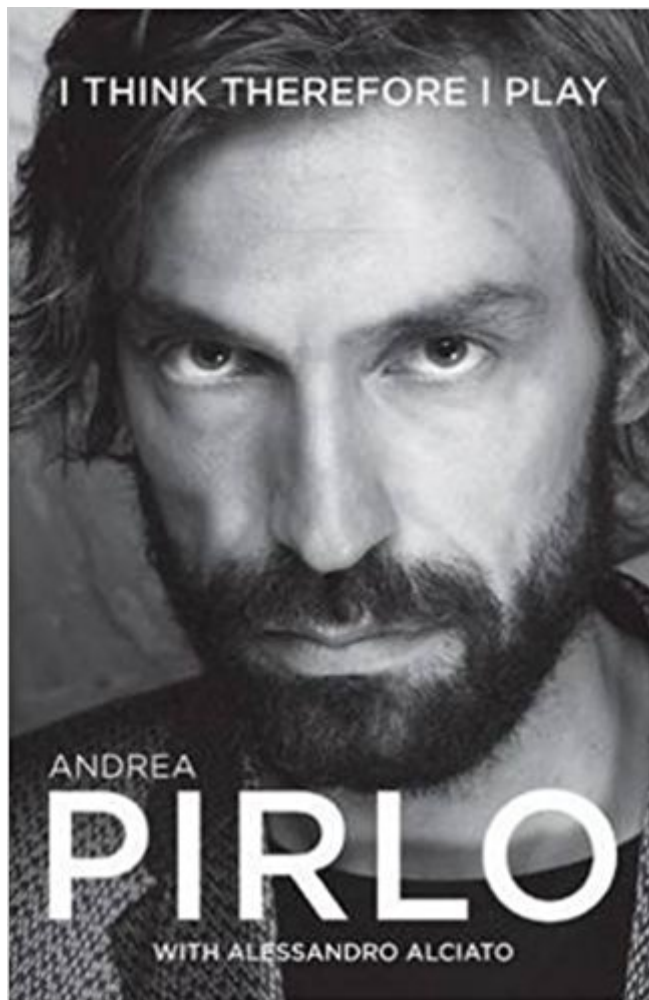


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# I Think Therefore I Play



## Synopsis

Pirlo's profile could not be much higher, having competed in the Champions League final in May 2015 and then embarking on a new career signing with MLS side New York City FC in July 2015. The vibrancy, humor and vivid insight that carry Pirlo's autobiography along confounds his image as a dead-eyed assassin on the field of play. All the big names are in there: Lippi, Ancelotti, Conte, Maldini, Shevchenko, Seedorf, Buffon, Kaka, Nesta, Costacurta, Gattuso, Berlusconi and Ronaldo ("the real one"). But they're not always in their work clothes. We hear Berlusconi playing the piano and telling "various types" of joke at Milan's training ground. We see Pirlo and Daniele De Rossi drawing Nesta's ire as they take him on a mystery tour of the German countryside in a hire car days before a World Cup semi-final. And we smell the aftermath of Filippo Inzaghi's graphically described pre-match routine.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Like its author, Andrea Pirlo, *I Think Therefore I Play* is short, subtle and imaginative. It is football as art and philosophy rather than warfare." [London Times](#) "Refrains from self-justification and score-settling, preferring to display a mischievous wit and an acute gift for observation." [Guardian](#) "If you want to learn about the best and what it takes to be the best, start by reading this title. It's a must have for fans of Italian soccer, especially those that have followed [Pirlo] to MLS." --[InternationalSoccerNetwork.com](#) 10/28/2015

Andrea Pirlo has been the playmaker for each of Italy's big three clubs - Inter, Milan and Juventus. He has won the Champions League and the World Cup. He reinvented his position, playing deeper than any playmaker before him and using a wider passing range. He is also one of the best free-kick takers in the history of soccer. In July 2015, he signed for MLS side New York City. Alessandro Alciato is also the coauthor of Carlo Ancelotti: The Beautiful Games of an Ordinary Genius.

