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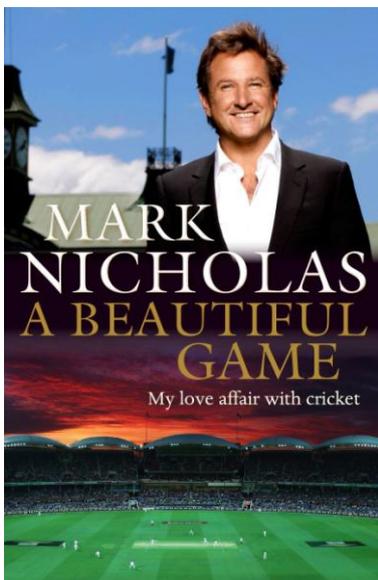
A BEAUTIFUL GAME

My love affair with cricket

Mark Nicholas

Published by Allen and Unwin, 06 October 2016, Hardback, £20

'Cricket is the most artistic of all games and, to me, the most beautiful. Thus, the title of this book. Cricket is difficult, frustrating and unfair but the bounty of its rewards is plentiful.'



Former Hampshire captain Mark Nicholas is one of the most respected commentators in cricket. Since retiring as a player in 1995 he has worked as a writer and broadcaster, and is both the face of Channel 5's *Cricket on Five* in the UK and anchor for Channel 9's Test commentary team in Australia, with a unique knowledge and perspective on the world game.

In his first book, **A BEAUTIFUL GAME**, Nicholas gives a personal and entertaining account of cricket as witnessed first as a player, and then as professional observer. He looks back at some of the sport's greatest moments, including the thrilling 2005 Ashes series, and provides insight into recent changes and innovations in the game including the Indian Premier League (IPL), T20, and the even shorter version, Max10, and considers what the future holds for cricket.

Nicholas reflects on his 17 years with Hampshire CCC playing alongside the likes of David Gower, Malcolm Marshall, Gordon Greenidge, Barry Richards and Robin Smith, and his decade as team captain. He gives fresh insights into some of the titans of the game such as Brian Lara, Sachin Tendulkar and Shane Warne, and recalls the day he explained spin bowling to Tiger Woods!

He talks about his love affair with Australia which started when he first played a winter there, aged 20, and reveals how his surprise appointment to the Channel 9 commentary team was received by fellow broadcasters, including the great Richie Benaud. He also discusses the unparalleled influence of Kerry Packer on the modern game, and gives details of an extraordinary meeting he had with Packer, just months before he died, in which they spoke about the future of cricket.

In a moving opening chapter he speaks of his father and the impact of his sudden death when Nicholas was just ten years old. He also talks about his involvement with *Chance to Shine*, a charity that brings cricket to children who may not otherwise have the opportunity.

To arrange an interview with Mark Nicholas or to request a review copy, please contact:
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