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**RECOMMENDED**

**BELIEVE IN THE SIGN**

Mark Hodkinson (Pomona Press, £9.99, 484pp)



Rochdale FC may not seem like an engaging topic for a memoir, yet in the course of this tender book Mark Hodkinson's passion for 'the most unsuccessful football club in England' is infectious. *Believe in the Sign* is a

free-flowing collection of personal anecdotes set to the pace of Rochdale's successes and failures in the period 1974 to 1982, the author's adolescent years. Beyond football, family life, hooliganism and the murder of a local girl (leading to a miscarriage of justice) frame Hodkinson's story as he introduces the boy behind the respected sportswriter he became. **Fabienne Williams**