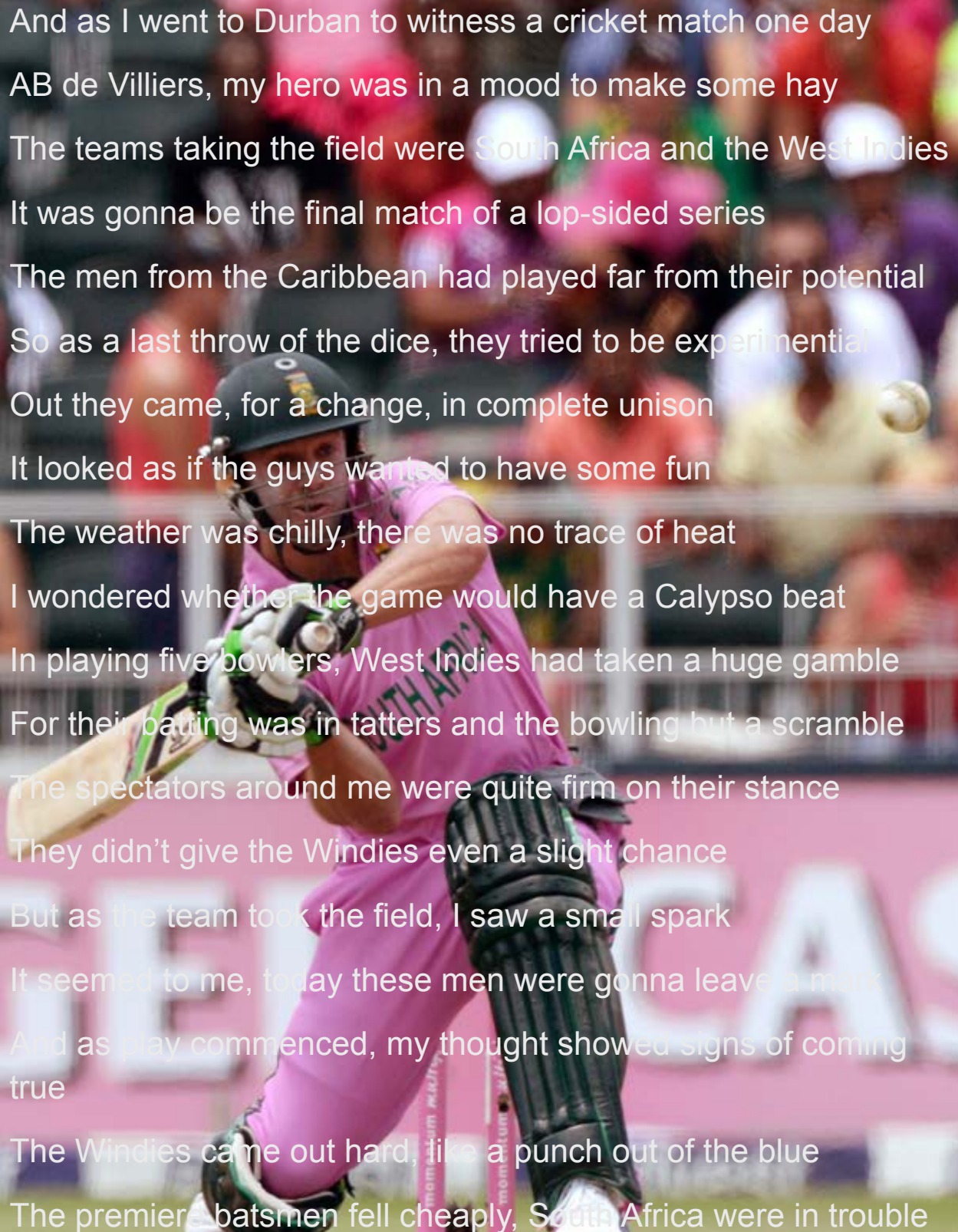


The Story

A South African cricket player in a pink uniform is captured in a batting stance, swinging his bat. He is wearing a black helmet and leg pads. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators in a stadium.

And as I went to Durban to witness a cricket match one day
AB de Villiers, my hero was in a mood to make some hay
The teams taking the field were South Africa and the West Indies
It was gonna be the final match of a lop-sided series
The men from the Caribbean had played far from their potential
So as a last throw of the dice, they tried to be experimental
Out they came, for a change, in complete unison
It looked as if the guys wanted to have some fun
The weather was chilly, there was no trace of heat
I wondered whether the game would have a Calypso beat
In playing five bowlers, West Indies had taken a huge gamble
For their batting was in tatters and the bowling but a scramble
The spectators around me were quite firm on their stance
They didn't give the Windies even a slight chance
But as the team took the field, I saw a small spark
It seemed to me, today these men were gonna leave a mark
And as play commenced, my thought showed signs of coming true
The Windies came out hard, like a punch out of the blue
The premier batsmen fell cheaply, South Africa were in trouble

The much famed batting lineup had begun to crumble
The mojo of the Protea fans had been dealt a big blow
It seemed as if the day was gonna be a Caribbean show
The West Indies were in control and the crowd was silenced
In favour of the visiting team the game appeared to be balanced
Out in the middle there fell another wicket
The Men in Maroon were dominating this match of cricket
But tide turned quickly as AB de Villiers strode out to bat
The demons in the pitch vanished, it now looked a dead mat
To all parts of the ground, the ball received a smack
The bowlers lost their control and were in for some flak
AB played a knock to remember as South Africa put up a huge
score
The crowd found their voice, they said the Windies could win no
more
However, what was in store for the game was another twist
As the West Indies openers came out to bat and punched their fist
And while all other batsmen looked to pull the trigger
One Chris Gayle had his eyes on something bigger
Batsmen came and went, wickets kept tumbling at the other end
Chris Gayle had to anchor, he was forced to defend



Runs were hard to come by and the Windies just sank lower
It seemed as if the game was as good as over

The Proteas were closing in on the match, the crowd was a happy swarm

But it was then that Christopher geared up and brought a Gayle storm

He went hammer and tongs, all bowlers were at his mercy

The innings was special, he established his legacy

However, just as the Windies had reached striking distance

The African bowlers began to put up some fine resistance

Proceedings were tight and the moment was for any team to seize

Maestro Henry Gayle and the lat batsman were at the crease

With six runs needed, Gayle launched a huge skier

It looked like the ball would land in the top tier

Everyone realized though, that the ball would land just on the fence

It was now up to the boundary rider to show some good sense

The man was AB de Villiers and he took a brilliant leaping catch

Well that was that and South Africa had won the match

The cricketing world highlighted this day the 3rd of December



Two modern greats of the game had combined to make it a day to remember.

Neelay Shah

Age 12 yrs

