

# Repartee

by

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## **CHARACTERS:**

- CHESTER SINGH, of Indian descent, born in the UK, about 20 years, cricketer, named after Don Chester, slim, tall, muscular
- DON CHESTER, End of 30 (as at the peak of his career) a Cricket legend from England (spirit, since deceased)
- RANBIR SINGH, Chester's grandfather as a youngster (looks like CHESTER), worked in a cricket sporting goods factory, making Chester's rackets
- BRAD SORROW, Colleague and friend of Chester's grandfather as a young man sewing cricket balls in the same company
- COACH of the ENGLISH NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM, late 40s, British
- ASSISTANT COACH of the ENGLISH NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM, early 40s, British
- ERIC GLASMEN, CAPTAIN of the ENGLISH NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM, Chester's best friend since school, body size smaller and more compact muscles like Chester, British
- 9 OTHER PLAYERS of the ENGLISH NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM
- 1 CAPTAIN, 10 PLAYERS + 2 COACH of the AUSTRALIAN CRICKET TEAM
- 2 UMPIRE (referee)
- SPECTATORS AT THE CRICKET MATCH + DANCE CLUB GUESTS
- PRESIDENT OF THE ICC, early 60s, British
- GIRL with glasses, long dark brown hair, 18 years, slim and small

**FADE IN**

**INT. WORKSHOP - DAY**

*Black and white sequence*

*View of calendar: year 1950*

*BRAD sews on a cricket ball*

*RANBIR makes a cricket bat and finally swings it as if it were standing on the field*

[ similar to: Sequence 8:55-9:24

from short film "Cricket (1950)" from the archive of the British Council [https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8dbTxGJI1w)

[v=b8dbTxGJI1w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8dbTxGJI1w) or

<http://film.britishcouncil.org/cricket1> ]

**EXT. CRICKET STADIUM - FIELD - DAY - CONTINUED**

*Black and white sequence*

DON CHESTER *defends the wicket with a six, with the same  
batting momentum as RANBIR SINGH in the 1st scene*

*Cheers of the spectators*

**INT. CRICKET STADIUM - PAVILION - EARLY MORNING**

*View of calendar year 2018*

*CHESTER stands at the window and looks out on the cricket field.*

*A light mist whirls across the field.*

*The sun has just risen.*

*Cup of coffee in hand.*

ERIC *(come in):*

"Here you are. We start equals. Team meeting in ten minutes."

*CHESTER, does not move, looks further out.*

*ERIC steps closer, touches his shoulder.*

ERIC:

„Did you hear me?“

CHESTER *(looking to Eric):*

„I heard you.“

ERIC:

„What's happening? This was our dream since school.“

CHESTER:

„I know. Nevertheless, I can hardly believe that we belong to the English national team. Everything went so fast. Two weeks ago is the selection ago.“

ERIC *(groan):*

„Every man is the architect of his own fortune. You dare. Imagine you are getting as good as Don Bradman.“

CHESTER *(laughing):*

„Well, I'm a long way from his performance.“

ERIC:

„Things can always change. Don Chester was great, too. Me the FastBowler, you the SuperBatsman. Together we will become world champions with England. Come on now. You are my best friend. But you do not get an extra invitation.“

CHESTER:

„I'll come after you. Give me a minute.“

CHESTER *looks at the field one last time, turns around, puts down the cup on the conference table, goes to the wall, picks up his racket and lays it in his hand. Close-up racket, that looks like what his great-grandfather made.*

**EXT. CEMETERY - DAY**

CHESTER approaches DON's simple tomb, squats in front of it and briefly touches it to collect his blessing  
gets up again

DON (O. S.):

„Bit puny, right, my friend?“

CHESTER (quiet, timid):

„Who's there?“

CHESTER looks around, nobody discovers.

DON (O. S.):

„You should not hear me at all.“

CHESTER turns around his own axis, looks around frantically and moves slowly backwards from the grave.

CHESTER (croaking):

„Who are you?“

DON (O. S., jubilantly):

„That does not exist. You hear me finally.“

Grave begins to sparkle.

CHESTER stops and looks.

From the sparks, a creative flash forms into a human form and DON appears.

He gropes himself and his face. Then he jumps around, dancing wildly and showing CHESTER grimaces.

CHESTER (frowning disapprovingly):

„Stop that.“

DON (Face darkens):

„You should not see me at all.“

CHESTER:

„And why not?“

DON:

„Because I am a ghost.“

CHESTER approaches DON, looks at him from all sides and points his finger at him.

