



Breakaway: Beyond the Goal

Alex Morgan

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Get inspired to be your best—in sports and in life—with this uplifting memoir from star soccer player, Olympic gold medalist, and FIFA World Cup champion Alex Morgan that includes eight pages of full-color photos!

As a talented and successful female athlete, Alex Morgan is a role model to thousands of girls who want to be their best, not just in soccer, but in life. The story of her path to success—from playing in the 2011 Women's World Cup, to winning gold in the 2012 London Olympics, to ranking as one of the National Team's top scorers—will inspire everyone who reads it.

From her beginnings with the American Youth Soccer Organization to the role she played in winning the 2015 Women's World Cup, Alex shares the details that made her who she is today: a fantastic role model and athlete who proudly rocks a pink headband.

Breakaway: Beyond the Goal Details

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From Reader Review Breakaway: Beyond the Goal for online ebook

Cedrik Vb says

Breakaway: Beyond the goal

This autobiography of U.S national team womens team lead scorer Alex Morgan is one of the best out there, It tells of the goals she has and had, it tells of what college is like, playing soccer there, she tells of what it is like in a World Cup and Olympic Gold medal final, and what it is like to play for a national team.

This book is 100% non fiction because it is an autobiography, perfect for biography book reports, and tells Alex Morgan's inspiring and motivating tale from childhood to January 1,2015 when she got married. It is once again a mind-blowing tale that all will enjoy, yes, even if you are not a girl.

Emilia says

“My philosophy of life is that if we make up our mind what we are going to make of our lives, then work hard toward that goal, we never lose – somehow we always win out.”, said Ronald Reagan, the 40th president of the United States. Alex Morgan had already decided she would do anything to become a professional soccer player by the time she was eight years old. In her autobiography, Breakaway: Beyond The Goal, she describes the setbacks and successes she has faced since the day she determined she would one day be a part of the United States Women’s National Team (USWNT).

In writing this book, Morgan hoped she would be able to assist people by helping them set objectives for themselves to make each day better than the one before. She also wanted to show a different side of her story. Today, most people know her as a phenomenal soccer player who had an early impact on the national team and continues to, on and off the field. However, this book shared inside information on how incredibly hard she worked to achieve her goals and how her determination took her thus far. Every chapter narrates a moment in her life that defines who she currently is, which is then summarized at the end of each one. For instance, in Chapter 51, her advice to readers was to face sudden change with courage. She explained how discussing her feelings openly with her teammates allowed her to better control her bravery and remain focused on her goals. This specific moment refers to the event during which the coach of the 2014 USWNT, Tom Sermanni, was fired during the 2014 Algarve Cup. I think her suggestions to living life to the fullest were sincere and relevant to various situations, therefore achieving her purpose of helping others feel related and unalone towards common issues.

Morgan’s honesty also helped her accomplish her goal of inspiring others to create their own journeys and turning their dreams into realities. She told her stories as they were, even if they didn’t make her look good. For example, while she was playing for her university, Cal, she wrote, “You turned your back on us once. We can and will turn our backs on you for good. You are not welcome back.” on Twitter about the staff in response to an unexpected catastrophe. She admitted that her tweet was published in the school newspaper and was later humiliated by her actions. Due to her casual and sincere style of writing, I felt as though she were talking to me through the book. While many times I thought her approach to telling her story was serious, most of the time I thought it was told in an almost humorous manner.

Being the youngest daughter of three in her family, Morgan grew up in a competitive environment where she

longed to prove to everyone she could do everything just as well--if not better-- than her sisters could. She unleashed her fiery spirit in sports, including volleyball, softball, basketball, and most importantly, soccer. Morgan played recreational (rec) soccer until she was 11 years old, which meant she was off to a very late start in joining a club team. Therefore, in her first attempt to be admitted into a squad, she was not only rejected, but horrified and shocked. Although her speed was phenomenal and incredibly impressive, she lacked the skill required to play at a higher level. She worked extremely hard to make her way up back to the top. After having looked into several different clubs over the years, she finally found a club when she was sixteen, Cypress, where she was content and challenged. Six months after having trained with Cypress, the Cal South Olympic Development Program sighted her. Things got even more serious when she was recruited for the U-17 national team, and eventually USWNT.

Although I enjoyed reading about Morgan's triumphs, my favorite parts of the book tended to be during her moments setbacks, because they taught me that even the best athletes in the world make mistakes. A specific game she had found utterly heartbreaking was a game Cal lost to Cal Poly in overtime. She and her teammates were devastated and crushed, because according to the statistics, the match was supposed to be an easy win, and Cal dramatically dropped in the rankings. Everyone was disappointed, and their coach ended up dropping everything and quitting a week later (this was the event she reacted to in the Tweet previously mentioned). Morgan obviously did not handle the situation professionally, but it was obvious she regretted what she had said. That's the thing with celebrities. They are expected to be perfect and make no errors due to their high status in society. Reading about Morgan's hindrances were interesting, partly due to the fact she was completely truthful, and partly because she proved that it is normal to have bad days, even when you're famous. In more than one way, her negative experiences taught me that remaining positive helps keep your head clear when setting objectives and work towards them.

