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Men In Green



Synopsis

The instant New York Times bestseller from acclaimed Sports Illustrated writer Michael Bamberger is "a warm, nostalgic, intimately reported account of golf's greatest generation, and maybe the best golf book I've ever read" (Bill Reynolds, The Providence Journal). With "exceptional insight into some of America's greatest players over the last half-century" (The Philadelphia Inquirer), *Men in Green* is to golf what Roger Kahn's *The Boys of Summer* was to baseball: a big-hearted account of the sport's greats, from the household names to the private legends, those behind-the-curtain giants who never made the headlines. Michael Bamberger, who has covered the game for twenty years at Sports Illustrated, shows us the big names as we've never seen them before: Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson, Curtis Strange, Fred Couples—and the late Ken Venturi. But he also chronicles the legendary figures known only to insiders, who nevertheless have left an indelible mark on the sport. There's a club pro, a teaching pro, an old black Southern caddie. There's a tournament director in his seventies, a TV director in his eighties, and a USGA executive in his nineties. All these figures, from the marquee names to the unknowns, have changed the game. What they all share is a game that courses through their collective veins like a drug. Was golf better back in the day? *Men in Green* weaves a history of the modern game that is personal, touching, inviting, and new. This meditation on aging and a celebration of the game is "a nostalgic visit and reminiscence with those who fashioned golf history and should be cherished" (Golf Digest).

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Customer Reviews

Sometimes a book comes along that captures the spirit of its subject perfectly. "Men in Green" is one of those books. It's easy to forget how good quality writing can be (in the age of digital snippets). The quality of writing and the content of this book is surely going to make it a treasured classic amongst golf fans. It was so engaging I could not put it down and after reading it cover to cover continue to dip back to its pages for more. It made me laugh out loud (I'll approach those 4 foot must make putts differently after hearing Billy Harmon's advice), made me sad but mostly made me grateful that such quality writing combined with a topic I love can bring so much pleasure. I highly recommend this book to any golf fan or indeed anyone who admires quality literature.

I very much enjoyed this book not least because it settled for all time the whispered rumor of Arnie cheating at the Masters. Big tip of the hat to Michael Bamberger for tracking the story down and sticking with it. The book is well written and informative. I particularly liked the sidebar stories of caddies and also-rans. Well written and entertaining. My highest recommendation. Hurry up, Mr. Bamberger, and write another!

I've been a fan of Michael Bamberger's golf writing since his book "To the Linksland" which told of his year spent in Europe, caddying on the European tour and traveling around to the great courses (famous and unknown) in Scotland. His new book, "Men in Green," is a joy to read, not only for the wonderful stories of golf legends (famous and unknown) such as Palmer, Nicklaus, Tom Watson, and Aloupe "Golf Ball" Hull and Sandy Tatum, but for the lucid, well-constructed prose and for the care and generosity he has for his subjects. The trait of generosity...both financial and spiritual...is one Bamberger often notices and comments on, whether it is a player who over-tips a caddy or Nicklaus, in defeat by a single stroke, putting his arm around Watson's shoulder as they walked off the green at Turnberry following their legendary Duel in the Sun. His open-mindedness, empathy, fairness, and ability to honestly assess and describe people without judgment demonstrates the type of generosity of spirit that he admires in others. As he travels around the country with his friend and former PGA touring pro, Mike Donald, Bamberger stumbles upon many remarkable intertwining

of lives, loves and tournaments over the last 60 years and untangles some mysteries about those people and events along the way.

Length: 2:29 Mins

The title and cover picture of this book misrepresent the content. "Men in Green" suggests the book is about the Masters, especially with the cover photos of Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus. Even though that's not the primary focus of the book, I enjoyed reading Bamberger's latest. I invite you to watch my video review, which hits what I consider the high points. Best chapter in the book: Interview with Conni Venturi. Also enjoyable: Description of the famed rules disagreement between Palmer and Venturi on the 12th green of the 1958 Masters. While I commend the author for devoting pages to some of golf's less celebrated characters, occasionally those sections drag on a bit too much. Additionally, anyone who has read golf magazines and books for decades, as I have, will consider some of the stories too overworked. Even so, recalling those pioneering PGA players helps us realize that golf had an era before touring pros enjoyed multiple opportunities to become millionaires in their first few years on the circuit. In the 1950s, even Arnold Palmer won the National Amateur while he was a paint salesman, and then spent his early months on the tour pulling a lodging trailer across the country.

Not a bad book, but a little misleading. I thought it would be a close personal look at some of golf's greats. While there are interviews with some of these legends of the game, the book's focus lies heavily on Arnold Palmer, Ken Venturi and Mike Donald (the author's long time friend, traveling partner and former journeyman tour pro) with the others on his list of legends only have chapter dedicated to them, and even then somehow Arnold and Ken managed to get worked in. You do get an interesting look into what life on the tour was like in its golden age from the players and some caddies, plus there are some thought provoking quotes from some of the subjects.

Presents very interesting perspective on some of golf history's most famous names, their caddies and other people closely surrounding their lives. This book will likely have a greater appeal to PGA fans. The memories and anecdotal stories run a full gambit of emotions for those who have actually attended a PGA tournament, or carefully followed a favorite pro golfer while on tour. You will like the many examples of strong character and decency so many of these sport legends exhibit in their personal lives.

I was very excited to get the book and ended up incredibly disappointed. I read 50 pages and was rather turned off by the author's self-inflating style. I would have preferred the writing style to be more from an observational standpoint with some inside the ropes kind of knowledge! In defense of the book, though, after reading the 50 pages, I have never had the desire to pick it up again and finish it. I am a golf nut and truly love reading great golf books and thought this was going to be off the charts awesome. Since I am in my 60's, I really thought there would be some amazing insight into the Big Three that I wasn't aware of from my previous readings. Oh well, maybe it got better, but I feel it is an author's responsibility to grab the reader's attention early. Hence the one star!

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