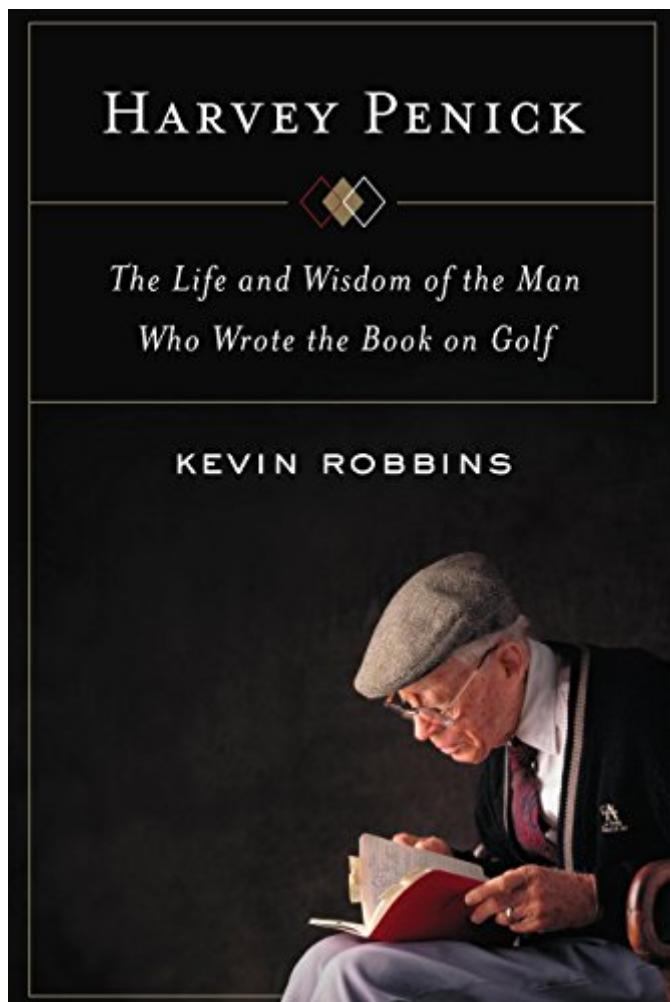


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Harvey Penick: The Life And Wisdom Of The Man Who Wrote The Book On Golf



Synopsis

The first-ever biography of the iconic and beloved golf coach who caddied for Francis Ouimet, played with Ben Hogan, competed against Bobby Jones, shaped Ben Crenshaw, and distilled his golf wisdom into the Little Red Book, granting simplicity to a vexing yet beloved sport. Millions of people were charmed by the homespun golf advice dispensed in Harvey Penick's Little Red Book, a sports classic that went on to become the best-selling sports book of all time. Yet, beyond the Texas golf courses where Penick happily toiled for the better part of eight decades, few people knew the self-made golf pro who coaxed the best out of countless greats — Tom Kite, Ben Crenshaw, Betsy Rawls, Mickey Wright — all champions who considered Penick their coach and lifelong friend. In Harvey Penick, Kevin Robbins tells the story of this legendary steward of the game. From his first job as a caddie at age eight to his ascendance to head golf pro at the esteemed Austin Country Club to his playing days when he competed with Bobby Jones and Walter Hagen to his mentorship of some of golf's finest players, Penick studied every nuance of the game. Along the way, he scribbled his observations and anecdotes, tips and tricks, and genuine love of the sport in his little red book, which ultimately became a gift to golfers everywhere. Part elegy to golf's greatest teacher, part inquiry into his simple, impactful teachings, part history of golf over the past century, Harvey Penick is an exquisitely written sports biography.

Book Information

File Size: 13390 KB

Print Length: 368 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (April 5, 2016)

Publication Date: April 5, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B011H55HW2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #212,521 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #13

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoor > Golf #49

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Customer Reviews

Harvey Penick may be one of the best examples of how a simple life can prove have one of the biggest impacts on both people and the sport of golf. If you don't already know, Harvey Penick was a long-time golf instructor in Texas and basically grew up with Texas golf. The author might even contend that Texas golf grew up with Harvey Penick. Penick, born at the start of the 20th century, only had one thing in his sights from a very young age, golf. The book takes you through his days as a caddie and eventually to head pro in his mid-20s (at the Austin Country Club, then 9 holes) all the way to his tutoring of some of the best names in golf. His most notable names now are Tom Kite and Ben Crenshaw (both U of T golf team members), but quite honestly, the names run all the way back to the late 30s. The book is well written and it's obvious that the author has done extensive research to unfold and reveal the life of Penick. If you love golf and Texas, you'll love this book. But perhaps the best value of the book is how a simple lifestyle tracked through some of the most dramatic changes in the world through the 20th century. Penick grew up without television, computers, or any kind of electronic media, and it showed in his coaching style and manner. He liked simple because at the root of every swing was a simple mechanic that could send the ball towards the hole. His teaching reflected this philosophy as well. He didn't inundate his students with lots of technical advice, just a short list of observations and suggestion to provide non-dramatic change that lead to permanent improvement. For those of you that read his Little Red Book, you'll see that the book basically encapsulated his approach towards teaching and even life.

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