat mir auch nicht wirklich geholfen die Person Klopp besser kennenzulernen.

Sein Leben wird sehr sprunghaft erzählt, es wechselt ständig zwischen Mainzer, Dortmunder und Liverpools Zeiten und der eigenen Jugend, was für mich nicht unbedingt die richtige Reihenfolge in einer

Biographie ist und dabei hilft eine Person besser zu verstehen.

Dazu kommt, dass Jürgen Klopp in diesem Buch nur aus Interviews zitiert wird und nicht selbst etwas dazu beigesteuert hat. Daher gab es nur selten etwas Neues für mich. Es kommen zwar auch Wegbegleiter, ehemalige Spieler und Freunde zu Wort, aber auch da hat sich nur mein Eindruck bestätigt, dass er ein sympathischer und auf dem Boden gebliebener Typ ist.

Die Abschnitte über seine Trainerstationen sind oftmals mehr Vereinsgeschichte und eine Aneinanderreihung von Spielergebnissen. Dies war aus Dortmunder Sicht für mich natürlich noch am ehesten interessant und hat so einige Erinnerungen und Emotionen geweckt. Die anderen Stationen waren in dieser Form dann nur bedingt interessant.

Insgesamt muss ich sagen, dass diese Biographie nicht wirklich das ist was ich erwartet habe. Ich habe nicht unbedingt mehr über Klopp erfahren und es gab so einige zähe und langweilige Passagen, die ich eher überflogen habe. Das Buch lässt mich ein wenig enttäuscht zurück, da ich auf intensivere Einblicke in die Person Klopp gehofft hatte.

Aman Mittal says

Das Reboot How German Football Reinvented Itself and Conquered the World which was published in 2015 after the German National Team won the FIFA World Cup and recent achievements of German Clubs in European Football. It is written by Raphael Honigstein who has come up with another German Football related story for us, and this time a high profile manager Jurgen Klopp.

Bring the Noise: The Jürgen Klopp Story is expected to be release in February in 2018 yet I was tempted to read in whip. For those who are familiar or interested in modern day football, are familiar with the name Klopp. He is currently managing a top English Football Club, Liverpool who are rich in history but what made him famous is his skillfull, brave intention to coach a football team in Mainz. His coaching career began in the German second tier at the unfashionable club of FSV Mainz 05, whom he steered to the Bundesliga (German Top Division) for the first time in forty-one years. He then took the command of Borussia Dortmund, a club that is driven by its passionate unanimous stream of fans. He achieved back-to-back league titles and took the club to the UEFA Champions League final. He left Germany for one of the England's most challenging jobs: to manage Liverpool, a once-mighty club that had not managed sustained success since the 1980s.

There are occasional interviews in the book of people of have worked with Klopp. He holds an ecstatic personality, with passion for the sport in his body language and is famous for his teams to play a different kind of tactical game, called gegenpress. This biographical work is presented with occasional flashbacks but concentrate enough of Klopp's life at Liverpool, for whom he is still the manager at the time of writing this book review. The book does take a deep dive in his management/coaching career.

The writing style of the book is not the most encouraging factor. Das Reboot had an influential way of telling the story of German Football to its readers, but this time Honigstein is plain and lacks a bit of creativity or just could not present an interesting personality in an interesting way enough. Martí Perarnau has done a better job both times with Pep Guardiola's biography. However, the book is still a good read for people who want to dive more into Klopp or for Liverpool fans who have high hopes for the club and share a similar trait as Dortmund fans in terms of being passionate.

3 out of 5!

Stephen says

Fascinating guy and great timing to read this just before Saturday's Champions League final (after reading this I reckon they might just do it, you know).

Annoyed me a bit with the way it keeps switching to different times when Klopp was at his 3 clubs (Mainz, Borussia Dortmund and Liverpool) - if only it could just have been in chronological order. And of course it's out of date already....

Aaron Mcquiston says

Before I read this biography, I was not a big fan of Jürgen Klopp. He was the person I saw in the post game press conferences complaining about the other team's coach, the other team's tactics, and over and over again, the referees. So who better than to read and review a biography about his life? Someone who does not like him much.

"Bring the Noise: the Jürgen Klopp Story" is an interesting tale on a larger than life figure. Klopp has been a fun, joking teammate and coach, yet he expects a great deal from his players. His style, implemented in FSV Mainz 05 and continued throughout his career is a pressing, high octane, high reward style that took the Bundesliga by storm. With his runs in FSV and Borussia Dortmund, he became one of the most sought after and successful faces of the coaching in the football world. With someone who is nice and giving to his players, he expects a lot from them as well, and this means that some of the times, the disappointment in the results of their hard work overflows onto the sideline and into the videos and papers. This does not make it right, but it kind of makes it "Klopp being Klopp."

