

1955 fa cup final

Introduction to the 1955 FA Cup Final

1955 FA Cup Final stands as one of the most iconic and historic matches in the annals of English football. Held at the legendary Wembley Stadium on 7 May 1955, this final showcased the talents of Manchester City and Newcastle United, two clubs with rich histories and passionate fanbases. The match not only delivered thrilling football but also became etched in the memories of fans due to its dramatic outcome, exceptional individual performances, and the cultural significance it held during the post-war era. To fully appreciate the grandeur of this encounter, it is essential to explore the context of the tournament, the journey of both finalists, the match itself, and its enduring legacy.

Context and Background of the 1955 FA Cup

Historical Significance of the FA Cup

The FA Cup, officially known as The Football Association Challenge Cup, is the oldest football competition in the world, dating back to 1871-72. It has always held a special place in English football as a tournament that celebrates the sport's grassroots roots and its capacity to produce memorable moments. The 1955 final was no different, capturing the imagination of football fans across the country and beyond.

Football in the Post-War Era

The early 1950s marked a period of rebuilding and resurgence for English football, following the disruptions caused by World War II. The 1955 FA Cup final epitomized the optimism of this era, with clubs eager to restore normalcy, pride, and entertainment to the nation. The match reflected the growing professionalism, tactical evolution, and increased popularity of the sport during this period.

The Road to Wembley: Pathways of the Finalists

Manchester City's Journey

Manchester City, a club based in East Manchester, had a strong cup tradition by the 1950s. In the 1954-55 FA Cup, City demonstrated resilience and skill, overcoming several opponents in both the earlier rounds and the semi-final.

Their journey included notable victories over teams such as West Bromwich Albion and Sunderland. Their semi-final victory was particularly dramatic, as they defeated Birmingham City 3-1 at Maine Road, their home ground, setting the stage for their Wembley appearance.

Newcastle United's Path

Newcastle United, hailing from the northeast of England, had a storied history in the FA Cup, having previously won the trophy multiple times. In 1955, they navigated a challenging route through the competition, including a semi-final triumph over Wolverhampton Wanderers, a team renowned for their formidable defenses. The semi-final was held at Hillsborough in Sheffield, where Newcastle's tactical discipline and attacking prowess shone through, earning them a spot in their sixth final appearance.

The Final Match: A Detailed Account

Pre-Match Atmosphere and Expectations

The 1955 final drew a massive crowd, with over 100,000 spectators filling Wembley Stadium. The mood was electric, with both sets of fans eager to see their teams claim the prestigious trophy. Expectations were high, with Newcastle considered slight favorites due to their recent form and star players, whereas Manchester City hoped to leverage their attacking talent and home advantage.

Match Overview

The game kicked off in front of an enthusiastic crowd, with both sides displaying determination and tactical discipline. The match was tightly contested, with moments of individual brilliance and strategic play defining the proceedings.

Key Moments and Turning Points

- Early Goals:** The scoring opened in the 19th minute when Manchester City's winger, Joe Hayes, delivered a precise cross that was converted by forward Bobby Johnstone, giving City an early lead.
- Newcastle's Response:** Newcastle responded swiftly, with their captain, Len White, equalizing in the 33rd minute after a well-placed shot from outside the box.
- Second Half Tension:** The second half saw intense battling, with both

teams creating scoring opportunities. The match remained finely balanced until the 80th minute.

4. **Winning Goal:** The decisive moment came when Manchester City's goalkeeper, Bert Trautmann, made a series of crucial saves, and in the 86th minute, Manchester City's Dennis Tueart scored a late, winning goal from close range after a scramble in the penalty area.

Final Score and Outcome

The match concluded with Manchester City emerging victorious with a 2-1 scoreline. Their resilience and late-game determination earned them their third FA Cup triumph, and the victory was celebrated as a significant achievement in their club history.

Notable Players and Performances

Manchester City Key Players

- **Bert Trautmann:** The German goalkeeper's commanding presence and crucial saves earned him widespread acclaim.
- **Bobby Johnstone:** An influential forward who provided the assist for the opening goal.
- **Dennis Tueart:** The hero of the final, scoring the winning goal late in the match.

Newcastle United's Standouts

- **Len White:** The goal-scorer, whose effort kept Newcastle in contention.
- **Jimmy Scoular:** The tireless midfielder who led the team's defensive efforts.

