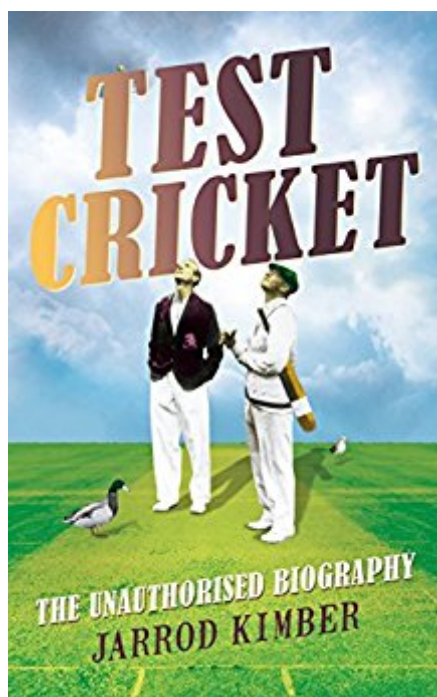


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Test Cricket: The Unauthorised Biography



Synopsis

Test Cricket is an odyssey into cricket's heart and history, filled with heroes, villains, laughter, tears, bats and balls. No subject has escaped cricket writer and filmmaker Jarrod Kimber in his chronicling of Test match cricket. He takes cricket fans through all the seismic events in cricket's tragicomic history, from its accidental birth to its run-in with death. Lords, maharajahs and refugees have all played the game that has survived many wars, corruption and terrorism to still be standing -- still be captivating -- today. Cricket has been dented by history, evolved by nature, grown entire nations and had to fight just to remain. This is not just the story of the people who played the game; this is Test cricket's story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There is a certain vein of sportswriting, best exemplified by Eduardo Galeano's "Soccer in Sun and Shadow" that aims to capture the magical aspects of sport and its impact upon the people who follow it. This book feels very much in that tradition; there is exaggeration, there are flights of fancy -- and yet in each of those there is a great deal of truth, and a great deal more than can be said in a dry recitation (or even a very exciting recitation) of fact. I feel like I have a *deeper* knowledge of

cricket and the world, from reading this -- of the people who played it and the way the world reacted to them. Thank you, Mr. Kimber!

Test cricket, one of the most beautiful constructs of mankind, has dubious origins and has been savaged by the people that are supposed to care for it. Jarrod Kimber, in his inimitable style of story telling, provides an illuminating yarn of the life and times of Test cricket, through racism, classism, sexism and every other type of discrimination, while highlighting the good and the great of the sport, and the characters that have enabled it to withstand the test of time. The individual character sketches, written in the originally imaginative style of Kimber makes the book a terrific read. The opening and closing chapters of the book alone - the death of Phil Hughes - make the book worth your while.

This book is quite simply, the best crash course on the rich, varied and checkered history that our great game has seen. It spans the entire history of test cricket chronologically- even slightly before the official 1st ever test match. The landmark events in each test playing nation's history are so perfectly detailed, with appropriate diversions and subplots at each turn lending a great storytelling experience. Jarrod is extremely aware, conscious and knowledgeable about sensitive issues in society during the times of which he writes- whether it be the apartheid regime of SA, or the existence of racism in Australia that prevented many indigenous cricketers like Jack Marsh from showcasing their talents, or the tense times for blacks in the Caribbean. Jarrod is also acutely aware of the local cultural flavors of countries like India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and has taken great pains to understand how cricket talent is spotted, what cricket means to the average joe in these countries, and how each of these countries plotted their own sense of identity in the world game. It really is a must read for any cricket fan. You'd not find a more engaging cricket history book. Add to that Jarrod Kimber's popular style of writing that gets him universal accolade for nearly every article he writes for the world's most famous CRICKET website- ESPNCRICINFO, and you are sure to be extremely entertained through the course of this insightful book, by a very intelligent observer of our great game.

I've long been a fan of test cricket, and have enjoyed Cricinfo contributor Jarrod Kimber's thoughts on the game. In this very readable book, Jarrod seems to have taken the best of his research from the documentary film *Death of a Gentleman* (produced by Kimber & Sam Collins) and presented it in a way that interests a cricket tragic like me, but will also appeal to a wider audience. I read Test

Cricket on a four hour flight. At times I chuckled, at other times I got a lump in my throat, particularly in the retelling of the 1953 Boxing Day test between New Zealand and hosts South Africa, in the aftermath of the Tangiwai disaster, and of course, in the passages related to the untimely death of Australian cricketer Phillip Hughes. Jarrod is known to many cricket fans for his acerbic wit and typically Australian humour, but in this book he makes his mark as a serious cricket writer. I'm grateful for this, as I could actually give this book to my Dad. A must read for fans of the game.

Each chapter is about a development in our game and it is told with Kimber's usual honesty and humour. Warts and all account of the people and moments that shaped cricket. Gave me new context to modern cricket, modern cricketers and modern cricket changes

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