The things that I respect from Jürgen Klopp as a player and a coach after reading this is that he has a huge work ethic. His teams in Germany were blue collar teams, not bought like Bayern Munich and Manchester United, but filled with above average to average talent that played a system that Klopp knew could beat anyone on the right day. His teams work hard and rely on that hard work to get through the games. Liverpool FC, the Premier League team he coaches presently, has a little more money, but they do also resemble the hard working teams that he had in FSV and BVB. He values effort and buying into his system over talent, and this sometimes does not work out for him.

As for his current team, Liverpool FC, there is something that I always think about when I see the results of the weekend's fixtures that the book actually addresses. When Liverpool plays the top six teams in the league, they are almost unstoppable, but when they play the teams that are at the bottom of the table or should beat handedly, they usually lose or draw. Even a few weeks ago, on November 21, during a Championship League game, Liverpool was playing Sevilla FC, they were leading 3-0 at the half, but ended up with a 3-3 draw, to a team that they should have beat handedly. I do not know how this affects the future of Klopp in Liverpool, but the problem is noticeable, and sometimes of an drawback to Klopp's Liverpool team.

This shows that there is some fairness in Honigstein's biography. Sometimes it does feel like a bit of a fluff piece, how great Klopp is as a person, but there are moments where real issues are raised, even without a solid answer, besides underperformance. After reading it, I do like Jürgen Klopp a little bit more, and I will

keep a closer eye on Liverpool FC, but there will always be those moments of "Klopp being Klopp," that will make me laugh. The good lesson that "Bring the Noise" teaches is that Klopp is only like this because he cares about his team, his players, and most importantly about football.

I received an ARC of this through NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Yousif Al Zeera says

Amazing book. As simple as that. The book is well-written and the author keeps you engaged throughout the Mainz, Borussia Dortmund and Liverpool journeys. Pity that it was written before Liverpool's incredible 2018 Champions League journey. Nonetheless, a great book and let you in into Jurgen's wonderful character. Jurgen Klopp is truly much more than a football coach. An inspiration wherever he had been.

For football fans, the book also serves well to let you delve into the 'gegenpressing' tactic. Your legs feel uneasy as you read through as you terribly feel you just need to lace up your boots and run like there is no tomorrow!

Kahn says

Football, as the a wise man once said, is a funny old game.

It used to just be about 22 men and a ball, but as time has gone and money has come in it's become less about that and more and more about surrounding circus.

First we had the celebrity player. Someone who was very good at kicking the ball was suddenly elevated to a level way beyond the poppiest of pop stars.

The film and music worlds had had this for years, but suddenly we were reading about our kicke-ball stars on pages other than the back seven or eight.

But that wasn't enough.

Now we have the managers.

Suddenly an elite bunch are being lauded and canonised by people who apparently have time on their hands.

And sure, some buy in to it. Some think themselves more important than the game that made them or the club that pays them.

But not all.

And as the status of player and manager has grown, so has the perceived status of those who write about them.

Not all, granted. I imagine outside of the football world people are quite oblivious to the writings of Jonathan Wilson (no, not that one) and Michael Calvin.

I'd imagine there are those within the game who have not heard of Raphael Honigstein, an expert on the German game according to the book bio.

And yes, for a while, he was the go-to guy. He was on podcasts, radio shows, football programmes when someone who had watched more than Bayern on a Wednesday evening was required.

But expert? If that's the badge we're slinging about then Archie Rhind Tutt needs to update his CV.

Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against Honigstein. I've found his contributions to both Football Weekly and The Totally Football Show to be both insightful and amusing.

But an 'expert' would have known better than to even attempt to write this book.

Because as a mere fan on the sidelines — even as one who wholeheartedly worships at the alter of Klopp — I could have told both Honigstein and his publisher that while Jurgen Klopp is one of the star managers in the modern game, that's not of his making and he couldn't give a toss about it.

Which is why Klopp: Bring The Noise has one glaring problem with it.

A distinct lack of Klopp.

Yes, there are quotes from him (referenced and credited to the source), but at no point was he involved in anything written here.

And that's where the book falls down.

In order to hit the word count, we have far more information about former managers at Mainz (where Klopp cut his oh-so-sparkling teeth) than we either wanted or had a place in a book about the main man.

We also have quite detailed breakdowns of various seasons and the results there-in. Lovely, I'm sure, but nothing I couldn't look up elsewhere.

And the less said about the chopping about with the time lines in the early chapters the better.

Sure, we gain some insight into what other people think about the man who coined the phrase 'heavy metal football', but to be honest that's not as interesting as what Klopp thinks of his time at his previous clubs or how he feels in his new home in L4.

But clearly that wasn't an option. Largely, I suspect, because Klopp would rather get on with the job in hand than talk about it.

As with any book, what I wanted was something new — and as an unabashed devotee, how he organises his sock draw would have done — but what I got was a new version of the established story. One that was splashed across the broadsheets when he joined Liverpool and has since been turned into a very good documentary on the club's official TV channel.

