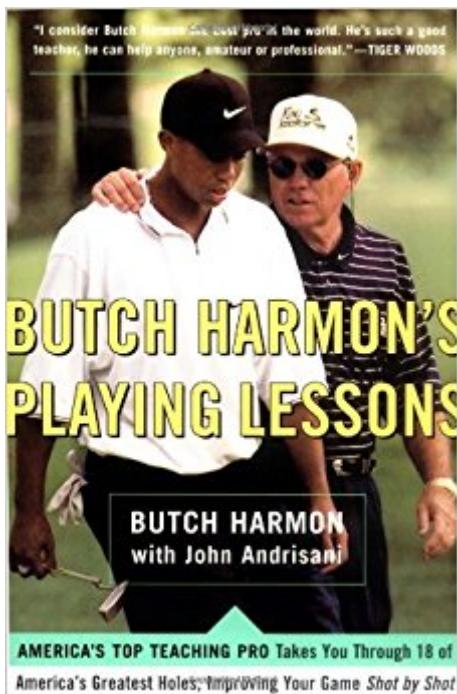


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Butch Harmon's Playing Lessons



Synopsis

This book presents strategies for low and high handicappers. It discusses how to play to one's strengths, when to take risks and when to avoid them. There are tips on reading a hole, advice on when to aim for the fat of the green and a section perfecting each speciality shot.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When Tiger Woods has a glitch in his game, he heads directly to Butch Harmon. In his previous book, The Four Cornerstones of Golf, Harmon stressed the fundamentals. In Playing Lessons he takes a page from the classic A Round of Golf With Tommy Armour and accompanies you, in the form of three players of varying skill, on the course. And it is not just any course, but an amalgamated field of dreams comprising 18 of the most spectacular and interesting holes in golf from Shinnecock Hills to Winged Foot to Augusta to Merion. Stroke by stroke, Harmon walks and talks you through the processes. His insights offer proven techniques for lowering scores as he helps you shoot and think your way between the tee and the cup. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Golf instructional: The phrase conjures up another short-shelf-life photo album featuring a perfect-swinging pro pounding laser beams out of sight. Perish the thought with this well-designed, rewarding guide by the teacher of Tiger Woods. Addressing three player types (A, a single-digit handicapper; B, who longs to score in the 70s; and C, a short-driving slicer who dreams of breaking 90 [like this reviewer]), Harmon walks them over an imaginary round that consist of 18 "real-life"

holes, including the most televised par 3s in America--hole 7 at Pebble Beach and hole 12 at Augusta. So off the first tee, this lesson has two mass-interest qualities: play on classy, history-soaked holes and advice from an expert beneficial to every level of regular weekend duffer. Harmon's stroke narrative makes sure A, B, and C make mistakes on every hole (no problem for C), and after they can their putts, he points out their errors, almost always mental. Attractively illustrated, this is an appealing three-in-one lesson. Gilbert Taylor --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Interesting book. I think this is one that I will reread every year - like Penick's Little Red Book and Hogan's fundamentals. I find that I find more in these books as my playing experience and understanding of the game and my swing grow. There's a lot of info in Butch's book. It's really too much to absorb at one time. I read this through in a couple evenings just to see what it was all about. I think this would be a good book in the den to read a hole at a time in a quiet moment and try to reflect on the strategy and think about which holes it might work on at your regular course. It would take years to assimilate all of the information in here.

Course management is often overlooked by amateurs, so this book could bring this to light. However, I would much rather have had Butch walk with real players, asking them how they would play the shot, then him suggesting to them how they SHOULD play the shot. I don't think the scores his imaginary players shot are very realistic either. As someone who can relate to the "A" player, even 8 handicaps can hit some VERY bad shots. Their 8 handicap is usually a display of ability to recover from bad shots, and a better shortgame than the average player. But for an 8 to shoot a 76 on the hall of fame course that he designed is pretty far fetched. That's only +4, and probably about 5 shots better than the player's handicap. For the player to do that, the odds are VERY low (see USGA website for info on odds for a player to shoot a certain score). That said, I do think his decision making is something everybody needs to learn. I DO think he loses credibility when he suggests to one player to plumb bob to get the line of a putt, though! I can't believe Harmon actually believes in plumb-bobbing!

Loved it!! Great for course management and helpful hints on how to strike the ball better.

Good price, fast delivery, thanks

great lessons for all levels of players

Very disappointed. Didn't care for the format nor the way the book's core was telling how three different random players (A,B,C) would play a particular hole on a particular course.

This is one of my favorite golf books. It is written differently than any other golf book I have read. Butch takes you through 18 holes. He gives you a strategy for how to play each hole. There are three players A,B, and C. The players differ in skill levels, and Butch gives different strategy for each player. Then Butch plays out each player and makes up how they played the hole. He then gives tips and drills on how to correct it. If you are looking for specific information than you will have to refer to the index. All the tips come up when butch gives his lesson after each player. I always learn something new when I read this book. One of the best course management books I have ever read. It's as if butch is out there walking the course with you. Definitely worth at least \$50 bucks.

The primary difficulty with talking about course management is the fact that course management, i.e. club selection, means different things to different players. Butch Harmon gets around this problem by addressing three audiences: the 7 handicapper, the 12 handicapper, and the 20 handicapper. I chose to read only the parts of the book geared towards the 12-handicapper. So, the book was a quick, interesting and very helpful read. My belief is that once you are a 12-handicapper, you don't need to read anymore books on "swing fundamentals." It's time now to concentrate on course management. For Harmon, course management for the 12-handicapper comes down to three main things: club selection, target selection, and swing rhythm. So, using real holes at real golf courses as examples, Harmon gets into the mind of the B player, to instruct him what he should be thinking as he gets ready for a shot. Should Player B use driver or 3-wood off the tee? Should she aim for the right, left, or front side of the green on the approach? Should she lay up?, etc. These are standard questions, but Harmon demonstrates why he comes up with the answers he does, to persuade Player B why one choice is smarter than the other. Finally, Harmon links club selection to the idea of swing rhythm. He discusses why someone will have a tendency to overhit the 3-wood off the tee. Although the 3-wood is the "smart" choice, in some cases, driver might be the smart choice, if the player thinks she needs to put more strength into the three wood for the extra carry, thus overhitting and pulling the ball. The only complaint about the book is the fact that it is a little dated and doesn't account for how players are now stocking their bags. Course management ideas have changed, because players are now adding a wedge, and replacing their fairway woods and long

irons with hybrids. So, today's reader needs to make a little calculation when Harmon recommends the 5-wood, but the player doesn't have one of those in her bag anymore.

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