



John Charles: Gentle Giant

By Mario Risoli

Mainstream Publishing, United Kingdom, 2005. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 198 x 128 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Whenever I look at him, it is as though the Messiah has returned. That s how Jimmy Murphy, manager of Wales 1958 World Cup side, described John Charles. In Italy, where he played for Juventus and Roma, Charles was known as Il Gigante Buono - the Gentle Giant - because of his placid temperament. One of the greatest footballers Britain has ever produced, Charles left his native Swansea at 16 to join Leeds United, where his phenomenal strike rate helped the club reach the First Division for the first time in its history. His goal-scoring exploits at Ellan Road then attracted the attention of Juventus, who paid a British record of GBP65,000 to take him to Turin in 1957. Charles went on to score an incredible 105 goals in 178 appearances for I Bianconeri - the Black and Whites - and helped them to win three Series A titles in five years. In contrast to his humble upbringing in South Wales, he enjoyed a glamorous lifestyle in Italy. However, it was not all glory. A disasterous return to Leeds United in...

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