

# Anyone But England: Uncovering the Hidden Truths of Cricket, Race, and Class

Cricket, the beloved sport of England, has long been viewed as a gentleman's game, a symbol of national pride. However, beneath the surface of tradition and etiquette lies a darker history marred by racial and class divisions.

In his groundbreaking book, "Anyone But England: Cricket, Race, and Class," renowned historian David Kynaston delves into this uncomfortable past, exposing the deep-rooted issues that have plagued the sport for generations.



## Anyone but England: Cricket, Race and Class

by Evelyne Gauthier

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1152 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
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Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 366 pages  
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**The Colonial Legacy**

Kynaston begins by tracing the origins of cricket's racial divide back to the British Empire. As the empire expanded, cricket became a tool of cultural dominance, used to assert British superiority over colonized nations.

In South Africa, the game was segregated along racial lines, with white players forming their own clubs and associations. In the Caribbean, cricket was seen as a way for black players to escape poverty, but they faced constant discrimination and barriers to advancement.

### **Class Divisions within England**

While race was a major factor in cricket's divisions, class also played a significant role. The game's origins in the elite public schools of England created a hierarchy that excluded working-class players.

This class divide manifested itself in the selection of national teams, with wealthy amateurs often being preferred over more talented players from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

### **The Fight for Equality**

Despite these obstacles, countless individuals have fought for racial and class equality in cricket. Kynaston chronicles the stories of pioneers like Learie Constantine, the first black player to represent England, and Basil D'Oliveira, who faced racial abuse during a tour of South Africa.

These trailblazers paved the way for the modern era of cricket, where players from all backgrounds can aspire to the highest levels of the game.

### **Lessons for the Present**

"Anyone But England" is not just a historical account; it is also a call to action. Kynaston argues that the lessons of the past are still relevant today, as racial and class inequalities continue to exist in cricket and society at large.

He urges us to confront these issues head-on, to challenge stereotypes and create a more inclusive and equitable sport.

### **A Must-Read for Cricket Enthusiasts and Social Justice Advocates**

Whether you're a passionate cricket fan or a concerned observer of social justice, "Anyone But England" is an essential read. It provides an unflinching look at a complex and often uncomfortable chapter in history, offering valuable insights into the ongoing struggle for equality.

With its meticulously researched content, engaging narrative, and thought-provoking analysis, this book will challenge your assumptions, inspire your activism, and leave you with a deep appreciation for the resilience of the human spirit.

### **Call to Action**

Join the movement for a more just and equitable cricket world. Read "Anyone But England," spread the word, and let's work together to create a sport where everyone has a fair chance to succeed.

Free Download your copy today and make a difference!



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