CHESTER:

„You are ... are you ...?“

*CHESTER beats both hands in front of his face and shakes his head vehemently.*

DON:

„Well, I am who?“

*CHESTER takes his hands down and looks at him.*

CHESTER (*whisper*):

„Don Chester.“

DON (*perplexed*):

„Right, old boy.“

*CHESTER sits down on the floor, horrified, staring to himself.*

*DON wags his hand in front of CHESTER`S eyes.*

CHESTER (*looking up, defensive and waving his hands to DON*):

„Okay, you are Don. What does that mean?“

DON (*reaching for the chin*):

„Let me think. Do you play cricket?“

CHESTER (*snorts briefly*):

„For my life like. I just wanted to get your blessing for my international debut at the World Cup.“

DON:

„Ah. That would be a reason. And which team do you play for?“

CHESTER (*proud*):

„For England.“

DON:

„You are in the national team?“

CHESTER (*nodding*):

„Yes.“

DON:

„Then you have a special talent for this game. Bowler or Batsman?“



CHESTER (*grinning and standing up*):

„Left and right-handed batsman.“

DON:

„Your preferred hand?“

CHESTER:

„Right.“

DON:

„Following suggestion. I watch you during training. Then I can give you tips. In order?“

CHESTER (*nodding*):

„Super. Yes understood. So, what do you mean, why me?“

DON:

„Maybe because you play in my mind. I was one of the best batsman in the world.“

CHESTER:

„I know. My parents named me after you because grandfather was a big fan.“

DON:

„You mean Don?“

CHESTER:

„No, Chester.“

DON:

„Ah. You know, I never became world champion. Maybe we can change this together this year. We both.“

**EXT. CRICKET STADIUM - FIELD - DAY**

*Training.*

DON *stands next to CHESTER as a ghost and gives him tips. His hair is criss-crossed.*

DON *is now annoyed and moans with every bad shot (in short order) of CHESTER, the 4th time he turns away.*

*Then he goes to CHESTER.*

DON:

„I think you understand me wrong. Should I show it to you?“

CHESTER *looks down, barely moving his mouth so his teammates do not see him speaking.*

CHESTER *(hissing softly from the corner of his mouth):*

„You can't show it to me. How come? Already forgotten? You're a ghost. In addition a floating racket? Everyone would run away.“

DON:

„I do not mean that. I can slip into your body with your permission.“

CHESTER *(still speaking from the corner of his mouth):*

„Okay. Let's try it. You are allowed to come in.“

DON:

„Well. Close your eyes and relax.“

CHESTER *closes his eyes and raises his face to the sky.*

DON *approaches him from behind, picks up his approximate posture and merges with him.*

*A small jerk goes through the body, head jerks briefly to the left and DON opens CHESTER'S eyes.*

CHESTER *(with DON's voice):*

„Next ball.“

ERIC *throws.*

DON *beats a six.*

CHESTER *(with DON's voice, muttering):*

„A great feeling. Did you notice what I did differently?“

CHESTER (O. S.):

„Yes, you were right. Now I try.“

*CHESTER's head twitches to the right.*

CHESTER (CONT.):

„Eric, please have another similar litter.“

*ERIC nods and throws.*

*CHESTER beats a six.*

CHESTER (*looking up the ball and slowly lowering the bat*):

„Wow.“

COACH:

„People, enough for today. From under the showers with you.“

*ERIC runs to CHESTER, clasping his shoulder and laughing. They go together from the field.*

ERIC:

„Man, the last blows were amazing. I knew you were excellent.“

CHESTER:

„You're exaggerating.“

ERIC:

„No false modesty. Two sixes are two sixes. We must celebrate that.“

ERIC (CONT., *invoking the others*):

„Guys, do we want to go to Cobakej tonight?“

*Approving cheers.*

„Good idea!“

„Great!“

„Yes, we do that“

CHESTER (*liberating from Eric's hug*):

„I'm groogy. Not you? I stay at home today.“

ERIC:

„Oh, come. We can sleep when we die.“

DON(O. S.):

„If you knew.“

ERIC:

„Pardon?“

CHESTER:

„Oh nothing.“

**INT. DANCE CLUB - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT**

CHESTER *drinks a lot of alcohol and dances wildly.*

*Swings later to the toilet.*

*Opens toilet door, no one in it.*

CHESTER (O.S.):

„What should that? Let me back into my body.“

CHESTER (*WITH DON`s voice, leaning against the sink*):

„No. Not tonight. You don`t know how to party.“

CHESTER (O.S.):

„What is there to celebrate? We`ve not even played.

Certainly not won. You`re dead. That`s my body.“

CHESTER (*with DON`s voice, babbling*):

„Don´t be mean. My parties were once famous. Treat an old man to a night of fun.“

CHESTER (O. S., *annoying*):

„You had enough and it is enough.“

CHESTER (*with DON`s voice*):

„Yellow-belly.“

*Body jerks, head to the right.*

*Like a tennis game, the head goes to the left, then to the right again. Several times back and forth until it stays to the right.*

CHESTER:

„So, home. Never do that again without my will. Boah, I feel bad.“

CHESTER *wavers outside.*

**EXT. CRICKET STADIUM - FIELD - DAY**

*Several training days.*

*Different litters, punches + catches in short succession.*

*CHESTER is getting better, the ENGLISH TEAM highly motivated by his performance during training. Claps with every great blow. Break.*

DON (O. S.):

„Now don`t make such a lousy face. I`ve already apologized a thousand times. What shall I do?“

CHESTER:

„Leave me alone.“

DON (O. S.):

„Come on, old boy. You can`t sulk forever. Admit, we`re a great team, a winning team.“

CHESTER (*reluctant*):

