

Tragedy as Liverpool star dies in crash

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Fatal accident: Doctors had reportedly advised Diogo Jota against flying, following minor surgery, and he is thought to have been on his way to Santander, a Spanish ferry port, in order to return to Liverpool for pre-season training, when the crash occurred.

Is it OK to grieve a stranger? Portuguese footballer and Liverpool FC forward Diogo Jota has tragically died in a car accident, sending an outpouring of grief around the world.

What's happening?

At Anfield stadium, weeping fans have come to pay their respects.

They are gathered in honour of Liverpool forward Diogo Jota, who died on Thursday when the car he was travelling in with his younger brother suffered a tyre blow-out, crashed and then caught fire.

The 28-year-old Jota had only recently married his long-term partner Rute Cardoso, his childhood sweetheart, with whom he had three young children.

Find out more

Jota began his career in Portugal before playing at Atletico Madrid in Spain. He later came to England, joining Liverpool from Wolverhampton Wanderers in 2020.

There has been an outpouring of grief around the world, and some say it is strange to see so many people passionately grieving for somebody they did not know.

Others say it is natural to want to come together to mourn the loss of somebody so widely admired and that it can have a positive impact on our psychology to mourn dead celebrities and public figures.

Sportspeople, writers and TV stars become integral to our lives and we can sometimes feel that they are “there for us” in the difficult moments, offering comfort, even if we do not know them personally.

Is it OK to grieve a stranger?

Some say

Yes! When you love a sport, you will naturally have a strong attachment to the players. When they die, it is easy to feel like you have lost part of your life.

Others think

No! People are not really experiencing grief as much as sorrow that somebody so young and newly married could be dead.

Some people say

"I will not say: do not weep; for not all tears are an evil."

RR Tolkien (1892 – 1973), English writer and philologist

What do you think?

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - Have you ever mourned a celebrity? Do you think we can experience real grief for someone we never met?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: What was Diogo Jota planning next in his career? Where did his brother play football?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know about this story and one thing we cannot say for certain.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - Imagine that you could offer some words of consolation or reassurance to distressed fans of Diogo Jota. What would you say?

5. Express

What do others believe? - Choose one celebrity who died in recent years and make a short presentation about who they were and how they will be remembered.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - It is 2050 and to prevent outpourings of public grief the government replaces any public figure or celebrity who dies with a holographic AI replica. Write a short story about what happens.