

Armchair Adventures

A Time Travelling Cricket Bat Adventure

Part 1

Intro

Connie: Welcome to the Armchair Adventures Travel Agency, journeys of the imagination. I'm Head Travel Agent and Host, Connie!

Armchair Adventure Theme Song:

*On an armchair adventure you can go anywhere you like,
On an armchair adventure imaginations fly.*

Scene 1

Connie: We've had some amazing reviews of Armchair Adventures on apple podcasts recently. Let me read out a few...Amber from Millbrook Primary school said:

"I really like the podcast and you can do it anywhere. It's even better that me and my friends are in a few! I think everyone should listen, imagine and join in. So try it out it's free!"

Thanks Amber, I'm so happy you and your friends are enjoying our adventures.

Then there's this one from hufflepuffmags which says:

"A-M-A-Z-I-N-G"

Thanks so much mags, I really appreciate it!

Don't forget adventurers, you can leave us a review on Apple Podcasts too and we'll read out some more next time.

Adventurers, remember the competition we had, where our customers sent in their best ideas and the winner got to take us on an adventure with them? And the first winner was Denise and we went on the charity shop adventure?

Let's have a competition winner klaxon, shall we?

SFX Klaxon. Cheers/Fireworks/Celebration

Connie: Hurray!! Well, today it's time to meet our second winner and I am so excited to chat to him. His story really grabbed our attention, he's had such a fascinating life. I think you're all going to find him so inspiring! Eek, let's give him a call!

SFX Ringing tone

Kanti: Hello?

Connie: Hello, this is Connie from Armchair Adventures. Is that Kanti, who volunteers at the Indian Centre?

Kanti: Yes it is. Hello Connie!

Connie: Hi! You entered our competition to take us on an adventure... and, drum roll...

SFX drumroll

Connie: I'm delighted to tell you that you've won!

SFX Klaxon. Cheers

Kanti: Oh wow! That's great news!

Connie: Yay! Give us your best winner's dance, Kanti!

SFX dance music

Connie: Brilliant! You too, adventurers! What would your celebration dance be like?

SFX Ding

Kids: I would do the floss

Kids: Do an infinite dab

Kids: I would 'get sturdy'

Kids: I would do the macarena

Kids: A knee slide, then into a a floss then into a dab and then at the end I'd go, siuuuuuuuu!

Connie: They sound awesome! Let's see them!

SFX Ding

SFX dance music

Connie: Gold stars all round! Excellent.

We **loved** your story, Kanti. I was so impressed by all that you do for your community.

Kanti: Thank you. I enjoy feeling that I'm a part of my community.

I hope I also help others feel included within it, too.

Especially young people.

The community was there for me when I was younger,

I like to feel that I'm giving back.

Connie: You definitely are! All the volunteering you do... helping people to learn English.

Kanti: Yeah, like this (*In Kanti's native language*) Where's the train station?

(In English) Repeat after me, "Where is the train station?"

Kid: Where is the train station?

Kanti: Very good. (*In Kanti's native language*) Very good.

Connie: And meals on wheels.

SFX car pulls up outside, doorbell rings

Neighbour: Mmm. Lovely! Thanks, Kanti!

Kanti: No problem!

Connie: And you give speeches and host events! Your speeches are very impressive. I don't know how you do it.

Kanti: It's taken many years of practice.

Connie: I'm so scared of standing up and speaking in front of people. I was recently asked to talk about Armchair Adventures at a Public Speaking Championship...

SFX Grand Championship trumpet fanfare

Connie: Wow! That's a very grand fanfare. It is quite a big deal, though! It should've been tomorrow, but I couldn't do it, I haven't got the confidence. So I turned it down.

Kanti: What's the problem?

Connie: I'm too shy.

Kanti: I can empathise. I used to be shy.

Connie: You were shy? But you work with loads of different people and speak in front of hundreds, how could you be shy?

Kanti: I was. I might look confident now, but I really had to work hard at speaking to new people. When I was younger, I moved around a lot and I wanted to make new friends, so I had no choice but to push myself.

Connie: You had to... 'fake it til you make it?'

Kanti: (Laughs) Something like that.