Legacy and Impact of the 1955 FA Cup Final

Historical Significance

The 1955 final is remembered for its dramatic finish, the performances of key players, and its reflection of the post-war football culture. It reinforced Manchester City's reputation as a club capable of delivering under pressure and added to Newcastle United's proud history in the competition.

Influence on Football and Culture

- The match showcased the importance of teamwork, tactical discipline, and individual skill.
- It contributed to Wembley's legendary status as the home of English football finals.
- The heroism of Bert Trautmann, who continued playing despite a broken neck, became part of football folklore, symbolizing dedication and resilience.

Memorable Moments and Legends

The final's most enduring memory is Bert Trautmann's heroic performance, which became a symbol of sportsmanship and grit. His extraordinary effort, despite suffering a broken neck, elevated the match beyond mere competition and into the realm of legend.

Conclusion: The Enduring Significance of the 1955 FA Cup Final

The 1955 FA Cup Final remains one of the most celebrated matches in English football history. It embodied the drama, passion, and unpredictability that make the FA Cup special. The event not only highlighted the talents of players from Manchester City and Newcastle United but also contributed to the rich tapestry of football lore. Decades later, fans still recall the thrilling moments, heroic performances, and the sense of occasion that the 1955 final delivered. It stands as a testament to the enduring magic of the FA Cup and its power to create legends and memories for generations to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who were the finalists in the 1955 FA Cup Final?

The 1955 FA Cup Final was contested between Newcastle United and Manchester City.

Where was the 1955 FA Cup Final played?

The match was held at Wembley Stadium in London.

What was the outcome of the 1955 FA Cup Final?

Newcastle United defeated Manchester City 3-1 to win the FA Cup.

Who scored the goals in the 1955 FA Cup Final?

Jackie Milburn scored two goals and Bobby Mitchell added a third for Newcastle United; Manchester City's goal was scored by Joe Hayes.

Additional Resources

1955 FA Cup Final: The Match That Became the "Matthews Final"

The 1955 FA Cup Final stands as one of the most iconic and memorable matches in the history of English football. Often referred to as the "Matthews Final", this game captured the imagination of fans across the nation and beyond, thanks largely to the exceptional performance of Stan Matthews and a dramatic comeback by Newcastle United. This article offers a comprehensive analysis of the 1955 FA Cup Final, exploring its historical context, key moments, standout players, tactical nuances, and lasting legacy.

Historical Context of the 1955 FA Cup Final

The Significance of the FA Cup in English Football

The FA Cup, established in 1871, is the oldest football competition in the world and has long been regarded as the pinnacle of domestic knockout football in England. Winning the FA Cup is not just about lifting a trophy; it's about securing a place in history, demonstrating resilience, and achieving glory on the grandest stage.

The Road to Wembley

The 1954-1955 FA Cup season saw Newcastle United and Manchester City emerge victorious from their respective semi-finals. Newcastle, managed by Charlie Mitten, had a strong league campaign and a reputation for resilient, attacking football. Manchester City, on the other hand, had a talented squad led by players like Joe Hayes and Bert Trautmann.

The Underlying Narrative

Leading up to the final, Newcastle was seen as the underdog against the more fashionable Manchester City, who had been performing well in the First Division. However, what unfolded was a classic David versus Goliath story, punctuated by individual brilliance and tactical shifts that have made this final legendary.

The Match Day: Setting the Scene

The Venue and Atmosphere

Held at Wembley Stadium on May 7, 1955, the FA Cup Final drew a crowd of over 100,000 spectators. The atmosphere was electric, with fans eagerly awaiting a clash between two talented sides. Despite the rainy weather, the passion was palpable, and the occasion was marked by an air of anticipation.

Starting Lineups and Tactics

Newcastle United Lineup Highlights:

- Goalkeeper: Jack Fairbrother
- Defense: Joe Haynes, Bob Stokoe, and others
- Midfield: Charlie Mitten, Len White
- Forwards: Derek Llambias, Bobby Mitchell, and more

Manchester City Lineup Highlights:

- Goalkeeper: Bert Trautmann
- Defense: Jack Dyson, Ernie Tippet
- Midfield: Joe Hayes, Roy Paul
- Forwards: Jack Swindells, Bobby Johnstone

Tactical Approaches:

- Newcastle favored an attacking, counter-attacking style, leveraging their quick wingers and creative midfielders.
- Manchester City aimed to control possession and utilize their experienced attacking line-up.

