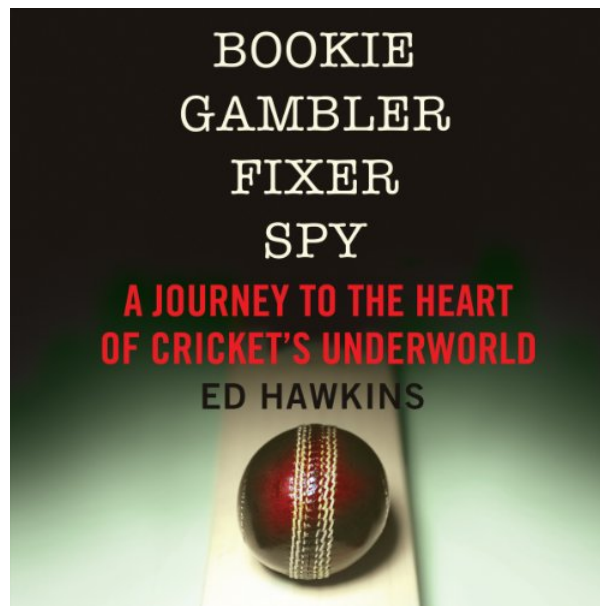
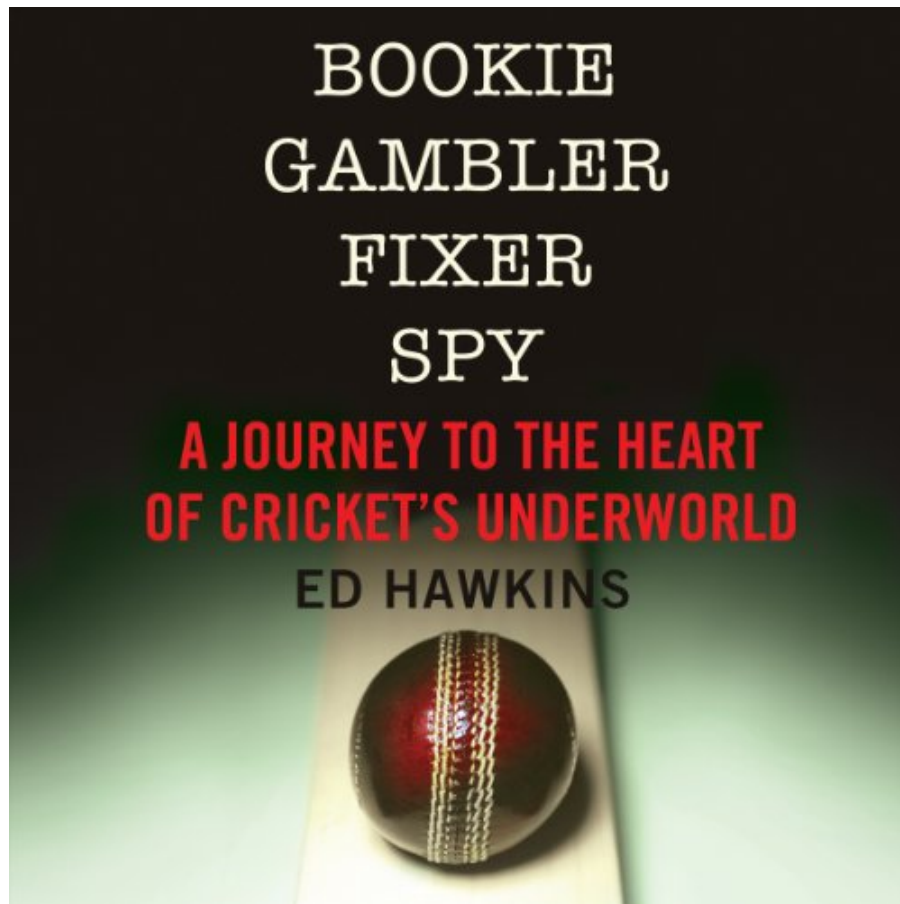


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BOOKIE GAMBLER FIXER SPY: A JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF CRICKET'S UNDERWORLD BY ED HAWKINS

PDF

A startling and powerful journey to the very core of India's illegal bookmaking industry that exposes the scale of corruption and the match-fixing that now runs rife throughout world cricket. For several years Ed Hawkins made friends with India's illegal bookmakers - men who boast turnover of hundreds of millions of dollars per cricket match - as well as the corruption officers of the International Cricket Council who are trying to shut them down. It's a shady world and rumours abound. But then Hawkins receives a message that changes everything and he decides it is time to expose the truth behind match-fixing. Bookie Gambler Fixer Spy is a story featuring politicians, governing bodies, illegal bookmakers, and powerless players - as well as corruption, intimidation and even suicide. It is a story that touches all cricket-playing nations around the world. It is a story that every cricket fan must read. You might never again watch a cricket match without suspicion....

