

ULTIMATE INTERNATIONAL
CRICKET
CHAMPIONS





AMRUTA GAIKI

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CRICKET

CHAMPIONS

JAMES ANDERSON

 juggernaut

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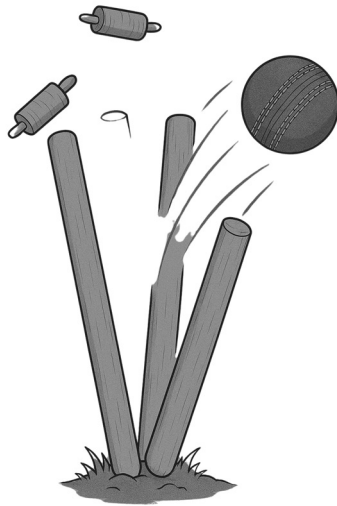
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For Aaba, the OG cricket enthusiast and storyteller in the family.







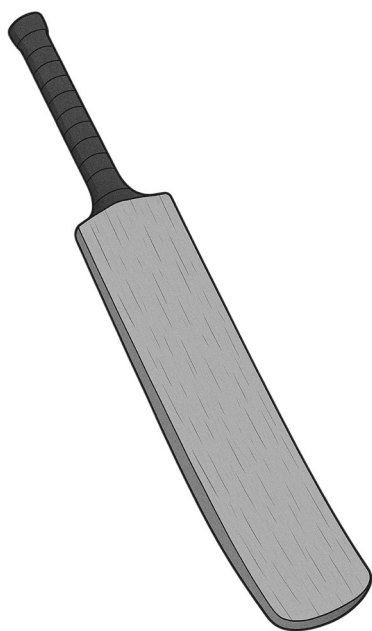
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MOUNT 700



INDIA VS ENGLAND, ENGLAND TOUR OF INDIA, FIFTH TEST, DHARAMSHALA, MARCH 2024

James 'Jimmy' Anderson is tired.

It is the second day of the Test match. But it seems like he has been bowling forever. England had only scored 218 in their first innings, and now India are batting strongly. James's shoulders ache. His legs complain with every step.

As the English players walk back inside for lunch, there are many tired faces around. India are 264/1 in 60 overs. England need something special. And they need it fast.

At lunch, the England captain, Ben Stokes, comes over.

'Jimmy, we need to try something different,' Ben says. 'I'm going to bowl after lunch.'

James nods. He knows England are in trouble. 'If anyone can get a wicket right now, it's you, Ben,' he says.

'But I'll need your support,' Ben replies.

'I'll do my best, Captain,' James says, standing a little straighter.

After lunch, James watches closely. Ben Stokes runs in, ready to bowl his first ball.