The Match Unfolds: Key Moments and Turning Points

Early Dominance and City's Lead

Manchester City started strongly, with their forward line creating early chances. Their persistence paid off in the 13th minute when Jack Swindells scored, giving City an early lead. This set the tone for a tense first half, with City dictating play and Newcastle trying to respond.

The Spectacular Comeback by Newcastle

Despite City's dominance, Newcastle's resilience shone through. In the 27th minute, Bobby Mitchell equalized, drawing Newcastle back into contention. The game remained fiercely contested, with both sides pushing hard for the lead.

The Heroic Performance of Stan Matthews

One of the defining features of this final was the outstanding performance of Stan Matthews, the legendary winger for Blackpool. Matthews, renowned for his dribbling, pace, and vision, played a pivotal role in Newcastle's attack. His work rate and skill earned him widespread praise, and he became the focus of much of the game's excitement.

The Decisive Goal and the "Matthews Final" Label

In the 78th minute, Stan Matthews delivered a pinpoint cross that found Len White, who scored to give Newcastle a 2-1 lead. Matthews's contribution was crucial, but the drama was far from over.

City's Late Equalizer and Extra Time

In the 89th minute, Manchester City equalized through a clever finish by Joe Hayes, pushing the game into extra time. Both teams fought desperately, with chances at either end.

The Winning Goal

In the 103rd minute, Newcastle's Bobby Mitchell scored his second goal, securing a 3-2 victory. The match concluded with Newcastle United lifting the FA Cup trophy amid jubilant celebrations.

Key Players and Performances

Stan Matthews: The Star of the Final

- Known as the "Wizard of the Winger," Matthews's dribbling and crossing ability were instrumental.
- His influence extended beyond goals, creating numerous scoring opportunities.
- Despite being 40 years old at the time, Matthews's performance defied expectations and cemented his legacy.

Bobby Mitchell: The Match Winner

- Scored two vital goals, including the decisive winner.
- His work rate and finishing under pressure exemplified the spirit of Newcastle's team.

Bert Trautmann: The Inspirational Goalkeeper

- City's goalkeeper was notable for his commanding presence.
- Despite suffering an injury during the match, Trautmann continued to play and made several key saves.

Tactical Analysis

Newcastle's Approach

- Emphasized quick counter-attacks exploiting space on the wings, especially through Matthews.
- Maintained resilience after falling behind, demonstrating mental toughness.
- Used strategic substitutions and adjustments to counter City's attacking threats.

Manchester City's Strategy

- Focused on maintaining possession and probing for openings.
- Tried to utilize their strong midfield to control the tempo.
- Faced challenges in breaking down Newcastle's organized defense.

The Importance of Midfield Battle

The midfield duel was crucial, with both sides vying for control. Matthews's ability to influence the game from wide positions was a decisive factor.

Legacy and Cultural Impact

The "Matthews Final" in Football History

- The 1955 FA Cup Final is renowned for showcasing Matthews's artistry and resilience.
- The term "Matthews Final" underscores his lasting impact and status as one of football's great icons.

Influence on Future Generations

- Inspired countless young players with his skill, professionalism, and longevity.
- Demonstrated that age is no barrier to excellence in sports.

Lasting Memories and Celebrations

- The match is often replayed in highlight reels and documentaries.
- It remains a symbol of the magic of the FA Cup and the unpredictability of knockout football.

Conclusion: A Classic Encounter

The 1955 FA Cup Final is more than just a game; it is a story of perseverance, skill, and legendary performances. With Stan Matthews's brilliance at the forefront, Newcastle United's resilience, and a dramatic finish, this final has secured its place in football folklore. Whether appreciated for its sporting excellence or its cultural significance, the 1955 FA Cup Final continues to inspire fans and players alike, embodying the timeless spirit of the beautiful game.

1955 Fa Cup Final

1955 fa cup final: Victoria Crosses on the Western Front - The Final Advance in Picardy

Paul Oldfield, 2025-01-30 Provides a detailed, strategic account of VC actions, complemented by maps, photographs, and biographies. In the past, while visiting the First World War battlefields, the author often wondered where the various Victoria Cross actions took place. He resolved to find out. In 1988, in the midst of his army career, research for this book commenced and over the years numerous sources have been consulted. Victoria Crosses on the Western Front - The Final Advance in Picardy is designed for the battlefield visitor as much as the armchair reader. A thorough account of each VC action is set within the wider strategic and tactical context. Detailed sketch maps show the area today, together with the battle-lines and movements of the combatants. It will allow visitors to stand upon the spot, or very close to, where each VC was won. Photographs of the battle sites richly illustrate the accounts. There is also a comprehensive biography for each recipient, covering every aspect of their lives warts and all parents and siblings, education, civilian employment, military career, wife and children, death and burial/commemoration. A host of other information, much of it published for the first time, reveals some fascinating characters, with numerous links to many famous people and events.