- Sales Rank: #88037 in Audible
- Published on: 2014-03-20
- Format: Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Running time: 470 minutes

Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

An important book with a number of flaws

By Amazon Customer

On one hand, I found it useful to understand the world of cricket betting as it happens in India. At least I know now a lot more than I did before reading this book. The book reads like a series of interviews and events that the author experienced, and allows the reader to draw their own conclusions about the core issue of match fixing, even though the opinions of the various interviewees are presented without modification.

On the other hand, its full of stereotypes about Indian people and Indian society which are too numerous to recount. One could come away with the impression that Indians are all corrupt with an scratch each others backs attitude which is just not true. It may be true in the world of corrupt bookmakers, but its not some kind of Indian trait, I am sure that you would find the same attitudes in the London gangs. The role of Indian women comes across as some docile squirrel type creatures scurrying about serving food and tea and the man of the house shouting orders at them, which is again such a total western stereotype. The author repeatedly veers into mildly racially stereotypical descriptions of Indian society and people which are just too numerous to be hard to ignore.

In addition, as another reviewer mentioned, the author seems to have transcribed the conversations with the bookies verbatim without any explanation in many places and that sometimes makes things really confusing. I found myself reading and re-reading paragraphs trying to make sense of the conversations with no luck.

Finally it seems to me like there is hyperbole and speculation in the match fixing related statements especially by the bookies who seem eager to show that they know something others do not. While I do not doubt that there is a lot of dodgy stuff going on in cricket and indeed in all major sports, but I did not see a lot of hard evidence presented, only somewhat speculative words about fixing, which kind of makes the book a little less impactful.

Having said all of that, I do know and suspect a lot more after having read the book than I did before reading the book. It opens up a new world and it is an important work with respect to the good of cricket.

I would have given this book three stars for the above mentioned gripes, but I love cricket, and I think that the journalist's heart is in the right place and he is doing his bit to help reform this game, something a lot of people just don't dare do, so I do recommend it to any cricket lover, with the caveat that please don't fall for the stereotypical descriptions of India and Indians.

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Bookie, Gambler - Yes ... Fixer, Spy - Missing

By Mach 10

A rambling narrative of, mostly, how illegal betting works in India through the inputs of colorless characters..bookies et al. Its so much more about sports betting than association between betting and fixing. Frequent resort to betting logic which, at least to me, made no sense. Cricketers who are publicly known to be associated with betting are referred to in the book by name. However, much too often, individuals are referred to, but their names are crossed out...for instance, "xxx xxxxx did so and so" ... if the author/editor had no intention to reveal the names, he might as well have not referred to it at all, rather than making cryptic remarks which disappoint than entertain the reader. The books closes around with apologetic authorities, fuming Lalit Modi and suddenly ends ... almost clueless!

And whats with the author's repeated remarks to the effect that deals on Indian sub-continent invariably require a quid pro quo ... ain't it the same most everywhere?

It hardly goes to the 'core' of illegal booking, besides making few and far hearsay comments heard from low level operators.

It doesn't 'expose' any corruption ... at least nothing that is not already in public domain.

Nothing New!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Interesting read

By Tathagata Mitra

The view into the betting market, legal and illegal, is an eye-opener. As is the use of statistics and data to point out anomalous game trails. Also, the author's constraint in staying away from accusations of players is very responsible.

What is however not fulfilling, and leaves me unsatisfied is the lack of answers at the end of the read. How big is the problem of fixing? How rampant is it in international and domestic cricket? What of the various T20 leagues that have mushroomed across the globe?

Too many questions, too few answers. One place where I am in complete agreement with the author is that players have to take ownership if this problem of fixing is to be really eradicated.

See all 10 customer reviews...

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