When most players play, there is a sense of urgency and tension in their game. With Pirlo however, there is calmness personified. I'd like to believe it's not because he lacks the drive or passion, but because the route to the goal is well-mapped in his skull. And with his book as we'll, one is unable to see the direction of the narrative, but can enjoy the ride nevertheless. We leave the visions to Pirlo.

I particularly liked the anecdotes about current and former teammates. The sign of a good book is that when you reach the end, you wish it went on more. That's how I felt about this one. I am looking forward to the sequel and stories about Conte, Gigi etc.

A most interesting & thoughtful account by soccer's greatest midfield player.....An interesting read from one of the all-time great who plays like a chess champion and delivers free kicks better than anyone in football. I just wish he revealed a lot more of how he does it, and what he thinks of his contemporaries. - But I guess that will not happen until he retires. And until then we'll have to be satisfied with his the skill and art of his game! - Avanti, Andrea! E Forza Italia!

A bit disappointing. Pirlo was/is a consummate midfielder. He hardly seems to move which makes defenders forget about him despite his being the biggest danger on the pitch because they're distracted from him by his more kinetic teammates. But he is always drifting, drifting, drifting into open space so that he can be given the ball. Pirlo in space with the ball is a nightmare to the opposition. I was hoping to get more insight into how this great player's brain thought about the game. How much of his play is thought? How much is feeling? Intuition? Analysis? How would he use his average size to outplay bigger, stronger, faster players? How did he assess the situation? How did he decide what to do? What was his mindset when his side was desperate? When his side was in control? When the match was finely poised? Etc. But they is little to none of this in the book.

Mostly it is about contract negotiations and his reasons for moving from one club to another. That has to be the most boring aspect of Pirlo's magnificent career. I'm sorry the book focused mostly on that.OTOH, there are a few good lines and anecdotes here and here. But frankly, the best writing is the preface written by one of Pirlo's managers. If the rest of the book were as good as the preface, I'd give it 5 stars and a glowing review.

This book is a stroll, a pleasurable stroll. The pages turn just like Pirlo's passes. His character is revealed. Every fan of modern football ought to get his hands on this book. A great read that makes you feel all the more affectionate towards Pirlo.

A while back, I heard Rocky Hudson on The "Soccer" Show saying he wished Pirlo would smile more while he was playing. I think Charlie Stilitano was cohosting that day and said Pirlo has a great sense of humor (much to my surprise). After reading some of the reviews, they were echoing what Charlie said. You won't have to get too far into the book to see that Charlie and the reviews are correct. Considering this book was translated from Italian to English, it still works out. Andrea isn't afraid to give his opinions. Whether you agree with him or not, he gives you a lot to think about. He was overshadowed for much of his career until he went to Juventus but those of us who root for the Azzurri (and I guess if you like AC Milan) knew how good he was for a long time. He didn't marry a pop "superstar", play for a team or country that overhyped him, have others carry him to great results, release his own cologne, pretend he had the biggest contract in soccer or pretend he was going to buy an MLS team like some other midfielders that can't carry his jock. He's just been that good for a long time. His book is that good, too. Magisterial!

Andrea Pirlo has produced a book that is difficult to put down. Like another reviewer, I read this in one sitting. I know he's had some help from a ghostwriter, but he still leaves you with the impression of a man who is as articulate off the pitch as he is on it. And he is funny and extremely witty! I'd love to have had more anecdotes about his AC Milan, Juventus and Italy teammates, as well as more about his experiences with the Italian national team (he is, after all, a World Cup winner) but he already gave us quite a lot in this book. This is an outstanding book, you will not be disappointed if you give it a try.

Right at the start of the book, I was all in. The author's use of the English language was fresh, elegant, and enjoyable as far as biography's go. I really felt like Andrea was giving us a real glimpse

into his head. After finishing, I feel like I really know him as a person and not just an amazing #21. The book consistently kept my attention and even offered a more comedic element than I was expecting. I really enjoyed this book and definitely recommend to all soccer fans.

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