1955 fa cup final: Don Revie Christopher Evans, 2021-10-28 SHORTLISTED FOR THE SUNDAY TIMES SPORTS BOOK AWARDS 2022 The life and times of Don Revie - one of the most complex and controversial men ever to grace the game of football. Whenever the greatest managers the game has ever produced are mentioned, names like Busby, Shankly, Paisley and Ferguson trip off the tongue. Despite dominating the game in the late 1960s and '70s there is one name missing: Don Revie, the former Leeds United and England manager. Revie was one of the most complex and controversial men ever to grace the game of football. As a player, he was crowned Footballer of the Year and credited with creating the modern centre-forward. As a manager, he took a Leeds United side languishing in the lower half of the second division and turned them into not only league champions, but one of the most dominant sides in the country. As England manager, Revie lost the magic touch and became increasingly indecisive. After three years in the role and fearing the sack, Revie became the first man to walk out on England. Then came the backlash. Revie was branded a traitor and banned from the game for 10 years, and the press declared open season on the manager. Accused of offering bribes to throw matches, his reputation was destroyed. Shunned by the football establishment, he died just 12 years after walking out on England. Revie's death, at the age of 61, robbed him of the opportunity ever to rebuild his reputation as one of the most important figures ever seen in English football. The life and times of this multifaceted, enigmatic, pioneering football man have still never been fully explored and explained in detail before. Featuring new interviews with Johnny Giles, Kevin Keegan, Norman Hunter, Eddie Gray, Allan Clarke, Joe Jordan, Gordon McQueen, Malcolm Macdonald and members of the Revie family, this long-overdue biography reveals how today's football owes so much to Don Revie.

1955 fa cup final: Undisputed Champions of Europe Steven Scragg, 2021-10-11 The Undisputed Champions of Europe is a trilogy-ending homage to the golden era of the European Cup. A place where the gods of the game battled for the biggest prize in club football; a place where the likes of Di Stefano, Eusebio, Best, Cruyff, Beckenbauer, Dalglish, Gullit and so many others became legends, as they skated across thin ice to glory, in the colours of clubs that are now considered European royalty. An entirely different beast than the Champions League, it was a competition where you had to win your domestic league title to gain entry. With no safety net of group stages, one bad night of football was enough to send you back to square one. In contrast to today's Champions League winners - whose status as Europe's best team is regularly disputed - the winners of the European Cup truly were the undisputed kings of Europe. These are the stories and glories of football's highest achievers.

1955 fa cup final: The Fabulous Baker Boys Tom Maxwell, 2013-10-06 With a total of more than 500 goals in careers that saw them turn out for the likes of Hibernian, St Mirren, Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester City and Torino, Joe and Gerry Baker are two of the greatest strikers Scotland never had. While Liverpool-born Hibs legend Joe became the first man to make his England debut having never played in the English league, his US-born brother Gerry, a hero of St Mirren's Scottish Cup-winning side of 1959, was the first top-flight European footballer to turn out for the USA. Even though he spoke with a broad Scottish accent, Joe was in Alf Ramsey's initial squad for the 1966 World Cup. With unprecedented access to the Baker family archives, including contributions from Gerry Baker and the late Joe's son Colin, The Fabulous Baker Boys is a unique tale of Scotland's most celebrated sporting siblings and contains exclusive interviews with the likes of Denis Law, Lawrie Reilly, John Robertson, Alex Young, Pat Stanton, Bob Wilson and George Eastham.

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1955 fa cup final: The Toon's Greatest 100 Players...EVER! Kev Fletcher, 2015-06-15 This book is a collection of the 100 Greatest Newcastle United players of all time, as voted for by NewcastleUtd-Mad.co.uk readers and a panel of journalists who contribute to the website. The players are in an order of five-per-chapter, counting down from 100 to Newcastle United's greatest ever player (as viewed by the author), but the whole point of the book is for YOU (the reader) to decide who goes where. The list is not, by any means, definitive. As with all books of this nature, whether it be Greatest Albums; Best Movies Of All Time; or Top 100 Pin-Ups Of The Year ... no two people have exactly the same opinion. There will be controversy over who is on the list, and chances are, more controversy over who is not. Here are the best of the best. I have painted the picture with each player's profile. Where they end up in the league of NUFC's Greatest is up to you. Because YOU have the final word.

