



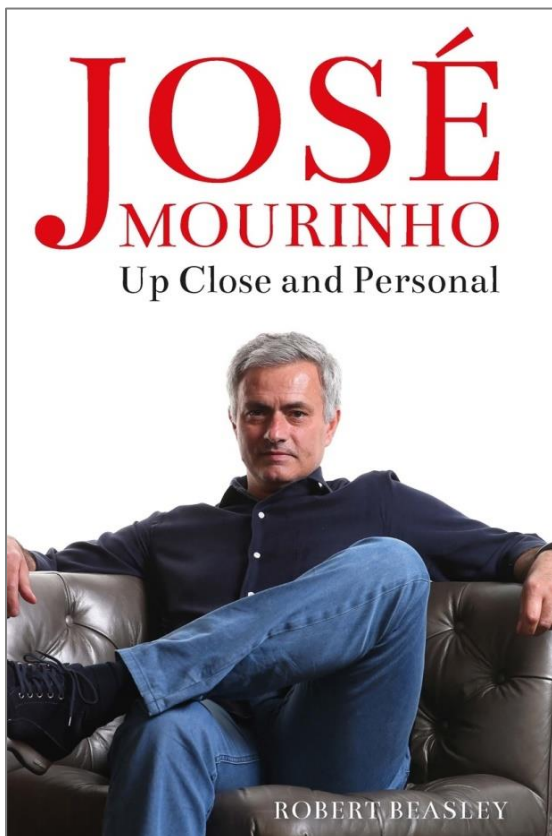
THE BIGGEST SPORTING TITLE OF THE AUTUMN

JOSÉ MOURINHO: Up Close and Personal

ROBERT BEASLEY

MICHAEL O'MARA BOOKS / 29 September 2016 / £16.99 Hardback

JOSÉ MOURINHO: Up Close and Personal is the gripping biography of the new Manchester United manager by a writer who has unique insight into Mourinho, both on and off the pitch.



This remarkable account of the private man and public manager begins at Old Trafford in 2004, when Mourinho's Porto put Manchester United out of the Champions League. Since then, author Robert Beasley has enjoyed unparalleled access and unrivalled experiences with Mourinho, both on a professional basis and on a personal level.

Touring alongside Mourinho during his first tenure at Chelsea, Beasley forged a friendship with the manager that has lasted to this day. He reveals how close Mourinho came to becoming England's manager, and Tottenham's attempts to secure him. He discloses the shocking depths of Mourinho's dislike of Arsenal boss Arsène Wenger, and how his relationship with Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich really played out behind the scenes. Then there are all the intriguing football stories - the players he bought, those he desperately wanted, but couldn't get, and life behind closed doors at the biggest football clubs in the world.

Robert Beasley is one of the nation's best-known sports writers, and is renowned for breaking big, exclusive stories and delivering dynamic interviews with some of sport's biggest names. This definitive biography, written by the one man allowed inside José Mourinho's inner sanctum, draws on Beasley's many years of friendship with one of the most unpredictable, charismatic and brilliant football managers the game has ever known.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Robert Beasley is an award-winning sports writer who has enjoyed 30 years on Fleet Street and spent the last 22 years on the country's two biggest-selling newspapers. He was Chief Sports Correspondent of *The Sun* and before that was Chief Football Writer and Chief Sports Reporter on the *News of the World*. He now runs his own media company and is planning a range of books on some of the biggest names in sport. He has been a Chelsea supporter since 1967.

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NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR, ROBERT BEASLEY

The aim of *José Mourinho: Up Close and Personal* is to provide a 'real-time' record of the thoughts and actions of one of football's most charismatic, colourful and controversial characters.

My unique place within Mourinho's inner sanctum has given me unprecedented access to the man himself and an unparalleled insight into the way he works. This is laid bare in the 47 diverse chapters of the book, which all combine to provide a compelling and more complete picture of Mourinho the man and the manager.

All the chapters are genuine personal experiences of working alongside, and often closely with, the Special One for twelve years from 2004 to 2016.

I have ignored nothing; I have withheld nothing. However, I did apply one strict rule: if I didn't see it, hear it or discuss it with Mourinho, I have not included it.

I was simply not interested in penning a second-hand or third-hand account of occasions and incidents of which I had no first-hand knowledge.

I have also strived not to be judgmental or analytical. The only aim is to provide a portal for a fresh and fuller picture of a man who inspires and infuriates in seemingly equal proportions.