One of the least entertaining areas of the book occurred towards the end, during which Morgan outlined her recent and present life on the USWNT. She mostly discussed some of the most important games USWNT has played since she became a part of the roster (the good and the bad), which I had already seen and heard of. Therefore, I was reading about events that I had once seen live, which was much more exciting than reading about it. Furthermore, during this area of the autobiography she tended to write with many exclamation points, which became a bit frustrating to read, especially when I obviously wasn't as engaged in the moment as she had been. In addition, the sentences were a bit choppy since each scene could solely be described on with soccer vocabulary. Besides the ending of the book, if I were Morgan, I would have expanded more on her life outside of soccer. There were times where she described her family relationships and also mentioned her current work on achieving gender equality, specifically in terms of salaries. Although she gave background knowledge, I felt she did not emphasize the importance of it as well as she has in the past, through interviews, appearing on shows as a guest, and her published essay.

Alex Morgan is a remarkable athlete with perseverance, composure, and wisdom. Millions around the world have known this for years. What they didn't know before having read her uplifting autobiography was how her touching journey led her to becoming the role model millions around the world know her as today. Furthermore, I found it very easy to relate to, as a soccer player myself. She faced countless adversities that I am familiar with, on and off the field. She does not try to sugarcoat anything and gives valuable advice on how to handle certain problems, something that no other autobiography that I have ever read has demonstrated so successfully. Even though the book was intended for ages 12 through 17, I would recommend it equally as enthusiastically to adults of all ages, who would also be able to easily connect with Morgan's inspirational story. She battled through so much, and in some cases believed the adversities she faced would become permanent.

Alex Morgan proves in *Breakaway: Beyond The Goal*, that rough patches in life can be overcome by

believing that something better always lies ahead.

Amy says

Alex Morgan writes a combination memoir / advice book aimed at encouraging teens to pursue their dreams. It's like *Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board* without the constant references to god.

While some readers may find Alex's tone a little condescending and her advice contradictory at times (you're a winner! except for those times when you aren't!), I think my seventh grade readers will want to read -- and will enjoy -- this book.

First, I have a lot of soccer fans who are coming off of *The Keeper: The Unguarded Story of Tim Howard* (Young Readers' Edition) and *Messi, Neymar, Ronaldo: Head to Head with the World's Greatest Players* and want to read something new in soccer athlete biographies.

Second, the chapters are short and are easily skimmable. Morgan summarizes each chapter at the end with a short takeaway lesson, and this textual feature alone is worth the book talk or mini lesson because it teaches students how to skim effectively and how to know what's worth reading and paying attention to.

Third, by the end of the book Morgan really shows her political colors a bit and comes out swinging. She describes the ongoing difficulties of establishing a professional womens' soccer league and the benefits of international collaboration between US, Canada, and Mexico on this level. Secondly, she's on a fight against astroturf given a claimed link to cancers, and apparently men at the World Cup get the luxury of a grass field while the women do not. Who figured that astroturf was such a contentious and contemporary issue?

Paola says

Football is one of my biggest passions...which is why I was beyond shocked when I found out Alex Morgan's memoir was about to come out and I had no idea! In case you don't know, I've been following the USWNT since I was a child. Football was kind of taboo for women when I was younger so I got very

attached to the women's team as a way to be like "See? Women are into sports! And they're amazing! Football is not just for boys!"

But anyway, back to Morgan.

Since we're roughly the same age (I'm a year older), I've seen every stage of Alex Morgan's career. I think one of the reasons I'm such a big fan is because I've been able to see her grow into the fantastic player she is today. I remember seeing her explode on the field as a sub and thinking that she was going to be huge one day. I love it when I'm right.

In this book, Morgan takes you on a tour of her very short but thrilling life. In a way, the writing style is very chatty so you feel like you're catching up with a friend. This works really well since this book is aimed at a younger audience. Even though I am familiar with her career, this book provides a fantastic behind-the-scenes look. Morgan also gives the reader a lot of basic but good advice. I took away a lot from this book and I felt very inspired to become a better version of myself.

The release of this book is perfectly timed to coincide with a huge event. Starting June 6, the USWNT are competing in Canada in the hopes of winning the World Cup. You better believe I'll be watching every minute of it.

If you like sports or if you want to support a female athlete, pick up this book! Since Alex mentioned (in great detail) the Olympic match versus Canada, I'm going to spend all afternoon looking for that exhilarating game because:

Enough said.

Sadie says

Alex Morgan is a professional soccer player on the U.S.A women's soccer national team. In this book it tells about her ups and downs and her journey getting to the national team. One negative thing in this book was when she tore her ACL when she was 17 years old. Another negative things was how in 2011 they lost the World Cup against Japan. Two positive things were that her and her team won the olympics in 2012 and how in 2012 again they won the World Cup for the first time. I really really really enjoyed this book and I recommend it to kids who enjoy soccer and want to know more about Alex Morgan.