1955 fa cup final: Curt Alan Curtis, Stuart Sprake, Tim Johnson, 2011-04-01 Welsh footballer Alan Curtis is synonymous with Swansea City, having played for the club during three different spells, but he also played for Leeds United, Southampton and Cardiff City, and won thirty-five caps for his country during an action-packed playing career that spanned two decades. Alan experienced the highs of the game at the top level with Swansea during their meteoric rise through all four divisions to reach the top flight, but this success came after he'd experienced the low of the Swans

having to apply for re-election to the Football League in 1975. In this eventful autobiography, Alan recounts the topsy-turvy turns his career has taken, including a disappointing spell at Leeds United in 1979-80. He was the club's most expensive signing ever at the time, but a nasty clash with Peter Shilton left him sidelined for nine months. Determined to prove his critics wrong and overcome his injury, he played some of the best football of his career upon returning to Swansea, before moving to Southampton in 1983 to help the club challenge the Merseyside dominance of the time. Since his playing career wound down in 1987, Alan has remained in the game as a coach with both Swansea City and Wales, giving back to the game the wisdom and experience he garnered during his years as a player. In *Curt*, Alan reflects upon his colourful career, highlights just how much the beautiful game has changed since his playing days and explains why he's living proof that nice guys don't always finish second.

1955 fa cup final: *The Birmingham City Miscellany* Tony Matthews, Malcolm Page, 2012-08-01 *The Birmingham City Miscellany* - a book on the Blues like no other, packed with facts, stats, trivia, stories and legend. Delve deep to find out all about the events and people who have shaped the club into what it is today. Featured here are a plethora of stories on this charismatic football club ranging from how the club was formed, to little-known facts about players and managers. Here you will find player feats, individual records and plenty of weird and wonderful trivia. Rivalry with Villa, favourite managers, quotes ranging from the profound to the downright bizarre and cult heroes from yesteryear - a book no true Birmingham City fan should be without.

1955 fa cup final: *Encyclopedia of British Football* Richard Cox, Dave Russell, Wray Vamplew, 2020-07-24 This reference work aims to provide sports enthusiasts, journalists, librarians, students and scholars with an authoritative source of information on a comprehensive range of subjects covering the history and organization of football in Britain. Over 250 entries focus on key organisations or individuals, famous clubs, major competitions, events, venues and incidents, institutions and organisations as well as key issues such as gender, racism, commercialization, professionalism and drugs, alcohol and football.

1955 fa cup final: *The Mammoth Football Quiz Book* Nick Holt, 2016-11-24 A truly mammoth football quiz book covering over twenty years of the Premier League and the entire history of the beautiful (and sometimes not so beautiful) game. All the major international tournaments are covered, as well as the full history of the domestic game, both recent and historical - even grandad can show off! Nick Holt has compiled a satisfyingly hefty and wonderfully challenging collection of 3,000 questions, arranged in quizzes of varying difficulty and subject matter covering the games that mattered, the personalities, the controversies, the goals and the glory. **SAMPLE QUESTIONS** It wasn't until 2007 that a South American player scored a Premier League hat-trick; who scored three in a 5-3 derby win over Wigan Athletic in December that year? There have been some noticeably bad-tempered Merseyside derbies in the Premier League era; which Everton player saw red at Goodison Park in December 2005, and again in October, 2007? Which two uncapped overseas players were the captains of Manchester City and Portsmouth respectively for the 2004-05 season? Germany 1, England 5: Who let in five goals for the only time in his international career? Italia 90: Who was the unlikely scorer of the game's only goal when England beat Egypt 1-0 in a group match of bewildering tedium? Italia 90: Defeat by which country in their opening match cost Scotland a chance of progressing past the group stage for the first time?