„Yes, we are.“

DON (O. S.):

„You will make your family proud.“

CHESTER:

„Nonsense. I am far from that yet. Who knows if the coach will use me?“

DON (O. S.):

„For crying out loud, your pessimism is annoying. You can`t get away with it. Stop making yourself smaller. You have improved by two hundred percent. Is that clear to you?“

CHESTER (*reluctant*):

„Yes, I know. I don`t believe that's enough for the World Cup title.“

DON (O. S.):

„You forget that cricket is a team sport. Work harder with the boys together. You will see that works. Go on the field. It's your turn again.“

CHESTER (*smiles*): „Aye, aye sir.“

**EXT. CRICKET STADIUM - FIELD - 10 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING,  
LOOSE CLOUDS WITH SUNSHINE**

*Look at the scoreboard, everywhere "0"*

UMPIRE *asks the captains of both teams to come.*

UMPIRE *(turns to the CAPTAINS OF BOTH TEAMS and show the coin):*

*„Make your choice, gentlemen.“*

CAPTAIN OF THE AUSTRALIANS:

*„Head.“*

ERIC:

*„Tails.“*

UMPIRE *throws and drops the coin on the lawn. He leans down and picks up her coin.*

UMPIRE:

*„Head. Australia beats first.“*

*Both teams take their positions on the field.*

*ERIC is the bowler of the 1st Over in the 1st inning.*

**EXT. CRICKET STADIUM - FIELD - LUNCH 1 PM - LUNCH BREAK**

*View of scoreboard. Australians still have 2 over to play and fought 140 runs.*

*All PLAYERS and the UMPIRES go from the field.*

*Talk like friends, not like opponents.*



**INT. CRICKET STADIUM - WASH ROOM - LUNCH BREAK - CONTINUED**

DON (O. S.):

„You are ready. You can win the victory with your team without me. I'll leave you alone now.“

CHESTER:

„No no. Stop talking about it. I am far from that yet. It is impossible that I learned your skills in two weeks.“

DON (O. S.):

„No, it was already inside of you. I just honed you.“

CHESTER:

„Then please stay until the end of my first innings. I am the opening player.“

DON (O. S.):

„Good, as long as I stay. Then it's time to say goodbye.“

**EXT. CRICKET STADIUM - PLAYGROUND / PITCH - AFTERNOON - END**  
**TEA BREAK**

*View of scoreboard*

*The ENGLISH TEAM is now batting crew.*

*CHESTER and ERIC are opening batsman*

*CAPTAIN THE AUSTRALIAN bowls the ball*

**EXT. CRICKET STADIUM - FIELD - AFTERNOON - CONTINUED**

CHESTER *beats a six at the end of the first innings.*  
*View of scoreboard.*

COACH (*bends over* CO-COACH):

„Not a failure. Two singles, three foursome and finally a six.“

ASSISTENT COACH:

„The scouts had got the right idea.“

*Look at* CHESTER.

DON (O. S.):

„Chester, the last blow was yours alone.“

CHESTER:

„You are dizzying.“

DON (O. S.):

„Why should I do that? You`re a world class batsman.“

*DON drives out of* CHESTER *and stands in front of him.*

DON:

„I tip my cap to you, sir.“

*DON takes off his baseball cap and bows to* CHESTER.

DON (CONT.):

„You are ready. You can lead England to victory. Farewell old boy.“

Chester (*DON gazing*):

„No. Do`nt. I can`t do it on my own.“

DON:

„Let me and your fears go. You don`t need me.“

DON (CONT., *disappears and fades*):

„Goodbye.“

CHESTER (*whisper*):

"Thank you."

**EXT. CRICKET STADIUM - FIELD - AFTERNOON - CONTINUED**

*View of scoreboard.*

*Beginning 4th inning.*

*Change bowler of the AUSTRALIAN TEAM for the next inning.*

*CHESTER feels confused and lonely, makes several mistakes in the game.*

*England scores zero or only a few runs per serve.*

*View of scoreboard.*

*A jolt goes through CHESTER`s bat, which sparkles briefly in the sun.*

**EXT. CRICKET STADIUM - TRIBUNE - NIGHT**

*Stadium is flooded with light.*

*Both TEAMS faces each other for the award ceremony.*

*PRESIDENT OF THE ICC hands over the trophy to ERIC and the medals to all players of the ENGLISH NATIONAL TEAM, last to CHESTER.*

*The ENGLISH TEAM and SPECTATORS cheers.*

*CHESTER blows his bat up.*

*End glance at CHESTER's bat (like scene 3), but now with a brand that looks similar to DON and the saying 'Never change a winning team'.*

**INT. CRICKET STADIUM - PAVILION - DAY**

*View of calendar: year 2070*

*GIRL stands in the hallway in front of a glass cabinet.*

*She looks right and left, not to be discovered.*

*She opens the glass door in front of her.*

*Then she touches the issued cricket bat of CHESTER SINGH inside.*

*Bat starts to spark.*

*From the sparks a creative lightning forms like a human figure.*

*The saying 'Never change a winning team' disappears.*

**FADE OUT.**