The modern game is all about money, I know and understand that even if I don't like it.

But while the club has mastered the art of selling the Klopp merch we want, all this book manages to do is try and cash in with by rehashing what we all ready have.

Tim Hoiland says

Who doesn't love Jürgen Klopp? People who don't know who he is, that's who. Fun book about an enigmatic, magnetic manager. More to come in my books newsletter later this week.

Homunculus says

Interessante Biographie über Jürgen Klopp.

Ich habe das Hörbuch gehört, welches mich über die gut zehn Stunden doch sehr gefesselt hat.

Abzug gibt es, da mir der Aufbau des ganzen Buches zu konfus ist und in der Zeit sehr stark gesprungen wird. Beispielsweise wird schon über die Trainerzeit in Liverpool gesprochen, danach geht es dann wieder zurück nach Dortmund und dann kommen irgendwann auch wieder Geschichten zu der Zeit als Trainer in Mainz. Diesen Aufbau hab ich so nicht wirklich verstanden.

Trotzdem ein gutes Hörbuch mit einem angenehmen Sprecher.

Paul Grech says

Despite how heavily Jürgen Klopp's career has been covered both in Germany and in England, Honigstein manages to keep this book interesting (partly by avoiding the trap of going over Klopp's career in a chronological order) and insightful through conversations with those who have been with him throughout his career. The conversations with Peter Krawietz, Klopp's second assistant at Liverpool, are particularly illuminating.

Thomas says

Given that I support Liverpool, I may be a little bit biased but this is the first football related book that I have consumed so quickly and enjoyed immensely.

An enlightening read into the down to earth nature of one of the best managers in the world. A man who rouses the rabble and motivates the troops. How can anyone not love Klopp? The frantic 12th man kicking each shot, joining in each tackle on the sidelines.

What set this book apart for me was reading his journey from Mainz to Dortmund and finally Liverpool. It had me reminiscing about my teenage years where here in Wales we had a European football show in Welsh on S4C called Sgorio. A highlights show featuring the Bundesliga, La Liga and Serie A. One of my memories of this is the blonde haired fellow with Mainz, the celebrations of their promotion and survival in the Bundesliga. Reading these passages brought back the memories from so long ago.

The book itself is very personal and intimate with lots of interviews from the people at the heart of the life and career of Klopp. It gives a great insight to the man inside the manager. It is easy to see how he can motivate the teams to go above and beyond.

Even if you support a rival team, don't let your colours put you off this book, it is a fantastic read.

Arjun says

Whilst a generally interesting read for football fans, the biggest issue with Honigstein's book is that it falls between two stools, being neither a detailed biography of Jürgen Klopp, nor an extensive expose of his tactical philosophy. If the benchmark for recent football managerial studies is 'Pep Confidential' by Marti Perarnau then 'Bring the Noise' comes about as close as Liverpool's title challenge in the 17/18 season i.e. disappointingly (but predictably) short. That said, although both the study of the man and of his tactics seem half-baked, there are a few interesting conclusions that can be drawn from Klopp's story - ones which are useful to consider in the context of the current direction that Liverpool FC are heading.

First, Honigstein's various interviews make it clear that Klopp is a classic football romantic: the journey and the experience are almost equally important to him as the final result. For Mainz, Dortmund & Liverpool, in both victories and gut-wrenching defeats (of which many have rightly noted Klopp has a disproportionately high number for his time in the game) he makes constant references to "our story", "our dream" etc. There's a particularly revealing interview after Dortmund pulled off a famous underdog victory against Malaga in 2013 to reach the Champions League semi-finals: "My motivation as a coach is to collect that kind of stuff, for people to tell and retell it. Football is a shared collection of stories, a shared history, an identity. You win and you lose, but you're with people you like. You're at home, you belong. That's what we all want. Ten million people want to belong here". Certainly not a sentiment you would expect from most rival managers, e.g. Jose Mourinho or Rafa Benitez. In this context, it's not unsurprising that Klopp has only chosen to manage three blue-collar clubs with rich histories, somewhat faded glories but a strong sense of community, culture & work ethic, forming a deliberately close bond with supporters at all three.