Connie: It obviously worked! Well, I'll get the other customers on the line now. They'll be so excited to meet you.

Kanti: Great!

SFX Dialling in customers/Armchair Adventures instrumental only theme

Connie: Hello?

Everybody: Different hellos.

Connie: Hiya all! How are you?

Everybody: Hiya Connie. Hey there. Etc.

Connie: I've got somebody for you all to meet! It's our second winner of the adventure competition.

SFX Klaxon. Cheers

Connie: Everybody, this is Kanti! He runs the Indian Community Centre in Ashton.

Everybody: Hello Kanti! How are you? Good to meet you!

Kanti: Hello everyone. Nice to meet you, too.

Ada: Congratulations on winning the competition.

Kanti: Oh, thank you! We were just talking about how Connie has been asked to take part in the Junior Presentation Championships!

SFX Grand championship trumpet fanfare

Hazel: Wow, that sounds impressive!

Kanti: It does. They must think very highly of you Connie.

Connie: Oh, I don't know. I turned it down, anyway. The idea terrified me!

Lynda: Sometimes when we face challenges that we're the most afraid of, it's the most fun and rewarding!

Connie: (Sigh) Oh, but there'll be other people my age talking about all kinds of clever things I wouldn't understand... like trigonometry and astrophysics! And I'd be talking about our journeys of the imagination. What the other speakers have to say is far more important!

Pauline: I wouldn't say that, Connie. And you could talk brilliantly about Armchair Adventures.

John R: Who knows Armchair Adventures better than you do?

Connie: But as you all know, I'm super shy! I don't like talking in front of people.

Cyril: You don't do too badly!

Linda: You know your stuff, there's nobody better to do the talking.

Connie: Anyway, the championships are tomorrow and/

SFX Grand championship trumpet fanfare

Connie: / (*acknowledging the fanfare interruption*) Yes, yes! But I can't do anything about it now so I said no.

Kanti: Public speaking didn't come easily to me. Let me prove it! Why don't we go on an Armchair Adventure to my past to see how I overcame shyness?

Connie: Oh yes, that's a great idea! Where to first?

Kanti: Tanzania, East Africa!

Connie: Awesome! Only... how would we travel back in time?

Kanti: We just need something that represents me as a young person that will transport us. That's how time travel works!

Connie: Does it?

Kanti: On an Armchair Adventure it does!

Connie: Ha. Of course! Ok then... what could represent younger Kanti?

Kanti: How about... Cricket? I have always been mad about cricket.

SFX at a game of cricket

Kanti: Bowling.

Connie: Join in, adventurers. Let's bowl a cricket ball!

Pat: Over or under arm.

Kanti: Either!

SFX Ding

SFX bowling the cricket ball

Lily: Watch out!

Ron/Baz: Howzat!

Kanti: Fielding.

SFX somebody fielding, ball flying through the air

Connie: Catch the ball, adventurers!

SFX Ding

Kids: Mine!!

Kids: I've got it!

Kids: Run!

Kids: Catch it!

Steve: Catch!!

Kanti: Eating cucumber sandwiches at lunch.

Connie: Mmm, yes please. Help yourselves, adventurers.

SFX Ding

SFX eating sandwiches

Ronnie: Mmm, mmm, mmm.

Kanti: Then last of all – and most importantly, a cricket bat!

Connie: Get ready with your bats, adventurers! Hit the ball!

SFX Ding

SFX Whacking the ball

Connie: Excellent batting, team! What do you think then, Kanti? Which will help us time travel?

Kanti: It has to be the bat, hasn't it?

Connie: Definitely. Ok then... What do we do? Tap it on the ground three times?

Kanti: Sounds reasonable to me!

Connie: Come on adventurers, let's tap the cricket bat on the floor three times.

SFX Ding

SFX 3 knocks on the floor as Connie says...

Connie: One, two, three. First stop, Tanzania!

SFX whizzing sound of being transported in a time wormhole

Armchair Adventure instrumental only theme

Scene 2

SFX Morning. Traffic. Outside the secondary school, Tanzania, 1959. Students entering for the start of the school day. Busy, hot, rushing.

