

Crazy Cricket Mania

by

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FADE IN:

INT. A CAFE IN MUMBAI- NIIGHT

We are inside a cafe in mumbai where illegal betting takes place. Our main character- Rahul is also here. The camera moves in as it pans to the main character's face. He is trying to give his money to the Bookmaker who is surrounded by a crowd who are trying to do the same

BOOKMAKER

(shouting)

What is your bet? The odds are right there--

(Bookmaker pointing to a board behind Rahul)

RAHUL

14k on punjab win!

The Bookmaker takes his money and Rahul walks away.

RAHUL

(thinking to himself)

How bad can my life get now? I lost my job first, not even my own parents believe in me anymore, and now I am even gambling! Where do I even go to? My life is over even before it started. Anyways, god has tested me way too much, I bet all my life savings on this game, if I win I get a good deal to restart my life and if I don't I will have nothing to live onto. Suicide will be my only option then--

The match starts as everyone gathers around, order their food and sit to watch it.

The match is Kings XI Punjab v/s Rajasthan Royals on September 27, 2020. Punjab puts on a big total at the small ground of Sharjah.

PUNJAB SUPPORTER

(sitting next to Rahul)

Seems like a good total by them, they should be able to defend it with that 9 crore bowler they bought in the auction.

RAJASTHAN SUPPORTER

It's a small ground, they might be able to chase it down given their explosive batting.

PUNJAB SUPPORTER

(to Rahul)

Whom did you bet on?

RAHUL

Punjab.

PUNJAB SUPPORTER

Good choice, are you a punjab supporter?

RAHUL

No, not really. I don't even watch the sport, I hardly understand the rules.

PUNJAB SUPPORTER

Oh, so why would you bet?

RAHUL

Just to get a feel of it.

PUNJAB SUPPORTER

How much did you put in?

RAHUL

14k

PUNJAB SUPPORTER

14K! Just to get a fell of it?

RAHUL

My dad's rich. Now if you excuse me, I would like to watch the game.

PUNJAB SUPPORTER

Sure man, just trying to start a conversation.

RAHUL

(to himself)

Why would I even want to talk to a gambler who puts his money on a cricket game. What is it that they enjoy so much about?

The match goes on as Rajasthan try to boost their run rate by playing risky shots. They get quick runs but also lose 2 wickets in the process. And the the surprise of everyone, the Rajasthan management, a team that has always followed a policy of giving youngsters a chance, a team that won the first IPL because of this, they promote a nobody- Rahul Tewatia to number 4.

PUNJAB SUPPORTER

Seems like they have lost all hopes this early in the match. Giving chance to a youngster at this stage hahaha!

RAJASTHAN SUPPORTER

You never know he might just do something useful.

The match progresses as Rahul Tewatia, the batter who was sent to aggress the innings can not even strike a single delivery. Every ball he faces he swings hard but can't middle it a single time.

PUNJAB SUPPORTER

Damn right you were! He is indeed useful, just not for his own team!

RAJASTHAN SUPPORTER

What the hell is this guy doing? If he can't hit it just retire hurt yourself and walk away!

ANOTHER MAN

(near by)

What a masterstroke by Rajasthan, helping Punjab win this game. Reminds me of Jadeja in 2009 champions trophy!

ANOTHER SUPPORTER

(laughing)

Look at his face! He is like a deer in headlights, completely frozen.

RAHUL

(to himself)

What kind of people are these? I understand enjoying a sport but why would you curse someone who is at the bottom of his game? He knows he is doing bad why would you curse him? And that Rajasthan supporter? Isn't he your own team player? Shouldn't you back him? In a matter on 20 balls you changed your opinion on him?

The T.V. Pans to some Punjab players in the dugout laughing at Tewatia's misery. And then the worst thing happens, the inevitable: Tewatia's own captain Samson denies him the strike.

PUNJAB SUPPORTER

That's it even his own captain has lost faith in him now hasn't he?

RAJASTHAN SUPPORTER

Hey stop blaming Tewatia! There are more Tewatias in life than their are Samsons.

ANOTHER SUPPORTER

He's career is over even before it started!

RAHUL

(to himself)

Enjoying someone's downfall? How petty can you be? You don't even know who he is! You don't even know how much he has struggled to reach that position. Atleast he is doing something legal unlike you guys earning money of this failure! And the worst thing- he's own captain has lost faith in him! Just like, just like my parents lost faith in me...

The next over comes as Punjab's captain gives the ball to his main 9 crore bowler Cottrell as Rahul Tewatia takes the strike.

