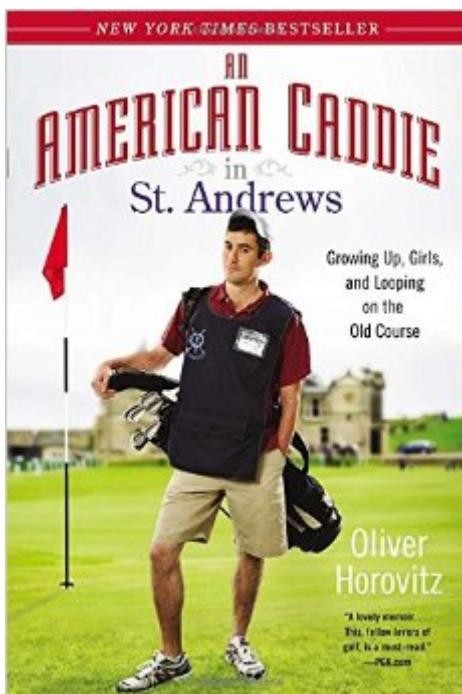


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An American Caddie In St. Andrews: Growing Up, Girls, And Looping On The Old Course



Synopsis

A hilarious and poignant memoir of a Harvard student who comes of age as a caddie on St. Andrews' fabled Old Course. In the middle of Oliver Horovitz's high school graduation ceremony, his cell phone rang: It was Harvard. He'd been accepted, but he couldn't start for another year. A caddie since he was twelve and a golfer sporting a 1.8 handicap, Ollie decides to spend his gap year in St. Andrews, Scotland—a town with the U.K.'s highest number of pubs per capita, and home to the Old Course, golf's most famous eighteen holes—"where he enrolls in the St. Andrews Links Trust caddie trainee program. Initially, the notoriously brusque veteran caddies treat Ollie like a bug. But after a year of waking up at 4:30 A.M. every morning and looping two rounds a day, Ollie earns their grudging respect—"only to have to pack up and leave for Harvard. There, Ollie's new classmates are the sons of Albania's UN ambassador, the owner of Heineken, and the CEO of Goldman Sachs. Surrounded by sixth generation legacies, he feels like a fish out of water all over again and can't wait to get back to St. Andrews. Even after graduation, when his college friends rush to Wall Street, Horovitz continues to return each summer to caddie on the Old Course. A hilarious, irresistible, behind-the-scenes peek at the world's most celebrated golf course—and its equally famous caddie shack—"An American Caddie in St. Andrews" is certain to not only entertain golfers and fans of St. Andrews but also anyone who dares to remember stumbling into adulthood and finding one's place in the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Especially for the golfer, but even for anyone else, this is a most enjoyable book with several special

themes. It is written lightheartedly autobiographically about a young American New Yorker trying to fit in with the caddies at St. Andrews, and thereby describes the unique world of the caddie shack, the relationship between caddies and players, and the various hilarious situations that occur in this most intense, obsessive, frustrating and patently ridiculous sport. The caddie is part teacher, part juggler, part psychiatrist, part weatherman, and part burro - performing at all hours of the day, in any clime, with a smile on his face and a wry comment, all while working for tips. But this book is much more than that. It describes the magic of playing at the birthplace of golf (no golfer who hasn't been there can appreciate it) as well as the fanaticism of the golfer (Ollie is a good one himself). It is also a coming of age story about an engaging and enterprising young man: about his growing up and finding out what is important in life. We follow along with Ollie as he resists the temptation to follow the herd in an Ivy League environment (Horovitz attends Harvard when not caddying), experiences relationships with women, and touchingly appreciates a family relationship with an elderly Scottish uncle, among much else. Disclaimer: I am a lifelong golfer who has played lots of places. My only trip to Scotland was in July 2012, and my caddie was this refreshing young New Yorker. In person, he is true to the engaging protagonist of this book. He made the round truly special, as any good caddie can. If you play golf, if you have ever played the Old Course, if you have ever had a caddie carry your bag and can appreciate it, if you enjoy reading at all, buy this book.

There are very few "must read" books on my list - this one just made the list. Golfers will get an inside view of one of the universal bucket list courses. Travelers will find dozens of places to visit that aren't in most tour guides. High school students heading to college might find inspiration to do something a little different for these growing up years. This is a truly enjoyable book. A real pleasure to read.

As an ex-looper, English major and of Scottish descent, this book was very interesting to me on several levels. Basically lived out something I wish I had pursued- going to school and looping at St Andrews. While clearly a very good caddie and player author comes off as very humble and someone you would want to hang out with. Has an appreciation for the true characters he comes across- does not look down on anyone- is very grounded. Highly recommend

A charming memoir of an American college student's days as a caddie at the home of golf, St. Andrews. Weaved into the story is a coming of age tale and a fine example of learning the importance of family. Very enjoyable for golfers of all ages.

I have to admit, I bought this book only because I'm such a huge Beastie Boys fan (the author is the brother of Beastie Boy Adam Horovitz aka "Adrock"). Anyway, I ended up loving the book even though I have zero interest in golf. The author is such a clever writer, and his relationship with his Scottish uncle is beautifully described throughout the book. Again, even though I don't like golf, the book is so well written and fun to read that I even enjoyed all the golf stories! Highly recommended!

this is a great read and will be most appreciated by golfers who have been to st . andrews and played the Old Course and the other courses in the area . Ollie provides very humorous anecdotes from the original " caddyshack " that you won't get anywhere else . he also provides insights into his own personal struggles with romance , family relationships , what to do with his future , and of course some of the insufferable amateur players that he had to loop for .after reading the book i wish he had provided a link or something that would allow me to buy a dvd of the film he made for his Harvard film class , which dealt with the caddies of st andrews .if you love golf and st andrews buy and read this book

I liked this book on so many levels. Really fookin liked. Initially, Having made the pilgrimage to St Andrews, I loved reliving it from an insider's perspective. But this book has a lot more to offer. It's a wonderful coming of age story. It's very touching tribute to his great uncle Ken and a lesson on growing old gracefully. I loved the descriptions of the town itself and the people and their golf and gardening centric lives. It's well written and the tense and style really keep it moving along. I was sorry to finish it. Well played Ollie. Very well played!

I enjoyed this book immensely, but I would not recommend it to everyone. Golfers/caddies, like other sport professionals, have the language skill of a drunk sailor on leave (i.e. lots of foul language).What I liked about this book is it puts light on something that goes unnoticed or unseen. Oliver shows up for the first time as a shy kid looking to cap his deferment year from Harvard being around what he loves...golf. But it's more then golf. It's about the relationships. With other caddies, golfers or his Uncle Ken (WWII veteran/widower) and Ken's best friend Harry. He learns respect, handwork and how important family is.

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