Kanti: We did it! We are here!

Connie: Do you recognise it?

Kanti: Yes, this is where I went to school in the 1950s! I moved from India to Tanzania because there was no secondary school in my hometown.

Connie: That must have been quite scary?

Kanti: I was on my own, my family were still in India, and I didn't know anybody. But I really wanted to succeed in education, so that made me keep going. I was very determined.

Christine: You must have been very independent.

Kanti: I didn't feel it at the time. I just dived in, headfirst!

Jan: Is that you, Kanti?

Kanti: Oh yes, there I am! 11 years old.

John R: A young lad. In shorts and a short sleeve shirt.

Kanti: I'm very thin (chuckles). I think I was quite naive.

Christine: You look a little scared. Intimidated.

Cyril: You're taking everything in, looking at everybody.

Anne: In a world you don't know!

Keith: The school building.

Lily: The yard.

Cyril: The other children.

Linda: You take a deep breath and stride inside the school.

Connie: You too adventurer, imagine you are walking into a new school for the very first time. Walk tall. Be brave.

SFX Ding

Pat: Nobody's going to know how afraid you are.

SFX change to Inside the classroom. Teacher hushing the class.

Carla: The teacher introduces you to the class.

Kanti: I look embarrassed. I can see my face going red.

Connie: No wonder! It's embarrassing having all the other kids look at you! I hate that! How would you feel, adventurer, if everyone in your class was looking at you?

SFX Ding

Kids: Like I've got the spotlight on me!

Kids: Very nervous.

Kids: Very terrified.

Kids: I'm now the teacher!

Kids: I'd feel really nervous.

Kids: Embarrassed.

Kids: My face would be like a beetroot!

Kids: I'd feel really shy.

Kids: I'd want to hide under the desk!

Connie: (*Laughs*) I'd be hiding under the desk, too!

Christine: It's not easy being the new person.

SFX School bell. Young people run out of school. Playing games in the playground.

Ronnie: It's breaktime.

Connie: Look! All of the kids have come out to play in the playground. What games do you like to play in the playground, adventurers?

SFX Ding

Kids: Football!

Kids: Tag.

Kids: Dodgeball

Kids: Rounders

Kids: Basketball

Kids: Hide and seek of course!

Kids: Hopscotch!

Connie: Oh yeah, I played that, too. Let's have a go of hopscotch, adventurers!

SFX Ding

SFX Customers and Connie playing hopscotch

Hazel: There you are again! Younger Kanti. You're eating a piece of fruit on the bench. Watching some of the others play cricket.

Kanti: I want to join in and play too. But I'm too shy to ask.

SFX School bell. Students shuffle back into the classroom.

Cyril: The cricket group walk past you.

Barry: You nod at them.

Jan: They nod back.

Pauline: You smile. That's cheered you up a bit.

SFX School bell. Students run outside.

Ronnie: Break again.

Steve: You come straight out and walk over to the group playing cricket and speak to them.

Ada: This time you aren't going to wait to be asked.

Linda: They nod in agreement and signal enthusiastically where you should stand in the field.

Barry: You all start a game!

Kanti: I love cricket. I've often made friends because of this shared interest in the game.

Connie: Let's all play cricket with Kanti and his new friends, adventurers. Are you ready, Kanti?

Kanti: Ok, here it comes!

SFX Swoosh of ball having been bowled

SFX Ding

SFX Thwack of the ball being hit and it flying through the air

Connie: Great hit, adventurers!

SFX School bell. Students shuffle back into the classroom.

John OG: You're going back into class.

John R: You look exhilarated!

Kanti: It was a lot of fun!

Connie: I don't know if I could have gone over to a group who all knew each other like that.

Kanti: I had two options. I could either sit and watch and wait for someone to ask me to join in. Or I could go and introduce myself.

Connie: Where should we go next?

Kanti: I think... when I moved to England.

Connie: Excellent! The sixties, here we come! Ready adventurers? Tap the cricket bat on the floor three times.

SFX Ding

SFX 3 knocks on the floor as Connie says...

Connie: One, two, three.

