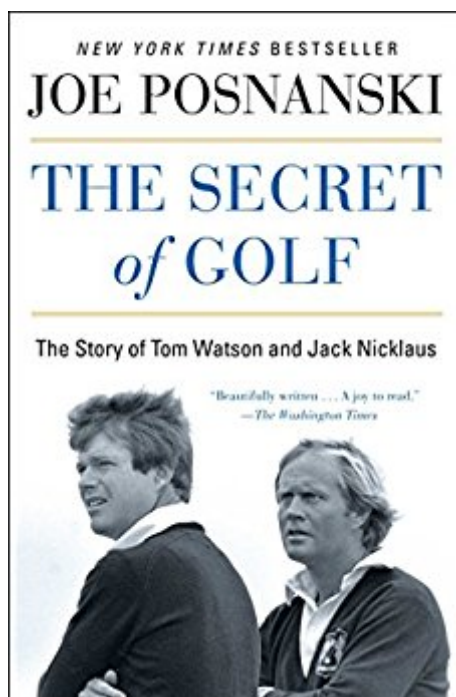


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# The Secret Of Golf: The Story Of Tom Watson And Jack Nicklaus



## Synopsis

From "one of the best sportswriters in America" (The Washington Times) to the New York Times bestselling story of the friendship and rivalry between golf legends Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus, whose sparring matches defined the sport for more than a decade. The first time they met, at an exhibition match in 1967, Tom Watson was a seventeen-year-old high school student and Jack Nicklaus, at twenty-seven, was already the greatest golfer in the world. Though they shared some similarities "they were both Midwestern boys who had learned how to play golf at their fathers' country clubs" they differed in many ways. Nicklaus played a game of consummate control and precision. Watson hit the ball all over the place. Nicklaus lacked charm and theatrics, and he was thoroughly despised by most golf fans because he had displaced Arnold Palmer as king of the golf world. Watson was one of those Arnold Palmer fans. Yet over the next twenty years their seemingly divergent paths collided as they battled against each other again and again for a place at the top of the sport and drove each other to ever-soaring heights of accomplishment. Spanning from that first match through the "Duel in the Sun" at Turnberry in 1977 to Watson's miraculous near-victory at Turnberry as he approached sixty, and informed by interviews with both players over many years, *The Secret of Golf* is Joe Posnanski's intimate account of the most remarkable rivalry and (eventual) friendship in modern golf.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

While this book may not appeal to a wide range of readers, it is well-written, humorous, engaging and presents a window into the friendship between two of America's all-time greatest sports heroes. It is, at the same time, wholesome, refreshing and historically anecdotal. In the "now-age" of LeBron James and other sports mega-stars like him, to the many among us who are under age "forty-something," the book may seem like an ancient lesson in nostalgia ... but the strength of character revealed in these two legends (Jack Nicklaus & Tom Watson) is something that is timeless and should be more widely understood by our youth to help restore a better future of well-being for both our nation's society and the entire planet.

I'm a big fan of Joe Posnanski, and having grown up in Kansas during Tom Watson's heyday, a big fan of Tom Watson as well. This book reads like a Joe Pos column (which I like), but the 18 golf holes/chapters format seemed a little forced, as the 18 holes seemed to have little to do with the actual story. In addition, there were glimpses of Tom Watson the man, although IMO he could have delved much deeper here. It would have been fine to skim the surface here if it was for the sake of delving into the golf matches in great detail. But we really only got descriptions of the big turning points of the golf matches. So I (personally) wasn't satisfied with either aspect. Finally, there are some sections of the book where actual golf tips are shared. These were even more spare than the details of Watson and the golf matches against Nicklaus. IMO, these should have been omitted completely. Maybe I missed the point. While the above are all criticisms, this is still an enjoyable read, but it could have much more, I think.

For anyone who loves golf, this book is a must. Reading this, you take the journey of a lifetime with Tom Watson, from his young struggles to his golfing prime to that remarkable 2009 Open Championship at Turnberry, and you also see how a rivalry with Jack Nicklaus transformed into a friendship and bond only those who have been to the mountaintop in sports can truly make and understand.

This was a Father's Day gift. I bought two. One husband and one for my dad. My dad finished it one

day as he couldn't put it down. My husband is saving it for vacation as he wants to savor reading the book. He is big fan of Joe Posanski's columns. I made a hole in one this Father Day gift!

I should start by saying that I have never played a hole of golf, nor have I read a book about golf or even watched it on television extensively (though I have occasionally watched the last few holes of tournaments on a Sunday because of the drama that sometimes lurks there). So unlike the author of a negative review I just read of this book, the author didn't have to show me stuff I haven't already read in numerous magazines and books over the years. With Nicklaus and Watson and Trevino and others, however, it concerns golfers I remember seeing on TV and in Sports Illustrated back when I was more of a sports fan - even though I didn't follow the sport back then either, So I guess that is what grabbed me and I decided to read it. I really enjoyed it. It is a behind the scenes peek at the pressures of the pro golf tour, the dedication it takes to succeed there, and it highlights how important mental toughness can be to the golfer. I gather that balls are made to fly farther now, and I am sure golf courses are designed differently, so like any sport, it is difficult to compare golfers of different eras to make a list of the best golfers. But I think all I needed to hear about the golfers in this book was near the end when it discussed Tiger Woods briefly and these golfers, now much older, said they would love to have played against Tiger in their prime. The competitive drive that made them great did not diminish with age. Anyway, as a non-golfer I highly recommend it to other non-golfers who may not otherwise read a book on the subject. There is stuff about life to be learned here.

I can't tell you how much I enjoyed this book. It was monumental, inspiring and moving. I love golf with a passion. This book tells me why. The game itself is great but what makes it the greatest game are the people who play it. And there are none greater that exemplify the game and what it stands for than Nicklaus and Watson!

Nice book! I very much enjoyed the humanizing of my adolescent golfing heroes. The behind the scenes recounting of their rivalry and friendship was an unexpected joy. Thanks for sharing the story of two men who achieved much golfing greatness.

Great story written in a clever manner. Excellent writing. The book is more about Tom Watson than Jack Nicklaus, but there is plenty written about Jack already, and not much about Tom, who may be somewhat underrated as far as golf's greats are concerned. If he's a step below Nicklaus on the

all-time great list, it should be a very short step.

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