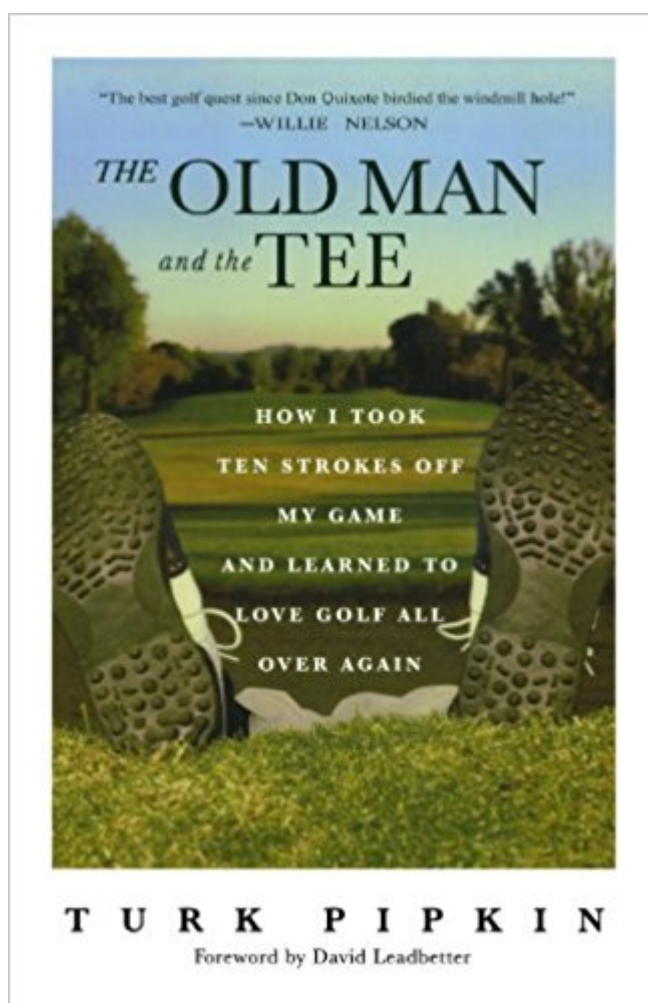


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# The Old Man And The Tee: How I Took Ten Strokes Off My Game And Learned To Love Golf All Over Again



## Synopsis

As a kid caddying for his father on the sunburned links of West Texas, Turk Pipkin had dreamed of great achievements in golf. Unfortunately, life got in the way. A lack of talent didn't help much either. It was not until his father passed away that Turk realized he'd forgotten his childhood dream and had lost the simple joy he'd once found in the game. Deciding that the time for all his pitiful golf excuses was past, Turk embarked upon the golf quest of a lifetime. For twelve months, he'd ignore work and other distractions, and dedicate himself to the game. He'd seek instruction from golf's greatest teachers, put the best equipment in his bag, and play the world's finest courses. His seemingly impossible goal was to take ten strokes off his 16-handicap. With lessons from David Leadbetter, Dave Pelz, and Ben Crenshaw, and with spiritual guidance from great old men like Willie Nelson, George Plimpton, and Byron Nelson, Turk's epic journey carries him from Pebble Beach to Scotland and back again, where he risks everything on one final round for his father. Follow Turk on the journey of a lifetime, and learn to love golf-and life- all over again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Like so many golf stories, this one starts with a father's death. Pipkin, author of the quirky golf novel *Fast Greens* (1996), had allowed life to get in the way of his golf game, but as he attempted to come to grips with turning 50 and with the absence of his father (who introduced him to golf), Pipkin made a vow: he would take 10 strokes off his handicap in one year, and he would break 80 at Pebble Beach. His memoir of how he accomplished those goals is the kind of golf book that typically is easy to hate, especially for average golfers with little time or money to improve their games. Pipkin spent

his year being tutored by the most respected golf teachers in the business (Ledbetter, Pelz, even Byron Nelson) and trying out what he learned on one revered links after another. And, yet, thanks to Pipkin's delightful self-deprecating humor (he is a former stand-up comic) and to his genuine humility in the face of so complex a game, this is one golf memoir that engenders more sympathy than envy. Bill Ott

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“With spiritual guidance from Willie Nelson and golf lessons from David Leadbetter, the author sets out on a hilarious quest to drop ten strokes from his game and learn a little bit about life in the process.”

