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Penguins Stopped Play: Eleven Village Cricketers Take On The World



Synopsis

It seemed a simple enough idea at the outset: to assemble a team of eleven men to play cricket on each of the seven continents of the globe. Except...that's not a simple idea at all. And when you throw in incompetent airline officials, cunning Bajan drug dealers, overzealous American anti-terrorist police, idiotic Welshmen dressed as Santa Claus and whole armies of pitch-invading penguins, you quickly arrive at a lot more than you bargained for. Harry Thompson's hilarious book tells the story of one of those great madcap enterprises that only an Englishman could have dreamed up, and only a bunch of Englishmen could possibly have wished to carry out. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

This is a thoroughly entertaining travelogue about a village cricket team, optimistically called the Captain Scott XI. Having played up and down England and adventured to a few other countries, they decide to play their way around the world. Harry Thompson captains the team and has played in Antarctica when he happened to be there, so he sets out to be the first person to play cricket on all seven continents. Taking a long New Year break he and the team head off on appallingly mismanaged flights and cram the matches against Barbados, South Africa and elsewhere into the schedule. I laughed out loud every evening that I read this book. I know as much about cricket as you could write on a matchbox. As with Michael Green's *The Art of Coarse Rugby*, however, it's the participation that counts, not the rule book. I am very sure that cricketing aficionados will get more out of this than I did, but don't let that stop the non-sporty folks from reading it too. Thompson

worked for the BBC and drops names such as Hugh Laurie and Hugh Grant into the tale, focusing on how they played cricket when they turned out one Saturday, but the real stars are the varied characters who make up the team. I was really saddened by the end where we learn that the author died of cancer shortly after finishing the copy-edits. However it makes us understand that if there is anything we want to do in life, we should just go ahead and do it.

I love this book - it is interesting, unusual, wise, witty and warm. It begins with a cricket match where penguins really DID stop play. This chapter has the immortal line, 'Who else but a New Zealander would pack a cricket ball when he's going to the Antarctic'?

A book for all cricket lovers no doubt. I believe that those of us who have played the game at any level, aiming to win, but faced with middle order batting collapses, were left chewing our nails, or tearing hair off our heads, will relate very well to it. Written with dollops of humour, the book covers the journey of the Captain Scott Cricket team on their around the world in 3 weeks. Madcap adventures abound. Most of it outside the Cricket field. All kinds of emotions are laid out for the reader. All real ones. The ending left me reflecting about how good really is a short life lived well. God bless Harry Thompson's soul for sharing this story with us before calling it a day on planet earth.

An excellent yarn spanning 25 years, about a village cricket teams journey. Full of enjoyable laughable romps, both on and off the field. An around the world tour and all the issues with travel, grog, accommodation, and just getting the team onto the fields. Yes, I would recommend this read to all sports people. I'm just sorry Harry the author is not around to enjoy all the positive feed back. Cheers, John 2Hill.

I'm not even a cricket fan but I laughed out loud at this rollicking good tale. If you want to do some travelling with a difference, meet some wonderful characters, and have a good laugh, you can't go wrong with this warm and compelling true story. It'll leave you feeling good for days, and I guarantee you'll be recommending it to your friends.

Part memoir, part travel book, largely an account of joy of living in relation to inconsequential games of cricket. Cricket is a foreign language to me, so descriptions of play went over my head, but did not take away from my enjoyment of this book. The heart of the author shone through, as well as

those of other players. It made me want to travel, and how. It made me envy men with their bonds of sport. It also taught me to avoid British Airways at all cost. Not a great book, it's honest and fun. I rate it generously because of the closing pages.

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