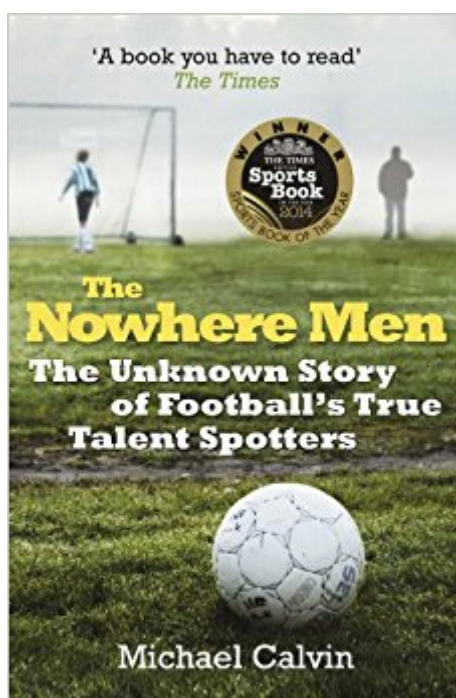




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# The Nowhere Men: The Unknown Story Of Football's True Talent Spotters



## Synopsis

A fascinating insight into the enclosed world of football scouts. A teenaged boy plays football in a suburban park. His name is Raheem Sterling. The call is made: "Get down here quick. This is something special." Another boy is eight, going on 28. His name is Jack Wilshere. The referee, an Arsenal scout, spirits him away from Luton Town. A young goalkeeper struggles on loan at Cheltenham Town in League Two. His name is Jack Butland. Within months he will be playing for England. Welcome to football's hidden tribe. Scouts are everywhere yet nowhere, faceless and nameless, despite making the informed decisions worth millions. Award-winning sportswriter Michael Calvin opens up their hidden world, examining their disconnected lifestyles, petty betrayals, and unconsidered professionalism of men who spend long, lonely hours on the road.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A magnificent book, full of extraordinary characters and beautifully told." *Guardian*  
"A book you have to read." *The Times*  
"the book is full of great stories and really shows you yet another perspective into the beautiful game, one that hasn't been told until now." *InternationalSoccerNetwork.com*

Michael Calvin is a sportswriter who has worked in more than 80 countries and covered seven summer Olympics and six World Cup finals. He is chief sports writer with the Independent on Sunday, and has held similar positions at the Daily Telegraph, the Times, and Mail on Sunday.

A great narrative look at what scouting entails in the lower leagues of England. While I wish it got into a little more of the technical details of what scouts look for and how they compile information, Michael Calvin does a great job of humanizing these men and highlighting the struggles of making a living doing what they do.

Terrific analysis of a misunderstood breed, and their fight for relevance. Terrible job, but they live for the day they see that special talent, the one they've been looking for

Great read. It's been weeks since I've finished this book and I still find myself thinking back to the stories that Michael Calvin shared.

Michael Calvin does it again. You already know the quality of writing to expect from a writer as accomplished as him.

Bought his as a gift for my husband and he loved reading it. A must have for a soccer/futbol fan!

Arrived as stated

Got a real understanding of what motivates the scouts and how much effort is required all for the chance to stay in the game most love

It's a must read for anybody who wants to be or already is involved in the pro game. Very well researched and written.

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