“Pipkin's West Texas dry wit and knack for storytelling, make this a most enjoyable year to follow him around.”

“The best golf quest since Don Quixote birdied the windmill hole!”

“This bouncing, quixotic quest is hole-in-one reading for anyone who loves the game---or hates their own game and would love to love it more.”

“Thanks to Pipkin's delightful self-deprecating humor (he is a former stand-up comic) and to his genuine humility in the face of so complex a game, this is one golf memoir that engenders more sympathy than envy.”

“Breezy and enjoyable memoir.”

“The Old Man and the Tee is a must for anyone who hasn't played with Willie Nelson and has given up this stupid game more than once.”

“A lot of fun to read. Turk Pipkin sets his course upon a voyage of vastly improving his golf game and discovers a renewed sense of life itself.”

“Turk Pipkin is the most passionate golf nut I know. This book proves it. He actually thinks the game is fun.”

“Turk Pipkin goes on the quest that all amateur golfers dream of but few dare to do---take a year off from life to cut ten strokes from his game. Go on this trip with him and you will improve your own game, meet some interesting people around the world, and have a grand adventure.”

“s Little Red Book

This is probably the best sports/ golf/ life book I've ever read. It touches you in the deepest of ways. If your a golfer you will be thoroughly entertainment and challenged. Most of us got into this sport through our fathers, this will make you appreciate those times. If not, you can see the impact you

may someday have non your son

What a great yarn, but surprisingly poignant with it's words of wisdom on learning the golf swing. I've given three copies to friends and we all concur - there are real gems on learning the golf swing here...

I really enjoyed reading this book. It is not a "how to book" about improving your game, though the author does delve into the mechanics of how he improves. To give away a bit of the book, you need to take a year off and really practice a whole lot, and make sure you get top notch instruction while you do it. Read the book to learn about the highs and lows of the author on his journey to his final destination, not as another golf mechanics manual.

This book should make you laugh and cry. A great read that moves along fast. In my case I had to slow myself down. I wanted to jump ahead to the final chapter to see what happened. Being a golfer I would have liked more details on the final round at Pebble Beach. All in all a very enjoyable book.

Anyone who has ever been bitten by the golf bug knows that the resulting virus is the unending search for the link's Holy Grail. It may be the latest new club, or that simple suggestion from a member of your regular foursome. It may be several hours on the practice tee, or a new training device seen on an infomercial. Perhaps it is a week at a prestigious golf school or a book by a teaching legend. All golfers believe that somewhere out there is the critical piece of information that will transform their golf game from hacker to hero. If only the dream made the wish come true. Author Turk Pipkin got to live that dream and he shares his adventure in *THE OLD MAN AND THE TEE: How I Took Ten Strokes Off My Game and Learned to Love Golf All Over Again*. Those who share the dream of long drives, crisp approach shots and curling birdie putts will find this to be more than just an instructional volume. This is a book about life and golf, and how some individuals can enjoy both regardless of the numbers they write down on the scorecard. Pipkin is the perfect person to write this book. Not only is he an avid golfer, he is also an accomplished writer. In addition to eight novels, he has written for numerous major magazines. Beyond his writing, Pipkin has toured with comedian Rodney Dangerfield and has appeared in Christopher Guest's *Waiting for Guffman*, HBO's *"The Sopranos"* and Disney's *The Alamo*. Reading Pipkin's resume is to peruse the record of a true renaissance man. The time devoted to those activities, however, limited the time available for golf. As a result, Pipkin found his golf game in drastic need of repair. As a young man Pipkin had

