



GEARING UP FOR RIO 2016...

...by recapturing the glorious spirit
of London 2012 in Nasser Hashmi's
new novel

In the build up to Rio 2016, Nasser Hashmi shares a heartwarming tale of an unlikely friendship formed between two Games Makers during the fever pitch of the Olympics.

Author of *Season of Sid*, *Wacko Hacko* and *A Fistful of Dust*, Nasser Hashmi was inspired by the Games Makers who volunteer their time to help with the Olympics, and to show the story behind each of their journeys. 'A year before London 2012, the riots had taken place so there was a lot of pessimism around,' explains Nasser. 'But once the event started, everyone rallied and it became an epic, intoxicating experience.'

Seventeen Gifts for Frannie and Jess tells the story of Francesca Hartford, who is fearful about volunteering at the Olympics, having just lost her husband. Determined to carry on alone, she meets fellow Games Maker Jessica, a bolshy student who is too outspoken and overpowering for Francesca's taste. But the more time they spend together, the more Francesca realises that Jessica is suffering from loss too.

"Being a Games Maker was one of the most joyous times of my life. This wonderful book has captured that time so beautifully."

– Suzette Woodward, London 2012 Games Maker

With Rio 2016 just around the corner, a new bunch of volunteers will be set to make their mark on the Olympics. 'I hope it's another sporting summer of love like London 2012 was,' observes Nasser. 'I also hope my novel tells a good story of loss, friendship and the joy of the shared experience.'

Praise for Nasser Hashmi's first book, *Season of Sid*:

"An engaging tale... Belly laughs all the way" – FourFourTwo



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FOR AUTHOR INTERVIEWS, REVIEW OR COMPETITION COPIES, ARTICLES, PHOTOS
OR EXTRACTS PLEASE CONTACT ALICE GRAHAM

TEL: 0116 279 2299 EMAIL: ALICE_GRAHAM@TROUBADOR.CO.UK

TROUBADOR PUBLISHING, 9 PRIORY BUSINESS PARK, WISTOW ROAD, KIBWORTH, LEICESTER LE8 0RX