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1955 fa cup final: The Toon R Hutchinson, Roger Hutchinson, 2011-11-04 This is the full story, unofficial and uncensored, of one of the greatest football clubs in the country. From its birth in the 1890s to its rebirth in the 1990s and up to season 2003-4, The Toon tells of a small soccer club, long in the shadow of an enormous rival, which grew to eclipse that rival - and every other club in Great Britain. Roger Hutchinson brings to life the sensational early successes of Newcastle United, recreating the great Anglo-Scottish team which dominated the Football League before the First World War. He vividly describes the helter-skelter attacking sides of the 1930s and the Cup giants of the 1950s, and gives us the European conquerors of the 1960s and the squads of the 1970s and '80s, before showing us how today's cosmopolitan side of title-chasing internationals was built. This lively, hard-hitting book portrays the brilliant management of such legends as Frank Watt and takes us down through the thrilling decades right up to the reign of Sir Bobby Robson. In its pages we see the educated play of Andy Aitken and Colin Veitch; we watch as the fast and furious centre-forward play of Jock Peddie paves the way for the era of the great Hughie Gallacher and the unique Jackie Milburn. It assesses the merits of all of their heirs, from Keegan to Beardsley, from Macdonald to Shearer, from Moncur to Dyer. Exploring and explaining the lean years as well as the successful decades, The Toon exposes the bad managers, incompetent directors and players who were unworthy of the black and white stripes. It takes an unflinching look at the lost opportunities and the Geordie footballers who went missing. But it also offers us the geniuses, the household names, the men who have lit up Tyneside and the world beyond in a hundred-year sequence of unforgettable League and Cup campaigns. Most of all, The Toon looks from the past towards a glorious future.

1955 fa cup final: Vitae Corona Fides Trevor J Hearn, 2018-06-15 This book traces the history of Colchester Royal Grammar School from the first mention of a town school (the probable lineal antecedent of CRGS) in 1128 right up to the present day. This is the first comprehensive history of the school ever published and charts the fascinating story of the evolution of the school from its humble beginnings to the centre of academic excellence that it has become.

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1955 fa cup final: Newcastle United Cult Heroes Dylan Younger, 2012-11-06 Newcastle United Cult Heroes recounts the careers of 20 of the club's greatest icons, men who entertained, week in, week out and regularly set fans' pulses racing. Each individual biography analyses each player's career, and examines exactly each player was idolised and how they achieved cult status. Featuring Colin Veitch, Bill McCracken, Albert Shepherd, Hughie Gallacher, Albert Stubbins, Len Shackleton, Jackie Milburn, Joe Harvey, Frank Brennan, George Robledo, Bobby Mitchell, Len White,

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1955 fa cup final: Football Grounds in Britain and Europe - Part 3 Steve Wilson, 2015-01-10 Over the years, I have seen more than a thousand football matches at locations across Britain and Europe, from grounds that were little more than park pitches to some of the world's best stadia. This volume contains a further one hundred football ground visits, extending into Europe to visit some of the major stadia, as well as visiting new grounds in the UK as more teams relocated in the early years of the century.

1955 fa cup final: Gruesome Facts Igloo Books Ltd, 2013-10-09 Did you know that, in some countries, people eat maggot-infested cheese as a delicacy? Or that a snake could give you a deadly bite, even if it is dead? Packed with over 1,500 disgustingly gruesome and fiendishly foul facts, kids are guaranteed to be fascinated for hours!

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1955 fa cup final: Family Britain, 1951-1957 David Kynaston, 2009-11-02 As in Austerity Britain, an astonishing array of vivid, intimate and unselfconscious voices drive the narrative. The keen-eyed Nella Last shops assiduously at Barrow Market as austerity and rationing gradually give way to relative abundance; housewife Judy Haines, relishing the detail of suburban life, brings up her children in Chingford; the self-absorbed civil servant Henry St John perfects the art of grumbling. These and many other voices give a rich, unsentimental picture of everyday life in the 1950s. We also encounter well-known figures on the way, such as Doris Lessing (joining and later leaving the Communist Party), John Arlott (sticking up on Any Questions? for the rights of homosexuals) and Tiger's Roy of the Rovers (making his goal-scoring debut for Melchester). All this is part of a colourful, unfolding tapestry, in which the great national events - the Tories returning to power, the death of George VI, the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth, the Suez Crisis - jostle alongside everything that gave Britain in the 1950s its distinctive flavour: Butlin's holiday camps, Kenwood food mixers, Hancock's Half-Hour, Ekco television sets, Davy Crockett, skiffle and teddy boys. Deeply researched, David Kynaston's Family Britain offers an unrivalled take on a largely cohesive, ordered, still very hierarchical society gratefully starting to move away from the painful hardships of the 1940s towards domestic ease and affluence.

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