SFX whizzing sound of being transported in a time wormhole

Scene 3

SFX 1966. Busy London railway station, chug of moving trains, whistles, train horns, passengers rushing around.

Connie: I see you, Kanti! There you are!

SFX background theme for younger Kanti

Kanti: I was 18 years old. I had flown from India to London and was taking a train up north to Loughborough, to study for my A levels.

Connie: Wow!

SFX Train announcement bing bong

Announcer: (tannoy sfx) Final boarding for the 18:30 to Loughborough. Leaving from platform 12. Final boarding.

Keith: It's the last train, if we miss it, we're really stuck!

SFX train station, more whistles

Anne: Younger Kanti doesn't know where to go.

Lynda: People are moving in every direction. He's not sure who to follow.

Pat: He looks bewildered.

Christine: He must feel so lost!

Connie: Can we help him?

Steve: He can't see us!

Connie: Ohh... Ask somebody for help, Kanti!

Jan: He takes a deep breath.

Pauline: All the way up from his shoes.

Connie: Let's take a deep breath with Kanti, adventurers. A really big one.

SFX Ding

Connie: *(Takes a deep breath)*. We can do this!

Barry: He goes to a member of staff.

Hazel: He's smiling and pointing. Showing the railway crew his ticket.

Lynda: They smile back at him and point him in the right direction.

Kanti: Before I could speak the language, I just smiled at everybody. No one can be offended if you're friendly, people will be kind back. That's a rule for life that I continue to live by!

Connie: It's a great one!

Christine: Younger Kanti's running, we need to go too!

SFX another far away announcement and people rushing around

Cyril: Your classes begin tomorrow!

Lily: We can't miss this train!

Connie: We need to get to the furthest platform. It's so busy!

Cyril: Let's borrow this luggage trolley. Hop on, anyone who can't run fast enough!

SFX Scooting the luggage trolley

Connie: Nice one, Cyril! Come on adventurers, let's hop on the trolley, too! We need to move and we need to move quickly!

SFX Ding

Connie: Weeee! (*Out of breath*) Nearly there! Just a little further!

Hazel: The train doors are closing; we're going to miss it!!!

SFX train whistle blows. Train starts to move

John OG: Quick, quick, quick!

Connie: (*From within the carriage*) We made it!

Everyone: Relieved sighs, exhausted panting, getting breath back.

Connie: Well done everybody! I didn't know if we'd do that, it was well nerve-racking.

Kanti: My younger self made it, too!

Pauline: He's got a seat! He can relax now and watch the world go by.

SFX inside moving train

Connie: Good on you, Kanti. Having to ask for directions in a different language! I think I'd have preferred to miss the train than do that.

Anne: Facing your fears is a great opportunity to learn and develop!

Keith: Throw yourself in at the deep end!

Connie: Were you frightened Kanti, starting at different schools and having all of these new experiences all by yourself?

Kanti: I was. I felt the fear... And did it anyway!

Connie: It's very inspiring. Maybe I was closed-minded about presenting in the Championships.

SFX Grand Championship trumpet fanfare

Connie: It made my tummy feel wobbly, which I didn't like, so I just said no.

Kanti: Did you feel better saying no?

Connie: Not really. I thought I'd be relieved. But something still didn't feel right.

Kanti: Maybe you knew that deep down you would have enjoyed the challenge?

Connie: Perhaps. But it's too late now. I wouldn't have time to write my presentation.

Kanti: We could help you out!

Linda: You know everything there is to know about Armchair Adventures. Writing the presentation is not going to be a problem!

Hazel: You would definitely be ready in time.

Connie: Do you think so, Hazel? Should I do it? Should I face my fear and do it anyway?

Everybody: Yes! Come on Connie! You can do it!

Connie: You too, adventurer! Fake it until you make it! Let's do our best face the fear face. What would your face the fear face look like?

SFX Ding

Kids: I'd have a frowny face like the Hulk!

Kids: I'd have my game face on, my eyebrows would be up and my nose would be flaring.

Kids: I'd put my proud to be me face on.

Kids: My face would be mashed up, no one would get in my way!

Kids: I'd be glaring at the things I'm being forced to face

Kids: A crumpled up face like I'm scared.