The very first ball he pulls it for a six.

PUNJAB SUPPORTER

Finally man hit something haha!!

Next ball he swings to the leg side, another six.

RAJASTHAN SUPPORTER

Atleast he got his strike rate over 100. But the match is probably just over.

Third ball he strikes over wide long-on. Another six.

ANOTHER SUPPORTER

What? What in the world is happening. Man couldn't touch the ball till now and now he is middle-ing everything??

Rahul seems to be getting happier with every six, while punjab supporter on his left keeps getting more tensed. Rahul is rooting for Tewatia even without realising it.

Fourth ball Tewatia sweeps it over midwicket for a flat six.

PUNJAB SUPPORTER

This game is rigged!

RAJASTHAN SUPPORTER

Rahul you beauty!

RAHUL

Weren't you cursing him the very last over?

RAJASTHAN SUPPORTER

Who cares man! This is a miracle just enjoy it!

Fifth ball another six over midwicket. The commentators are going crazy, the dugout is crazy as well. And in the middle is Rahul Tewatia- absolutely calm, not celebrating at all. He has had his worst and his best in the very same match!

RAHUL
(jumps up from his chair)
Let's go man! Let's go Rahul!

PUNJAB SUPPORTER
Didn't you bet on Punjab?

RAHUL
Who cares man! This is a miracle
just enjoy it!

Rahul Tewatia wins the game for Rajasthan with another six. His players and captain, everyone who lost faith in him is now celebrating his success. What a turnaround!

RAHUL
(to himself)
Just one over! Just one over it
took for him to turn it around. His
captain lost faith in him, everyone
laughed at him and he still did it!
If he could do it then why not me?
Why not me??

INT. RAHUL'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

11 years later, 2031, the day of world cup finals. Taking inspiration from Tewatia's turnaround Rahul decided to turnaround his life as well. He has grown very rich and married a beautiful woman. She finds out about his gambling addiction and decides to divorce him.

RAHUL'S WIFE
I am leaving you Rahul

RAHUL
Leaving me? Why? Why? I told you I
won't gamble anymore!

RAHUL'S WIFE
And you lied! You lied!

RAHUL
I-I- I swear I won't gamble anymore
I swear!

RAHUL'S WIFE
How much have you lost in the last
two years you have any idea?

RAHUL
Lost? I am sorry man I am so sorry!

RAHUL'S WIFE

So are beyond help Rahul. You and your obsession for cricket. Beyond help. At first I thought money was coming in. I was happy. I thought we could be happy together. But I just don't see us together anymore.

RAHUL

Hey hey hey! Are you serious? It's not like you discovered my addiction today! You knew it for a long time. When the money was coming in you didn't mind it did you? The moment I lose money you have a problem?

RAHUL'S WIFE

What are you talking about? We have a kid Rahul! Who will pay for his education? What will you write in his school calender? What's your profession? Gambling?

RAHUL

Woah! Don't bring him into this!

RAHUL'S WIFE

You have no regard for money at this point do you? You have a family to look after and you keep gambling!

RAHUL

What! You don't teach me--Oh okay okay okay I am sorry--Please please try to understand. I don't know anything else. I have only one thing in my life and that is cricket. This is the only way I can make money.

RAHUL'S WIFE

That's it Rahul. I want a divorce.

RAHUL

You never cared when I was making money huh? When the gambling got me money you didn't care. But the moment I lose money you want a divorce? What a cunning lady I got married into?

RAHUL'S WIFE

Stop making it sound like I am at a fault here. You and your cricket and your gambling, you stay home 24x7 but how much time do you spend
(MORE)

RAHUL'S WIFE (cont'd)
 with us or look at us? You have
 minimal interaction with you own
 kid and you say I am the one who is
 at fault here? You are blind Rahul.
 You just can't see the reality
 anymore.

RAHUL
 What? What? Please please try to
 understand!

RAHUL'S WIFE
 See you at the court now. Bye. I
 hope you find a cure for this soon.

Rahul's wife leaves with his son.

INT. WANKHADE STADIUM, MUMBAI-NIGHT

Unfortunately his wife leaves him due to his gambling
 addiction so he decides to gamble one last time.

His last match is India vs Pakistan at Wankhade stadium in
 the year 2031. He bets for India's win.

RAHUL
 Don't you think cricket controls
 our emotions too much?

BETTOR 1
 What? Well it does control my
 wallet though. By the way on whom
 are you betting this time?

RAHUL
 India win of course! Would not want
 it to go any other way would I?

