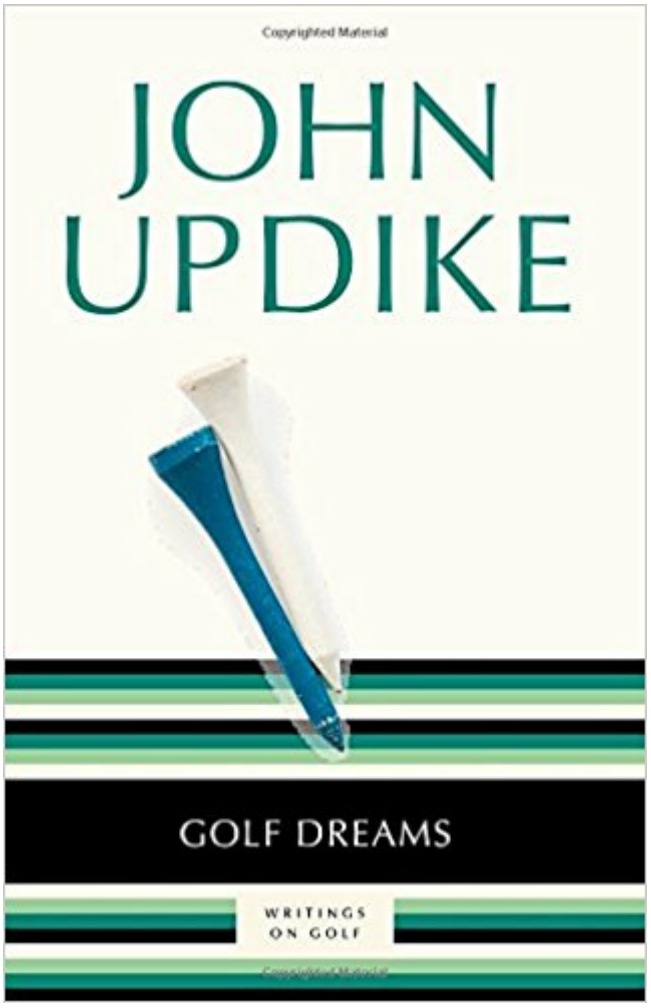
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Golf Dreams: Writings On Golf



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Synopsis

John Updike wrote about the lure of golf for five decades, from the first time he teed off at the age of twenty-five until his final rounds at the age of seventy-six. Golf Dreams collects the most memorable of his golf pieces, high-spirited evidence of his learning, playing, and living for the game. The camaraderie of golf, the perils of its present boom, how to relate to caddies, and how to manage short putts are among the topics he addresses, sometimes in lyrical essays, sometimes in light verse, sometimes in wickedly comic fiction. All thirty pieces have the lilt of a love song, and the crispness of a firm chip stiff to the pin.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

How lucky can an editor be? When legendary New Yorker editor William Shawn wanted a writer to review a book on golf, he could turn to novelist John Updike. Updike, a devoted golfer, was delighted to take on the assignment. That review of Michael Murphy’s Golf In the Kingdom is contained -- along with essays from Golf Digest, The New York Times Book Review and other publications -- in Golf Dreams. Rounding out the collection of 30 pieces are excerpts from Updike’s classic fiction, including Three Rounds With Rabbit Angstrom. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In his preface to this volume of essays and short fiction, longtime golfer Updike speculates that his addiction to the sport has "stolen my life away." But this collection of pieces written between 1959 and 1995 illustrates that, even if his swing has become less supple, his ruminations on the game

retain their vitality. As he addresses the frustrations, humiliations and rare "soaring grandeur" of the game, Updike’s dry wit and ironic insight enliven such entries as a spoof on instruction books and an evaluation of viewing golf on TV. Essays range in theme from the specific ("The Big Bad Boom") to the ethical (the moral imperatives of "The Gimme Game") to the philosophical: "Many men are more faithful to their golf partners than to their wives." Generally, those pieces written originally for sports magazines tend to contain more technical detail, while the three short stories and selections from three of the Rabbit novels illuminate how a day on the links can reveal character and the hand of destiny. If there is a general theme, it is that golf can be both a mystical experience and infernal torture, what Updike calls "the bliss and aggravation of the sport." Diehard aficionados will find all of this collection entertaining and meaningful; and even duffers will appreciate Updike’s lucid prose and command of metaphor. Christmas sales seem assured here, with a resurgence for Father’s Day next year. 75,000 first printing; simultaneous Random House audio. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

it’s consolating and reassuring for poor golfers like me. take three rounds with Rabbit Angstrom! after reading farrell’s caddie you don’t have to visit Scotland.

The book is wonderful...and more than expected (for Used;like New).The service was excellent and the prices are phenomenal.Thank YOU

A book for older golfers.

Written in 1996 so I found almost nothing relevant.None of the stories were funny and of course he wrote about the game being difficult, but we already all know that. I couldn’t finish it as I felt I wasted my money again because this book provided me with NO entertainment what-so-ever, "No" feel good, no fun, no laughs and didn’t touch me at all.In contrast, I’ve read Ben Hogans books over and over as well as Mr Byron Nelsons life, Bobby Jones book and so many other that I just loved and gave me so much knowledge about the game.This book gave me nothing but nervousness in my stomach as I wasted very valuable time. Sorry I bought it and can’t recommend it at all to anyone.

I found these essays, "musings" by this noted author somewhat nondescript. Neither humourous nor poignant. Didn’t really work for me.

When world class writers outside the game of golf take up writing about the game, we think it is worth taking notice. John Updike is one such writer. A Harvard graduate, Updike is a Pulitzer Prize winner and has published over fifty titles. He was a writer for both The New Yorker and Golf Digest among other publications. John plays his golf at Myopia Hunt Club, the historic course outside of Boston.We like Updike because he captures better than anyone the life-long struggles of every golfer in their quest to perfect their swing. Although he has only two golf titles to his credit he is one of the best selling golf book writers on all time. His Golf Dreams has sold over one million copies. When reading Updike we suggest keeping a dictionary handy - his vocabulary is extraordinary.To better understand Updike's writing it helps to be familiar with the character Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom. Rabbit Angstrom is the main character in four of John Updike's novels. Updike's Rabbit Series (Rabbit, Run, Rabbit Redux, Rabbit Is Rich, Rabbit at Rest, Rabbit Remembered) follows Angstrom over the course of his lifetime as he struggles with many of the problems of middle-class American men. Essentially, Angstrom is used as the construct to find life's purpose and to the character's significance within it. Updike is a very witty writer and we find his writing style easy to read and enjoyable.

Excellent insight from "RABBIT" - a lover of Golf.

I'm finding out that Updike was a marvelous essayist with a command of slang and an impressive knowledge of life in that very old part of America called New England.Updike's Golf Dreams could only have been written by a nice old guy, very down to earth. Before now, I have only really liked his novel, S.When it was new, I read The Poorhouse Fair, but I didn't understand it. After that came Rabbit Run, which was a downer. The other Rabbits have been okay, and Rabbit Is Rich was good, but Rabbit is a despicable character is most ways. Reading his life depresses me.Anyway, up until now I saw Updike as a skinny dork who probably always wore a tie and never learned to bodysurf.Golf Dreams redeems.

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