Lola says

I was excited to read a sports memoir about soccer from a gold medalist female athlete, but although the multiple messages inside are positive and worth sharing, the condescending tone of the author made it impossible for me to finish this. It felt like it was written for 8-year-olds who were seeking advice on every page. A lot of "As I've mentioned before...", "Like I said...", "Unlike you've...", "Don't...", "Do..."

It simply got on my nerves. Can't say I'm surprised this didn't become a bestseller.

Chally says

A cute book for elementary-middle school age girls. Overall, I enjoyed the insights into the National team. However, I felt played when the story ended just months before the 2015 World Cup. The book jacket is misleading and implies that the Cup victory is discussed in the book. Seems like publishing this book to promote the World Cup, took precedence over finishing the story at a logical point. Publisher got my money and will probably get it again when they conveniently and inevitably come out with a second edition or different book that entirely includes the 2015 Cup Victory.

Kyle G. says

I really liked this book. usually I don't like biographies because they are boring but I liked this one more because it has to do with sports.

Kaitlin O says

The autobiography Breakaway by Olympic gold medalist Alex Morgan writes about her life from the very beginning to the end. She tells the details and does a great job telling about herself in a very interesting way. This book has got me wanting to know more about her, because I am a big soccer player and personally want to be like her when I grow up. She is a great roll model and in the book she gives real pictures of when she was a kid. Alex Morgan is an AMAZING soccer player but also an amazing writer. She has written a couple books about her and a their are a ton about herself. I recommend this book to anyone who loves soccer and Alex Morgan!

Maddie says

It was super inspirational! I recommend it!

Kassandra Hickson says

Breakaway by Alex Morgan tells the reader about the ups and downs of this young soccer players life. It is mostly about how she became a soccer player, and how she became the very successful soccer player she is, but it also gives the reader some insight on her personal life. In this book Alex Morgan inspires young kids to shoot for the stars and be better than they were before.

Alex Morgan is a true inspiration and I really enjoy the fact that it is an autobiography. The style of an autobiography makes it so that you feel more connected to her and you feel like she is trying to help you be a better person. I recommend this book to girls who love soccer, but also to girls who don't play soccer because she is teaching you how to be courageous and shoot for what you dream of.

Liz Hoffman says

I really liked the author and appreciated how hard she worked to become one of the best soccer players in the world. I just don't think I'll put this on my recommended reads for teens because it seems to go from one game to another and it's not for someone not currently following soccer. Also, I didn't really like the affirming paragraphs at the end of each chapter, it broke up the narrative for me.

Fiona says

I think that this book was a great autobiography! Alex Morgan made the book interesting, while telling her story and challenges she had to overcome. I liked this book mostly because it was about soccer and that's my favorite sport, but I also loved hearing her story. Now every time I see Alex Morgan whether its on tv, or a magazine, I feel like I know her story. One thing I think the author did well was giving a lot of comparisons of challenges that she overcame that are relatable to the reader.

Hailey says

Alex Morgan her Breakaway beyond the goal. Alex Morgan; living her life long dream, playing professional soccer for the woman nation team. She inspires many young athletes including me. This wonderful book, makes you believe you can accomplish anything you want. She wrote this book about her inspirational/determined life. She set many goals for herself...

- Play with the Woman's National Team, done.
- Score a goal in the World Cup, done.
- Lead the US to an Olympic gold medal, done.

She said " She has been setting big goals for herself and trying hard to achieve them."

Her book starts off as her childhood, living California in a small town where everyone knows everyone. Then starts to get in her teenage years, where she plays with the national team and gets injured, after she talks about her comeback; working to get better. Finally her life on the national team.

Abby says

Alex Morgan knew she wanted to be a professional soccer player by the time she was eight years old. She practiced every day with her dad and was on multiple soccer leagues. Alex was not always the best soccer player on the field but she was definitely the fastest. Morgan went through many different coaches but each coach knew that if they put her in in the second half, that she would be a threat to the game. Alex Morgan got a Olympic Gold Medal, played on the US Women's National Team, and scored a goal in the World Cup and she still is not done with her soccer career.

Breakaway Beyond The Goal was not the best book I have ever read. It was good in some ways and bad in others. The only thing I liked about it was that at the end of each chapter there was advice about life. One of my favorite encouragements that she gives is when she talks about how you can not let fear hold you back. One thing I hated about the book was that it was repetitive. I expected it to talk more about Alex's personal

life but it talked about her soccer life instead. At the end of the book it got to be really hard to understand.

Alex explained her situation with the World Cup but kept referring back to the past.

Alex Morgan's book was confusing and incredible at the same time. It was confusing because it talked about the scores and scorers of each game. However, that is not information that I will need to know in years to come. It was incredible because she was 20-22 years old and already went to the World Cup. Also she already played on the US National Soccer Team. I would not recommend this book to a classmate because it was hard to comprehend. It might just be me but I found that this particular book was different than non-fiction. It was not about her life, it was only about her soccer career.
