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◀ Bryan Weatherston, SCOTLAND

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OUR  
L.F.C.  
TATTOOS



KIM OLTHOF AND ALAN KENNEDY

**'I hope you all feel the stories  
in this book, like I felt playing  
for Liverpool. I loved every  
minute of it.'**

My name is Alan Kennedy and I played for Liverpool from 1978 – 1985, in which I won numerous trophies.

Although I don't have any tattoos myself, I know many Liverpool fans express their passion for our club through this art on their body and that most of these tattoos have a deeper meaning.

I hope you all feel the stories in this book, like I felt playing for Liverpool. I loved every minute of it.

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# PREFACE

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My name is Kim Olthof and I am a 42-year old Liverpool fan from The Netherlands. I started supporting the Reds when I was about nine. Not because my family supported Liverpool or because they were successful in Europe those days, but simply because of a feeling. Whenever I saw them play (I watched a lot of football with my dad at the time), they just had to win and I would get quite upset if they didn't. It was a feeling I couldn't describe. Guess it was something like having a crush. Only I fell in love with a football club instead of a boy.

Throughout my life I kept following Liverpool whenever and wherever I could, and my crush turned into real love. A love that would and will be there for eternity and that I am now thankfully sharing with the other love of my life, my partner Dirk, and with my many great friends all over the world whom I've met throughout the years at local & international events and in Liverpool.



Dirk and I met a few years ago when a few Flemish Reds joined us in The Netherlands for one of the events organised by our official Dutch fan club, of which I am currently the president. We were supposed to meet again in Kiev, but our trips got cancelled last minute, as happened to many people. So instead of travelling to the Champions League final, we decided to spend a few days together and we have been inseparable ever since!



## Our tattoos

Our life now consists of Liverpool FC, our dogs and... tattoos! We both had a Liverpool tattoo when we met, but ever since we have been together the desire to combine our passions has grown more and more each day, as we found out that we can both express our deepest emotions best through our tattoos.

I have You'll Never Walk Alone tattooed on my body. The words are joined by symbols and put together they tell my personal story. The fingerprint is of my dad. I have combined his fingerprint with the last words of YNWA as he sadly passed away in 2010 and this is my way of keeping him close to me. I will never be alone. The butterflies represent hope, courage & rebirth, which is exactly the feeling I get from listening to You'll Never Walk Alone. Both give me strength when I need it most.

Last, but not least: the dreamcatcher. I have been suffering from nightmares for many years now and this symbol helps me to positively start each new day, no matter what the night has brought me.

I also have an image of the Champions League with six stars inked on my arm and have LFC proudly presented on my back. Both purely stand for my love and passion for Liverpool FC and my pride in being part of the LFC family.

Dirk also has a You'll Never Walk Alone tattoo. He got this together with his two best friends a couple of years ago to show their love for Liverpool and each





other. Sadly, only two years after getting this tattoo together, his two best friends both suddenly died at a young age one week after each other. His tattoo therefore now has become a memorial tattoo for them as well. It comes with a lot of mixed feelings, but it comforts him at the same time.

Next to this, Dirk has another memorial tattoo on his upper arm. This tattoo is in memory of the 96 Liverpool supporters who sadly lost their lives on April 15th, 1989 as a result of the Hillsborough disaster. It is his way of making sure that those men, women and children are never forgotten and that the truth will always come out!

Lastly Dirk has a 'Liver Bird upon his chest'. All true Reds understand the meaning of this tattoo straight away.

### **Liverpool fans and their tattoos**

Over the years I have found out that we are not the only ones who like to express our love for Liverpool through ink. Many of our friends from all over the globe have amazing Liverpool tattoos and we love to

talk about them all the time. Some tattoos are more creative or symbolic, while others have a simpler design or are straight to the point.

When I came up with the idea to combine all these tattoos and stories in a book, I actually thought it would already exist! I mean, if we all love our Liverpool-related tattoos that much, it must have crossed someone else's mind already, right? But when I looked into it, I found out that it had never been done before. So I asked around to see what you, other LFC fans, thought of the idea and the response was overwhelmingly positive! Not only did you think it was a great idea, you also wanted to help straight away, gathering those beautiful pictures and stories! Our Red hearts spoke again! Within three months I received over 75 stories from India to Scotland, from Finland to New Zealand, from England to South Africa and from The Netherlands to the USA! Personal stories told through your tattoos. Personal stories from men and women between the ages of 21 and 60 that you were all willing to share with your Liverpool Family.

I am so proud that I found a publisher who was on board immediately as well and that I can present this book to you all! I hope you enjoy reading it, just as much as I loved putting it together for you all! Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone who has helped making this book become reality!

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# OUR SONG

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You'll Never Walk Alone began life on Broadway as part of the Rodgers and Hammerstein show, Carousel, which was first performed in 1945.

The song was an instant hit, perhaps because the song's message of triumph in times of adversity resonated with the wartime crowds of April 1945, less than a month before the end of the Second World War. It remained popular throughout the 1950s, with artists including Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley releasing covers. Then in 1963, a recording by Merseybeat band Gerry & the Pacemakers brought the song to Liverpool FC's doorstep.

At that time, Liverpool's Anfield stadium was one of the first football grounds to have a PA system, and the ten chart-topping songs for that week would be played over the speakers before the match as an early form of pre-match entertainment.

This was also the time when Merseybeat bands like The Beatles and Gerry & the Pacemakers dominated the charts, so the fans would have heard a lot of their



Ivan Tuta, Croatia

local heroes over the tannoy. You'll Never Walk Alone stayed at No. 1 in the charts for about four weeks in 1963, by which time it had become Liverpool FC's signature tune.

The message of hope in the song has given Liverpool fans all over the world hope through some very tough times – both on and off the field, both related to the football club as well as personal. Because of the deeper and more personal meaning, many LFC fans have these words inked on their skins.