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**Depiction of aspirations and sanguine approach to life in
Chetan Bhagat's *Five Points Someone: What Not to do at IIT*.**

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Abstract:

Chetan Bhagat is a contemporary Indian author who has written four novels entitled "*Five Point Someone-What not to do at IIT*", "*One Night @ The Call Center*", "*The 3 Mistakes of My Life*" and "*2 States: The Story of My Marriage*", respectively. All five books have remained bestsellers since their release and two have inspired Bollywood films. Chetan Bhagat's debut novel *Five Point Someone -What not to do at IIT!* is one of the highest selling English novels published in India and remained on the bestseller's list. It is published in 2004. The novel begins in an unique way where the author takes the liberty of sharing his opinion that the book is not a guide on how to get into IIT but it cites examples of how screwed up our college years can get if we don't think straight. However, the story of IIT which can be seen on surface is quite varied in a real sense. Bhagat suggests that the technical education system has become lifeless and it needs to be retrospected. He depicts the growing years of IIT learners under pressure due to so called ambition. The paper attempts to throw some light on the aspects of aspirations and to deal it with sanguine approach to life. The engineering youth tries to stand against the conservative system of imparting technical education and traditional way of evaluating the cognitive abilities of a student on the basis of CGPA.

Chetan Bhagat is born and grew up in Delhi in a Punjabi family in an uncertain home environment where his parents used to fight a lot. His father, an army officer, was very strict and he wasn't allowed to watch television or films. He and his brother used to compose movie stories and perhaps from here, the perception of writing has been developed in him. Bhagat attended Army Public School (1978-1991), Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi. He studied Mechanical Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi (1991-1995), and then studied at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmadabad (1995-1997), where he was named "The Best Outgoing Student". He fell in love with his IIM Ahmadabad classmate Anusha and they eventually got married. His novel "*2States: The Story of My Marriage*", is a fictional version of his love story. After graduating from IIT and IIM, he joined Peregrine, a financial service company in Hong-Kong. It shut down in six months but

Chetan stayed on in Hong-Kong for eleven years, moving to Goldman Sachs. It was to spite his boss that he started writing his first novel. No doubt it was a great moment for Bhagat but he was in a bank and dissatisfied. His boss was very unkind. So to take revenge on him he started writing in office. The story of this novel has been adapted in movie in Hindi 3 *Idiots* and in Tamil as *Nanban*. The day after the film released, Chetan also noted:

Initially I did sit down with Raju and Abhijat while they were deciding to make a film based on 'Five Point Someone'. I even went to IIT with Abhijat a couple of times. But it was just not possible for me to be involved at every stage of the screenplay writing process since I was in Hong Kong at that time, working full-time and busy writing other books. Moreover, Abhijat is based in USA, Raju was in the US for quite a while working on the screenplay but it was not practical for me to do that [...] the film retains the soul of the book. 3 Idiots is different from the book but at the same time it does borrow many things from the book. The core theme and message of the film is coming from the book itself. And that's why the makers have officially credited the film as 'Based on a novel by Chetan Bhagat.'

Prior to the release of the film, director Rajkumar Hirani commented on the relationship between *Five Point Someone* and *3 Idiots* that Chetan gave him the book to read and he wanted to make a film on it. But he knew right from the start that he could not make a film completely on the book, as it was very anecdotal and a film needs a plot. So he had decided to rewrite it in a screenplay format. We see that the film is very different from the book. After he wrote the script, he called Chetan and narrated it to him. He told him that if he did not like the script, he would stop the project. But Chetan had no problem with it.

Bhagat is an alumnus of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and IIM Ahmedabad. Through his writings he is seen more as a youth icon than as an author. Chetan Bhagat, an investment banker turned into a prolific writer and through his writings he always focused on career and issues of youth based on national development. The *Five-Point-Someone* focused on the decreasing interest of youth through traditional method. Post modern youth doesn't like to have bonds in learning process. Today's IT and E-learning generation could not spare their single minute off their cell phones, laptops and televisions. They were left enthralled by the simplicity, effortless emotional connectivity and easy to understand diction of this IIT based campus novel. The protagonist is Hari Kumar and reminiscences the four years he spent in Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, and Mechanical Engineering College with his buddies Alok Gupta and Ryan Oberoi.

The IIT entrance exam is incredibly competitive and these three becomes successful by gaining high scores. But their college performance is quite contrary and they don't perform so outstandingly there. Success at IIT comes with rote learning, and Ryan especially is complaining about how the college stifles any creativity and how nothing of note has ever been produced at IIT, especially when compared to American universities. Ryan constantly forces his friends on to join him in enjoying

the college experience fully, but it's difficult to reconcile academic success which requires endless hours of cramming with any sort of half-way real life. Hari does meet a girl, but Neha is the daughter of one of the toughest professors on campus, and he can only see her very occasionally.