learned golf from his father. While attending the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Pipkin is called back to his native Texas to be with his dying father. His father's death rekindles a long-moribund goal that Raymond Pipkin had set for his son: a round of golf at Pebble Beach. But Pipkin wants more than just a round. He sets for himself the goal of breaking 80 at one of America's most difficult courses. To do so, Pipkin, a 16- handicap golfer, will need to cut that handicap by 10 shots in a year, a Herculean task. To reach his goal, Pipkin spends parts of the next year with most of the great golf instructors in America. Ironically, when he first proposed his plan to David Leadbetter, a man who numbers some of the greatest golfers of the world as his personal protégés, Leadbetter was skeptical. "You go to six different instructors, you may add ten strokes to your game," Leadbetter said with a laugh. "But count me in." Over the ensuing year Pipkin's journey takes him to see Leadbetter, short game expert Dave Pelz, Ben Crenshaw --- perhaps professional golf's greatest putter --- and other instructors of note. In each chapter the reader takes a lesson along with Pipkin and acquires some valuable insights concerning golf instruction. Each chapter concludes with a brief summary of an important golf fundamental. Several of those tips have already been put to good use on my game. In addition to the instructional portions of THE OLD MAN AND THE TEE, Pipkin pursues several side trips that offer him guidance separate from instructions on the fundamentals of the game. We follow Pipkin on a trip to Scotland, a round of golf with singer Willie Nelson, and a tournament partnership with author George Plimpton. At each stop, Pipkin shares a lesson on a subject more important than reducing his handicap. We learn some endearing lesson about life itself. Those lessons complete the message of Pipkin's quest. Many writers have journeyed into the spiritual side of golf. To some it is more important than the physical aspects of the game. Turk Pipkin has found a magical formula for combining physical instruction and mental awareness of the game of golf. This is an engaging and pleasurable story that all golfers will enjoy and savor. It is a keeper for your collection of golfing literature. Who knows --- this book may be the answer to your golf dreams. --- Reviewed by Stuart Shiffman

When it comes to instruction books and equipment, golfers will buy anything that lays claim to being able to improve their game. (See: Roy McAvoy, "Tin Cup".) Pipkin doesn't claim to improve his readers' games except by extension, since he tells us how he took 10 strokes off his own handicap in one year of concentrated lessons, practice, and travel to the great golf locations of three continents. Trouble is, who among us mere sloggers could cobble together such a year's schedule without the leverage of a decent reputation as a golf writer and the promise of a mention (or, in some cases, a paeon) in a soon-to-be-published golf best seller? Pipkin is up front about the custom

Calloways and the Ledbetter lessons he gets in return for singing the praises of these golfing ultimates, and somewhat less so for the 30-odd other product placements (not including all the courses) that jump off the pages in what pretty quickly becomes an off-putting kind of way. He generously shares the lesson tips he gets (why not - they cost him nothing) but the golfer who tries to digest, much less apply, all the instruction points will find himself or herself hopelessly muddled. Never mind all that. The book has some good golf stories and is, in large part, an instruction book with a lot of advice on what equipment can do, and if you're a golfer, you know what that means. Buy it.

A book that is as touching as it is funny, Turk Pipkin takes us on his year long quest to take 10 strokes off his game and break 80 at Pebble Beach to honor the man who taught him the game - his father Pip. Unlike any golf book you're likely to read, Turk combines his lessons learned from golf teaching greats like David Leadbetter to hilarious stories of golfing with Willie Nelson, George Plimpton and everyone else who was lucky enough to tee it up with him on his quest. Once I started reading this book, I couldn't stop. A must read for lovers of golf, life and humor!

I'm a huge golfer, but not a big golf book reader. When I picked this book up I thought it would be boring, like most of the golf books. I was pleasantly surprised at how quick I was enthralled with the book and the humor in it. Not only funny, but I could really relate to this book and feel like I'm standing right next to him while he is telling the story. It is a great read and I recommend to give to the golfer in your life. It is truly a joy to read.

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