It is also clear why football owners love to have Klopp as their manager. Wherever he has managed, he has outperformed relative to transfer resources, wage structure & expectations. Have these constraints been the

reason for his adoption of Wolfgang Frank's 'Gegenpressing' tactical philosophy (the idea that an opposing team is most vulnerable when they regain possession in their own half, at which point you collectively press them to win back the ball close to their goal, while they are at their most disorganised, thus requiring only 2-3 passes to score), or has his success with 'Gegenpressing' been the reason why he has been consistently employed by teams with these constraints? The causation is not entirely clear, but probably the former (notwithstanding that both Bayern Munich in 2012 and Manchester United in 2015 both tried to hire him as manager). One thing Honigstein does illustrate well is how Klopp has developed a system of tactics that is entirely designed for the underdog, whereby the collective 11 players (+ harnessing, crucially, the supporters) are more than the sum of their parts. "We may not have the best players, but we can still be the best team", he remarked at Dortmund. By taking Mainz to the Bundeliga, Dortmund to back-to-back Bundesliga titles and now Liverpool to back-to-back top 4 finishes (EDIT: and a Champions League final!), it's clear why the CEOs and Sporting Directors of all 3 clubs only have positive things to say about Klopp in this book.

For a Liverpool fan (like this reader) one can read Honigstein's book between the lines and draw some tentative thoughts about the Klopp era at the club. For example, although not explicit, it's clear that Klopp took the job because he is obsessively driven to win Liverpool's first league title in 18 years - the one achievement that the fans crave the most - and return some glory to the club in the same way he did at Mainz & Dortmund. However, it's also clear that he regards the lifespan of his project at 7 years (the exact amount of time he spent at both his former clubs). A similar pattern evolved at both former clubs whereby back-to-back successes clearly reduced the appetite of players to continue to 'buy in' to his intense 'Gegenpressing' style of football, rendering it much less effective. Finally, and perhaps most interestingly, the book does give the strong impression that after having to operate with low transfer resources & consistently being poached for his best players (Kagawa, Goetze, Lewandowski, Coutinho etc), Klopp is now willing to spend more aggressively for the right player in order to compete with the top clubs in England (the recent Liverpool signing of Virgil Van Dijk for £75 million being a good example of a very un-Klopp-like signing).

'Bring the Noise' is a solid introduction to the man & his managerial and tactical philosophy but feels under-developed in all the crucial areas. As a Liverpool fan, one hopes a few more successful chapters will help to solve this problem for the next edition!

Brendan Crowley says

It's also fascinated me how a manager's character can shape the neutral fan's perception of a football team. Under previous Liverpool managers (especially Houlier) I found Liverpool quite dis-likable and certainly not a team I would root for. Yet under Klopp its hard not to have a soft spot for the free-flowing Liverpool team that plays in a manner

Klopp: Bring the Noise is a fun and detailed biography of the most charismatic manager in football – Jürgen “Kloppo” Klopp. Honigstein details the key influences on Klopp's career including his own limitations as a player and his one-time coach Wolfgang Frank.

Klopp comes across in the book in the same way he does on TV. He clearly has a huge work ethic and builds a very strong connection with his players. The access that Honigstein had to so many people close to Klopp at different times of his life and career gives a great insight into his tactics and his management.

A clear pattern emerges – builds a fantastic team with meagre resources, performs well above expectations only to see a decline – either due to star players being headhunted or the rest of the league adopting his tactics. It remains to be seen if his Liverpool team can compete in the Premier League and become more than

a very good cup team.

I'm a big fan of Raphael Honigstein's writing – in particular his book Das Reboot. Like his other work, this book is well written, well researched and a very enjoyable read.

There are a few areas in the book where more detail would have been interesting. The section on the type of player Klopp looked to sign was very interesting but I would have like more detail on why certain players were signed – what was it about Lewandawski that made Dortmund pull the trigger for example when he was overlooked by other clubs?

I found the ordering of chapters a bit frustrating. I understand what Honigstein was trying to achieve – linking his first days at each club together to enable the reader to make comparisons between his time at Mainz, Dortmund and Liverpool. But for a reader not all that familiar with Klopp's time at Mainz, the jumps back and forth were a bit disorientating.

Overall, I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in Klopp – and I can't imagine why any football fan wouldn't be interested in him!

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miaaa says

If you watch Liverpool matches, your attentions as well as media's will be mostly drawn to an animatic and passionate bespectacled guy on the touchline. He's as interesting to watch as the team he managed on the pitch. This book is amazing, told by those who knows Klopp the best and what made him so passionate. Klopp and Liverpool are made for each others. YNWA.

Dave says

Okay, I'm going to admit I know very little about soccer. A year ago I could never of told you who this man was. I knew noting at all about the game of soccer, and only tuned in when it was World Cup time, like most Americans. For some reason I became enthralled with the game during this years World Cup tournament. Watching many of the games I became hooked. I became a fan wanting to learn how the game was played. So some friends told me you have to watch the English Premier League, and you have to pick a team. So I did. Looking over the teams and the cities, I decided to parlay my lifelong love of the Beatles into becoming a Liverpool FC fan. Little did I know the team I picked was one of the best in the league. The book is about their coach. I learnt much about the strategy and the way the game is played from this book. I found a statement from the "Klopper "that sums perfectly why I am a sports fan.

"You can lose....You can lose again...And again..But you can always win the game after that...And that's what's so great about it"
