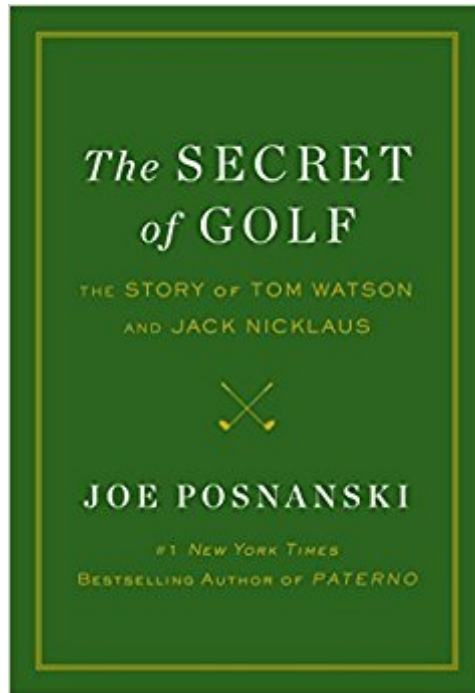




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The Secret Of Golf: The Story Of Tom Watson And Jack Nicklaus



Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller
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

Praise for *The Secret of Golf* and Joe Posnanski
"Posnanski demonstrates the ups and down of life and sport to create a work that will resonate with avid golfers and sports fans alike."
"Publishers Weekly"
"Joe Posnanski is a hall of fame writer and this is a must for anyone who cares about either one of these guys or just golf."
"Gary

Williams of Golf Channel – “An honest look at how two legends came to golf, rose to dominate it and, at the same time, didn’t lose their dignity or soul to the game and ultimately elevated friendship to the highest level.” – • Golf Digest – “Posnanski is an outstanding journalist, arguably the best pure long-form sportswriter in the land.” – • Chicago Sun-Times – “Joe Posnanski is a terrific writer.” – • Entertainment Weekly – “One of the best sportswriters in America.” – • Washington Times

Joe Posnanski is the author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Paterno*. He is a national columnist for NBC Sports and was a senior writer at *Sports Illustrated* from 2009 to 2012. In 2012, he was named National Sportswriter of the Year by the Sportswriters and Sportscasters Hall of Fame. Before joining SI, he was a columnist for the *Kansas City Star* for fifteen years, and was twice named the best sports columnist in America by the Associated Press Sports Editors. He is the author of four books and has been anthologized widely. He lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, with his family.

The author does a very good job reliving the television coverage of 1977 Open Championship and the 1982 U.S. Open but the book doesn’t focus on these two events alone; it covers these men’s lives over 5 decades from childhood to their Senior tour days with how their interest for the game fluctuated over those decades i.e., boredom, hatred, malaise, intrigue, excitement. The best parts of the book were the personalities of Charlie Nicholas (Jack’s Father) and Ray Watson (Tom’s Father), which I have not seen in any other books. It focuses on the how they each raised these soon to be professionals and interestingly that both fathers were indifferent but supportive about their son’s decision to turn pro. Also the book answered some very fascinating questions: Why Jack fired Angelo Argea; Tom’s college golf record at Stanford, from 1968-1971 was average; how alcohol played a part in Jack and Tom’s life, some of it comical; Tom’s political and social views i.e., on the Vietnam War and his stance anti-Semitism; why the style of the late CBS golf producer Frank Chirkinian was great (hint hint Fox1 sports!!!); and the commentary of other PGA touring professionals on their greatness. Lastly all through the book covers problems of the golf swing with all the terminology from all the great players and teachers, and interjects them with peaks and valleys in Jack’s and Tom’s swing over their years (Tom mostly). Ironically it’s 40 years since the 1977 “duel in the sun” at Turnberry. I

wouldn't be surprised if the author is interviewed on Golf Channel in the coming weeks---well deserved!!

Let me begin by saying I hate golf. As a child my parents made me caddy. In the miserable hot and humid summers the South routinely suffers through. Where I could see but not enjoy the country club pool....as I sweated it out pulling a heavy load of stupid golf clubs up hills and into the rough...slapping at mosquitos. So in my mind, when anyone says "golf" I think "child abuse." But I bought the book for my Father as a Father's Day present as Dad played golf for 70 years. Then I read it and told him, "I'm almost embarrassed to say this, but I read, "The Secret of Golf" and am finally getting interested in golf." Dad answered, "People can get interested in anything if the story is well-told." "The Secret of Golf" is a story well-told. Thanks for writing it!

To understand the friendship Jack and Tom had can never be defined. Both are stubborn at times, both can be friendly at times, but both are gentlemen. Have been to Scotland, played St. Andrews, Turnberry, and attended the 2014 Ryder Cup. Yes, I witnessed the events at the Ryder Cup. Another day goes by.

Great read, I would read the phone book is Posnanski wrote it! I found the "Secret of Golf...." a little short. I understand that Posnanski tried to keep it a "light read", but I was disappointed there was more to the book. There are only 3 tournaments where Nicklaus and Watson really competed head to head (where the two of them were the primary story for the week), and that is not enough to form the basis for a book. To be honest, I am not sure what else he could have included to make it a longer read, but I was disappointed in the overall length. Other than that, it was an entertaining, fun read. For a real golf fan, who has closely followed the careers of both players, there were almost no new stories, but that is to be expected.

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!

Excellent book about Jack Nicklaus & Tom Watson.

Excellent Book !! Tom Watson has and always will be one of my golf hero's. Book gave me more

inside information on his preparation and mental attitude towards those majors. I would recommend this book to anyone. Tom

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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