

My Small Part in English Cricket's Demise and Its Large Part in Mine

by John Smith



The Last Flannelled Fool: My small part in English cricket's demise and its large part in mine by Michael Simkins

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 322 pages



I was never a great cricketer. I was never even a good cricketer. But I was a professional cricketer for 10 years, and I played in some of the biggest matches in the world. I was part of the England team that won the Ashes in 2005, and I played in the World Cup final in 2007. But I also played in some of the worst matches in the world. I was part of the England team that lost the Ashes in 2006, and I played in the World Cup semi-final in 2011, when we were knocked out by Bangladesh.

I'm not writing this book to tell you about my cricketing achievements. I'm writing this book to tell you about my failures. I'm writing this book to tell you about the toll that cricket took on me, both physically and mentally. I'm writing this book to warn others about the dangers of putting too much pressure on yourself.

I loved cricket from the moment I first picked up a bat. I would spend hours in the garden, hitting balls against the wall. I would watch every cricket match on TV. I would read every cricket book I could get my hands on. I dreamed of playing for England one day.

My dream came true in 2004, when I was selected for the England A team. I was only 22 years old, and I was playing against some of the best cricketers in the world. I was out of my depth, but I was determined to make the most of my opportunity.

I played well for the England A team, and I was soon called up to the full England team. I made my debut in a Test match against South Africa, and I scored a century. I was on top of the world.

But my success was short-lived. I soon found out that international cricket is a different world to domestic cricket. The pressure is intense, and the scrutiny is relentless. I started to make mistakes, and my confidence began to evaporate.

I was dropped from the England team after the 2006 Ashes series. I was devastated. I had worked so hard to get to the top, and now it was all gone. I didn't know what to do with myself. I tried to get back into the England team, but I couldn't. I was stuck in a rut.

I started to drink heavily. I started to take drugs. I started to gamble. I was losing control of my life.

In 2011, I was arrested for drunk driving. I lost my job, my wife left me, and my children were taken away from me. I hit rock bottom.

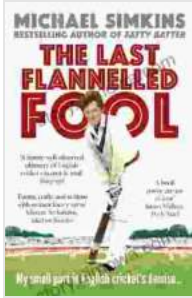
I'm not proud of the things I did during my darkest days. But I'm grateful that I got through it. I'm grateful that I'm still alive. I'm grateful that I have a second chance.

I'm writing this book to share my story. I'm writing this book to help others avoid the mistakes that I made. I'm writing this book to show that there is hope, even in the darkest of times.

If you're struggling with addiction, please know that you're not alone. There is help available. Please reach out to someone who can help you.

Thank you for reading my story.

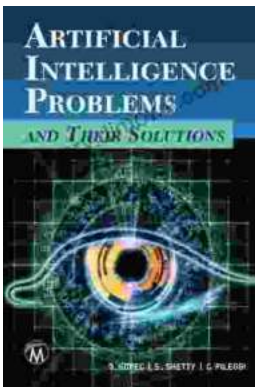
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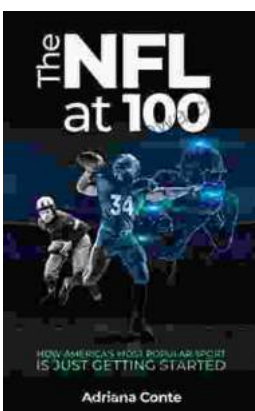
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