



PRESS RELEASE

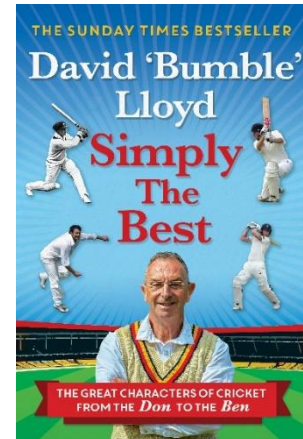
SIMON & SCHUSTER 1st FLOOR 222 GRAY'S INN ROAD WC1X 8HB

SIMPLY THE BEST

**The Great Characters of Cricket
from The Don to The Ben**

David 'Bumble' Lloyd

Published 3 September by Simon & Schuster, £20, Hb



David 'Bumble' Lloyd is one of cricket's great characters - hilarious, informative and insightful, and filled with boundless enthusiasm for the game. In his latest book, *Simply the Best*, he tells the stories of the most important, influential, talented and entertaining characters he has come across in sixty years in the game.

From the greats of the past such as **Donald Bradman, Ian Botham** and **Andrew Flintoff**, to stars of today including **Ben Stokes, Joe Root** and **Jos Buttler**, **Bumble** shares stories of the finest, funniest and most congenial characters in cricket. He gives insights into life in the commentary box alongside the likes of **Mike Atherton** and **Nasser Hussain**, and pays tribute to former colleague, **Bob Willis**, who died last year.

In the book he explains why he thinks **Kevin Pietersen**, who he describes as 'the best England player I have ever seen', should have been disciplined not ditched. He gives his verdict on current world stars including **Steve Smith**, who he rates alongside Bradman, and **Virat Kohli**, who he says is 'driven to be the very best India has produced'.

As well as household names he introduces us to the gnarly veterans he first played against as a teenager in the Lancashire League, and to the weird and wonderful characters off the field who make the game happen, such as **Bert Flack**, the groundsman at Lancashire CCC, who ruled the roost and once forced the Pakistan team to declare by bringing out the roller, and **Ron Spriggs**, the dressing-room attendant at Old Trafford who tried to pick the team.

Bumble gives his views on the current England team including **Jimmy Anderson** and **Stuart Broad**, who he describes as 'England's best-ever opening partnership', and calls **Eoin Morgan** an 'absolute gem'. He discusses **Joe Root's** captaincy and explains why he should bat at number 4 and not 3.

Simply the Best is **Bumble** at his best: telling great stories about his favourite people in his own indomitable and entertaining style. It's the perfect gift for any cricket fan.

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