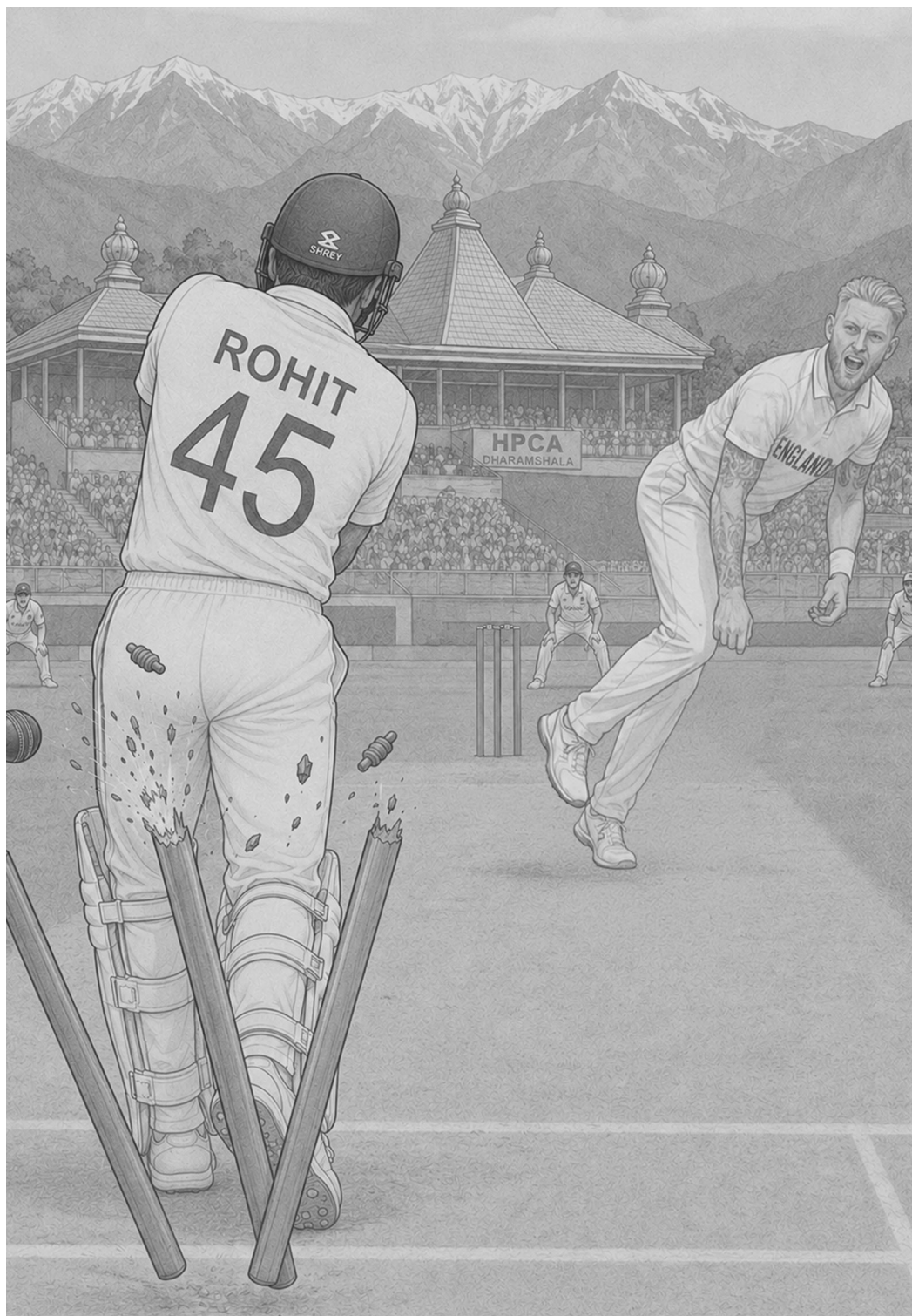
Bang!

The ball knocks over Rohit Sharma's stumps.

How does he do it, James wonders. The man is a magician. James smiles to himself. Does England need a wicket? Ben Stokes simply waves his hand and magically conjures one. Then James takes a deep breath. *I can do it too*, he thinks. His team and his captain need him. *Just one good ball*, he tells himself.

James begins his run-up, builds up to speed and lets the ball fly from his hand. Shubman





looks ready to hit a big shot but changes his mind. He gently taps the ball away.

James turns, walks back and goes again. This time, the ball crashes into the stumps.

Crack!

The sound feels like rain in the desert. James feels the relief wash over him. It's a perfect delivery! The Indian crowd falls silent, and the few English fans cheer loudly. James grins and throws one arm in the air to celebrate.

He looks over at Shubman for a second. Shubman looks at his stumps and then back at James as though he can't believe it. Finally, he sighs and starts walking back. Suddenly, James doesn't feel tired anymore. The ache in his shoulders disappears, and he is filled with joy as his teammates surround him. They pat him on the back and give high-fives to each other.

'699, Jimmy!' shouts Ben Stokes, grinning in turn. James blinks and realizes that yes, this

