



Cricket till I die!

Upneet Grover

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Vineet was your average engineer at an IT firm. His office sucked the life out of him making him hate every moment he spent there. Cricket was his passion, a passion which he never had the guts to pursue until fate bestowed upon him an opportunity which would change his life forever. Shrugging off a sparkling career – as a management consultant – that lay ahead, this rubber ball stroking bloke embarks upon the most mercurial excursion to fulfil his dream of donning the navy blue jersey that reads INDIA. The expedition which is riddled with the most crushing lows and mind numbing highs proves to be the ultimate test of his fortitude and makes him even more resolute. How much more can he sacrifice to get there? And most importantly, will he get there?

Cricket till I die! Details

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From Reader Review Cricket till I die! for online ebook

Kushal says

IT guy to mba to traverse the normal path to become the management consultant... nayy.. d story is exemplary story of cricket, the passion, the attitude and courage.. must read fr al!

Nikhil says

Well the story line was too predictable. The writer does try to funny at times and does succeed in doing so. He does have a good vocabulary and seems to show it off in every other sentence. Its an overated book. I still am wondering as to how does this book shine in the top hundred indian books.

Shreyans says

Simply INCREDIBLE stuff...never seemed that like written by a novice..

Ankita Chadha says

Truly apart from the monotonous and insipid books you get to read these days, 'Cricket till I die!' is an exceptional read. It's about Vineet, who, like many of us, carries an unfulfilled dream in his heart, and yet, unlike the most of us, makes an attempt to fulfill it. The passion, nerve, and valor Vineet has will have you thinking for a long time and will definitely instill hope in your heart.

I am really glad that someone brilliantly wrote on a topic our nation is crazy about, rather than wasting pages on the common IIT/IIM stuff. The book is a quick read, making it a page turner, and the content in there is realistically magical, which keeps the reader glued to the book.

Not to be thought twice before picking this one up, it's a must read for everyone!

Amit Gupta says

Vineet was an average engineer at an IT firm. His office sucked the life out of him making him hate every moment he spent there. Cricket was his passion, a passion which he never had the guts to pursue until fate bestowed upon him an opportunity which would change his life forever. Shrugging off a sparkling career – as a management consultant – that lay ahead, this rubber ball stroking bloke embarks upon the most mercurial excursion to fulfill his dream of donning the navy blue jersey that reads INDIA. The expedition which is riddled with the most crushing lows and mind numbing highs proves to be the ultimate test of his fortitude and makes him even more resolute. How much more can he sacrifice to get there? And most importantly, will he get there?

Cricket is a religion in India, something which we all have adulated on for years now. Cricket till i Die is the

story of Vineet - who left his job at IT infotech to start MBA at FMS and then a plum internship as a management consultant to take up cricket. Now, if you can get past a few OTT plot points along with numerous spelling and grammatical mistakes in printing, there are quite a lot of things to savour in this book. To start with, the pace of the narrative is brisk and never dwells on a particular plot to the point of self-indulgence. Even if you are not a cricket fan, it is still an easy read because it keeps the cricketing jargon to a minimum. There are factual errors with the chronology of cricketing events and player stats but if you don't know these details, you will most probably not even notice them. The love story in the book is just not there for ornamental purpose as is the case these days with young fiction, but holds a very important and defining thread in the narrative. It highlights the importance of being in touch with the right people when you are getting all the success in life.

The most touching scene of the book comes when Mr. Sharma, coach of the local cricket club forces the lead protagonist to go ahead with the plans of joining a bigger club than the one he currently plays for because, as a coach he is clear that a talent like him should not be wasted in the mediocre realms of his own club. The book constantly swings in the deliberations of following your dreams and having a safe corporate career. It also doesn't shy away from showing the ugly side of cricket politics and how inadvertently cricketers get affected by it in their personal and professional lives. There is an unexpected twist at the end of the book which is ironic and dramatic in equal measures. The book does go for a hurried ending, but is enough to make you understand that to be successful...you don't really need to travel a fixed path. If you are mentally strong, you can achieve success if you put your mind and heart into it. In all honesty, it truly celebrates the spirit of cricket - When the going gets tough, the tough gets going.

The only time the narrative flounders is when it gets into description of one IPL match to another, showing how the cricketer with hardly no cricketing background rises above the ranks. These scenes not only comes across as a little unrealistic but also tend to get monotonous because you know all of them would end with the main protagonist coming out on top in difficult match situations. These portions could have been toned down to induce a practical factor, in turn leading credence to the quick rise for the gifted cricketer.

I am going with 3/5 for Upneet Grover's debut novel, Cricket Till I Die. It is fast paced, breezy read and won't take much time to finish. It is touch inspiring and entertaining and will make you absorb in the milieu it has set itself into. Don't treat this book as a cricket or a management novel, at it's heart it is nothing but about the triumph of the human spirit.

