

FOREWORD

When Christy O'Connor first asked me to read this book, I didn't really know what to expect from it. I knew it would be a good read but I didn't expect to be blown away like I was. This is one hell of a sports book.

I think anyone who reads this book will have their views on goalkeeping and goalkeepers altered forever. Only a goalkeeper could have written this book but he had to be a particular kind of keeper. He had to have lived, not at the very top, but within touching distance of it. He had to have lived there to really understand.

Christy O'Connor lived for many years in the shadow of Clare's Davy Fitzgerald, one of the greatest and most driven goalkeepers the game of hurling has ever known.

Christy has a broad, deep and genuine passion for the game of hurling that very few people possess. The trust, understanding and respect he has earned from his fellow goalkeepers has enabled him to breach the inner sanctum of the GAA world for the first time ever. It offers a fascinating insight into that world.

It is a fantastic read because Christy also has the combined gift that the goalkeepers, whose stories he tells, do not have: the gift of the writer and the storyteller.

This book is of great value and it will help rid some men of their demons. It should also teach us to stop demonising these exceptional, courageous and often lonely souls, who have the guts to be the 'Last Man Standing'.

Liam Griffin, Wexford, June 2005