Kids: I'd have a slight smile on my face

Connie: Brilliant! You're all so fearless! Well, if you can all do that, then I can do this. I'm gonna ring the organiser now to tell them I've changed my mind!

SFX Ring tone

Connie: While we're waiting, let me tell you about another podcast...

Promo swap – advert for another podcast

Connie: Right, back to our Armchair Adventure...

SFX Ring tone

SFX Phone is answered. Faraway Grand Championship trumpet fanfare

SFX mumbled undistinguishable response/chipmunk

Connie: Hello, is that the Junior Presentation Championships?

SFX mumbled chipmunk

Connie: Yes, it's Connie here, from Armchair Adventures. You asked me if I'd like to talk at the event tomorrow and I said no, but I've changed my mind. My friend Kanti has inspired me. I'd love to be involved if there's still space.

SFX mumbled chipmunk

Connie: Great!

SFX mumbled chipmunk

Connie: Ok. I'll look out for the email. Thank you!

SFX mumbled chipmunk

Connie: Yes, I'm looking forward to it, too!

SFX Connie hangs up

Connie: Argh! I'm doing it! This is exciting!

Barry: Excellent!

Ronnie: Well done!

Ada: You won't regret it!

Kanti: Facing your fear and doing it anyway!

SFX Email Ding

Connie: There's the email from the organiser with tomorrow's schedule.

John R: Fabulous!

Connie goes quiet, she's reading

Pat: What's wrong, Connie? You look white!

Cyril: Have they changed their mind?

Connie: Oh! No. It's... ah, no way. Some of these other presenters are, are.... They're way better than me! And the topics are suuuuper clever! Like aeronautical engineering and sixth sense technology. I can't compete with them!

Christine: Don't doubt yourself now, Connie.

Connie: I'll have nothing in common with them. I'll never make friends. They're gonna talk about things way over my head. Like a language I don't understand.

Kanti: It doesn't matter what they're presenting about Connie. They'll all be interested in what you have to say!

Connie: I can't talk about our little travel agency in front of all of these... geniuses! I was right all along to say no. I'll have to ring them back and cancel, instead of humiliating myself.

John R: It'll be fine, Connie.

Connie: How do you know that?

John R: Well I don't, but...

Connie: There's only one way to find out! We can use the cricket bat! It can probably go into the future as well as the past. Let me give it a go, Kanti!

Kanti: No, Connie! Don't touch it! We don't know if the magic bat will take us into the future.

Jan: And if it does, what if we can't get back?

SFX Connie grabs the cricket bat.

Connie: That's a risk I'm willing to take!

SFX Connie taps the bat on the ground three times.

Connie: One, two, three! To the future!

Kanti: *(Following in Connie's wake)* Wait, Connie! We aren't ready for that!

SFX whizzing sound of being transported through time in a wormhole

Connie: I need to see that I don't embarrass myself, Kanti.

Kanti: But the 'future you' isn't ready yet!

Connie: One, two, three.... To the future!

Everyone: Connie! Connie! Wait for uuuuussssssss!!!

SFX whizzing sound of being transported through time in a wormhole

SFX Grand Championship trumpet fanfare

SFX at the Championships, people shuffling in their seats, awkward silence.

Connie: *(Onstage, presenting into a mic)* And that's, erm, how erm, we got started with Armchair Adventures... Erm. So...

Anne: Oh no. Kanti was right. Connie's presentation is awful.

Lynda: We came to the future too soon.

Pat: We need to get her out of here quickly.

Linda: This isn't a true reflection of what Connie's future could be. She'll be devastated.

Barry: Let's help her!

SFX A slow clap from one or two members of the audience.

Kanti: I don't even know if the bat can get us back. We might be stuck here forever!

Ronnie: I hope not. I can't see any snacks in this place!

Lynda: Ronnie, this no time to think of your stomach. We've got to help Connie!

Music – Armchair Adventures theme comes in

Connie: Find out next in part two adventurers, adventurers. Will we be stuck in the future forever, or can we go back to the past and try again?

Armchair Adventure Theme Song:

*On an armchair adventure you can go anywhere you like,
On an armchair adventure imaginations fly.*