Puneet says

For all those software engineers who feel they are caught up in the wrong job, for all those cricket lovers who breath cricket, for all those CAT aspirants/crackers and for all those ppl who dream but fail to wake up... this one is for you,,, this book though is written in a very simple way but u all will relate to it no ends..i loved it and so will all of u.. well done upneet.. keep up the good work..

Ayaz says

Extremely enjoyable! Once you start reading you wouldn't be able to put it down. I was able to relate so much with Vineet.. so much so that I started feeling his joy and pain through the rollercoaster journey. A

must read for all cricket fans... also for those who believe in dreaming and then achieving those dreams!

Smita Beohar says

Vineet is our quintessential boy, working for an imminent IT firm and loving the job. He keeps doing the routine job with a hope that one day he will crack through an MBA institute and move out for a better prospect. His dream comes true and he chuck's everything to pursue the degree which he felt would give him freedom. He moves back to his hometown Delhi to pursue his MBA degree but fate had decided something else for him. A chance encounter with a local cricket team made him live the dream which he was scared to follow. After few hiccups he has a dream run and is in the process of being selected for the Delhi T 20 teams but that means chucking the MBA degree. What will Vineet Do? Will he achieve his ultimate dream of wearing the national jersey? Will he live the dream? Or will he get close to touching it & then forgetting it forever? Read the book to know more. My Verdict The book is a racy read and starts off well. I could easily relate to the feelings & attitude of Vineet towards his workplace. But the easy way with which Vineet starts achieving everything was kind of unbelievable for me and that was the part which didn't work for me. My other grouch with the book is the bollywoodish flavour. However as far as readability, plot, pace etc. are concerned the book is bang on. You will relate to the characters, you will feel happy when the protagonist goes through the highs & lows in his career, love et al. All in all a one sit light read. I wish the author had spent some more time developing the plot instead of taking the convenient route of being bollywoodish. My Rating 2.75/5

Tejinder Singh says

The author has depicted the characters in a manner that the reader relates to the character quite easily. The book has a good mix of all emotions ranging from passion, joy, curiosity to gloominess in some scenarios. The surprise elements which I wont reveal as may b spoiler for non-reader are brilliant. In short, the book is definite read for readers who look for good light fictions.

Sushant Bahadur says

A smooth flow read, Cricket till I die serves one purpose that I hope from every book this genre, that the author is able to restrain from putting dramatics in the story. I like that there are no earth-shattering tragedies or sky-rocketing successes, managing to infuse more of realism and believability in the story line. Good stuff for an entertaining read.

Sushant Bahadur

Ishween says

A heart touching tale of a young guy, like you and me, ready to give what it takes to achieve his dream in like...

Vineet was a rockstar ;)

Varun Yadav says

a must read for all who are passionate about living their passion.. truly written from the heart...

prachita says

The book is a smooth flowing read, with the best USP that a book can have - it related to the reader. You feel elated by the triumphs and let down by the lows. It comes at a time when cricket makes every Indian proud and arouses unconditional passion, the writer has successfully woven his own passion into the very threads of the story. The book describes a journey that all of us embark upon, the balancing of dreams and reality, this book is for anyone who is still stuck in the dilemma between pursuing dreams or living on under the apprehension of being rejected in the pursuit.

Looking forward to further writings by the author.

Navdeep Singh Dhillon says

Upneet is no Salman Rushdie or Faulkner. Nor is he the Nick Hornby of India. There is nothing original in its concept, and the writing is nothing special, but I enjoyed reading this book because quite simply, it is a fun story. The story sounds almost semi-autobiographical: it centers on Vineet Grover (yup. Same last name) a 22 year old typical Indian bloke working in, what else, I.T. and is slated for career trajectory. He plans on getting his MBA at a fancy pants university and making lots of money, living a fancy pants life while driving a fancy pants car. But he has this passion for cricket that refuses to die. The catalyst is when he meets the walking stereotype, Mr. Sharma, the tough as nails coach with a soft spot. I envision him as Rocky's coach with a penchant for street food and an accent. So Vineet is offered the chance to play with the Delhi Daredevils and the rest of the novel takes us inside the world of cricket and whether the stakes are too high for Vineet. Will he go the distance or return back to his cushy IT job. Oooh. That's a tough one. Spoiler: He does not. There are additional melodramatic bollywood-esque plot twists, coincidences, and characters, which will annoy you if you're looking for a serious book on cricket. If you have a sense of humor and like a good read, then definitely worth checking out.

The one potentially negative aspect of this book, which I found kind of entertaining, were the typos and factual errors: names of characters get swapped randomly, a character has three different ages in the same year, beer is spelled bear, amongst other minor things. Again, if you're in the mood for some light reading, check it out.

Dheeraj Ahlawat says

An extremely well written book, with a dreamy and inspirational story of average Indian teenager having a

dream of donning the coveted blues and representing Indian cricket team. Almost every reader will be able to associate himself with the real life characters and situations and constant pangs and struggle of middle class youth looking for find the answer to the question: Whether to make a good career with a well paid corporate job or follow his heart and chase his childhood dreams. A nice refreshing read and highly recommended for people with unfinished dreams in life.....