BETTOR 2
 And how much is it?

RAHUL
 1.4 crores.

BETTOR 1
 1 point 4--- are you serious?

RAHUL
 That's like all the money I earned
 from betting all my life. You see, I
 decided to just spend all this
 money one last time. It can't get
 bigger than this can it? India vs
 Pakistan in a world cup finals. If
 I win I am going to be a lonely,
 but happy loser and if I lose-- I
 don't really know what I am going
 to do if I lose to be honest.

BETTOR 2

Still sir, 1.4 crore is too big!

RAHUL

Just enjoy the game man. Don't care about the money.

BETTOR 1

By the way, I heard about your wife man. Feel bad for you.

RAHUL

Naah, that's nothing. She left me because I was losing money. I can get anyone who is after money man. But I won't get another sport like cricket would I?

BETTOR 2

Really? I thought she was a good person.

RAHUL

Just forget it man. Enjoy the game.

BETTOR 1

Is that why you are spending all your money in this game?

RAHUL

What part of enjoying the game you don't get?

Rahul and his bettor friends are sitting in the most expensive stand in the stadium with 5-star amenities. They are watching the game live as Indian batters come on and start scoring runs at a good pace and put on a good total on the board.

BETTOR 2

Rahul bhai, seems like you are going to be an even richer person now don't you think?

BETTOR 1

Won't be able to buy a more expensive seat than this would you?

RAHUL

Man, I just hope India wins.

The match progresses as Pakistan takes the game very close.

As the games come to an end, Pakistan needs 24 to win of the last over.

Rahul Tewatia is the bowler.

Rahul Tewatia starts his run up.

BETTOR 2

Come on Rahul you have rescued us many a times do it again please.

First ball he gets hit for a six.

BETTOR 1

Alright just don't bowl a full toss man we will be good come on.

Next ball gets hit for a six too.

BETTOR 1

Are you serious? Another six? Come on!

RAHUL

He is the man of the series this tournament no matter what the result is. We can trust him guys.

Third ball goes for a six. 6 needed in 3.

BETTOR 2

How bad can you be? He is crumbling under pressure! What the hell man! He is gifting the game to Pakistan!

Fourth ball is a double. 4 needed in 2

BETTOR 1

Oh boy that was another loose delivery what was the captain thinking giving a spinner the last over??

RAHUL

Did not you say he saved us multiple times in the past?

BETTOR 1

It's the world cup final man! I bet 50 lakhs on this!

Next ball is a single. 3 needed of last ball.

BETTOR 1

Alright come on. Please don't give away a boundary please. Come on please.

RAHUL

Did he not save India's asses multiple times batting and bowling in the death? He is literally the best player for us in this tournament. Literally 3 bad balls and people forget what he has done

(MORE)

RAHUL (cont'd)
 for us? How are people being so
 reactionary about this? You try so
 hard, work so hard for someone, for
 your team and then 3 bad balls and
 people lose faith in you?

BETTOR 2
 I spent all my wife's fix deposit
 on this sir!

Final ball of the over, ball goes in the air, is there for
 some time..

RAHUL
 (to himself)
 If someone catches this, they will
 call Tewatia a hero for carrying
 the team the whole tournament. If
 it goes for a boundary they will
 bury Tewatia alive despite him
 doing so much for them. One ball
 and people decide what a player's
 value is. One ball can decide the
 value of 30 years of your hard work
 you put. People sit behind their
 screens judge these players, who
 are complete strangers, idolise
 them, hate them, despite not even
 meeting them in person. Oh how
 cruel is this sport really? How
 cruel is this world really? Why
 can't people control their
 emotions? It's just a ball. Just a
 match. Just a sport. If I were to
 explain their behaviour to an
 animal or an alien it would not
 make any sense! Maybe, maybe that's
 why people watch sports. Maybe
 that's what makes this sport so
 interesting after all! They forget
 their worries in lives and engross
 themselves into something
 completely worthless on surface.
 It's crazy how much control one
 ball has over people's lives over
 peoples emotions. It's crazy. The
 sport. Cricket. It's crazy. Crazy!

The ball is in the air for long. It start to descend with
 high speed. Two fielders run for it. One of them gives a
 call. It's his? The world cup winning catch is his? Will he
 drop it and become the villain? Will the ball go for a
 boundary and it's over? What will it be?

And just before the ball is about to come down--

RAHUL
(shouting at the top of
his lungs)
Oh cricket! Oh cricket what a game!
Oh cricket what a sport! Oh
cricket! Oh cricket! It's crazy!

THE END