Indeed, they flame out in their first semester, and with their five-point-something grades on a scale where ten is a perfect score find them languishing "in the high 200s in a class of 300 students" and once identified as mediocre students, have little chance to improve their standing. The three are quite different characters, with Alok desperate to get a high-paying job to help out his family - including his invalid father, and his sister, who has to get married off while Ryan comes from a privileged household, but has rarely seen his parents since early childhood because they have been busy building their increasingly successful business. Hari narrates most of the story, but interspersed in his account are chapters in the voice of some of the other characters his two friends and the girl he gets involved with giving a bit more insight into their characters and Hari's own as he remains quiet about his own family and background.

One of Ryan's plans to make it through IIT and still have some fun is 'the C2D plan' 'Cooperate to Dominate', where they divide the work among themselves, each attending only a third of the classes, but sharing their notes and everything for those classes with the others. It's unclear exactly how much time and effort are saved by this and how things such as the apparently frequent in-class pop-quizzes are dealt with but then *Five Point Someone* isn't so much about the details as the big ideas like the all-for-one camaraderie this kind idea fosters..... C2D already has a whiff of cheating about it, but things get worse when they finally get around to taking a class by the notoriously tough Prof Cherian a famed ten-point zero man in his IIT student days, and Neha's father. Desperate, the three hatch an even more outrageous plan and then flub it in the most ridiculous way. As always in Chetan Bhagat's novels, dubious morality is hardly a problem. Indeed, Hari notes that:

We probably were real criminals. But that was not the point.

Eventually the trio dedicates themselves to their studies, Hari tells Neha about the college experience that it's not very convincing even in studying hard it is less knowledge than to secure high-paying job. There's essentially no mention of what they actually *learned* beyond some 'life lessons' at IIT; only the most free-spirited of the lot, Ryan, really seems interested in acquiring scientific knowledge, tinkering with his lube experiments. Hari and Alok help him out for a while, spending many hours every day at it, yet Bhagat doesn't give the least sense of what they actually spend their time doing; science and indeed any form of academic-knowledge-acquisition remains entirely off-stage, as that's not what school is about for Bhagat.

As in Bhagat's other novels, this one is almost entirely about friendship, as yet again well, this was the first one, but it was a formula he would go on to repeat a trio of young men gets thrown together and, despite some strong disagreements, does their best all-for-one-and-one-for-all act. Despite the often childish simplicity of the story complete with extremely unlikely events and several melodramatic ones it is admittedly reasonably entertaining Helped by the fact that even the silliest turns are

quickly left behind four years of college are speedily covered in under three hundred pages, after all *Five Point Someone* offers up enough action, drama, and amusement at a steady (and fast) pace to keep readers entertained.

Five Point Someone is certainly a bad book, but Bhagat's tone Hari's voice is a fairly compelling one, the happy-go-lucky attitudes, and the campus-novel nostalgia ("I might have passed out of IIT, but in some ways my soul is still there", Hari wistfully notes at the end) strike enough chords and give it an undeniable appeal. The messages it sends are terrible it is deeply objectionable in its lack of a moral code, and even the generous acts of friendship are too often arbitrary or involve deceit - and much of the writing is too, but it's certainly readable, and even with all its flaws is a pretty attractive story.

The trio friends invent C2D (co-operate to dominate) formula to save time. They plan to share the assignments for the sake of fun. According to them today's education system is filled with exams quizzes and grades which are useless. Ryan, Alok and Hari are all five pointers. They blame IIT system as sick for it's not contributory in building a nation and for churning the most intellectuals of the country. They opine that IIT doesn't care for their creativity and originality. They become rebellious and consequently, plan a paper theft of Majors from Prof. cherian's room here, they were caught red handed. For committing this offence they were terminated for one semester. Alok was struck much as he belonged to the poor family where he has a earning mother and a paralyzed father also he has a sister. He is the responsible person of the family and for this reason he jumps from the roof of the institute to commit suicide but was saved with thirteen odd fractures. They have changed thereafter. All worked hard and then more than 14 hours a day and got extra grades.

There is another professor who is friendly and favouring the student's creativity. Prof. Veera appreciated the creativity of the students especially he liked the creation of Ryan. He tried his level best to save the three students from termination. Prof. Veera is a symbol of humanity and kindness. He came to meet Alok in the hospital with a box of Kaju Barfi and gave him the good news of his Lube projects approval. Hence, he set an example the teacher is not only an academician and a Dictator Boss of learners but a mentor and creator of him. He can seek out hidden talents in him which will be beneficial in molding their careers.

The bottom line of the entire novel lies in the last phase of the story. Prof. Cherian addresses the convocation ceremony and congratulates the II tians. He agreed with the reality of the role of natural talents, choices and interests of the students to make them successful. He confesses that the only grade doesn't matters in becoming successful. He narrate his own story that he himself was the once a bright student at IIT with 10.00 GPA score. He used to thinks that no one of his fellows are such high rankers. He thought to go to USA and make most of the fortune but many of his fellows went abroad, some opened their own companies in USA in computers and softwares. He also confesses that he compelled his son to become a high ranked II tian but he was interested in studying law. Consequently, he committed suicide for not fulfilling his father's dream. Neha his own daughter defied him and trusted Hari.

He called these three low rankers but now he realized that GPAS make good student but not a good person. He appreciated Ryan's project and called it to be paragon creativity.

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