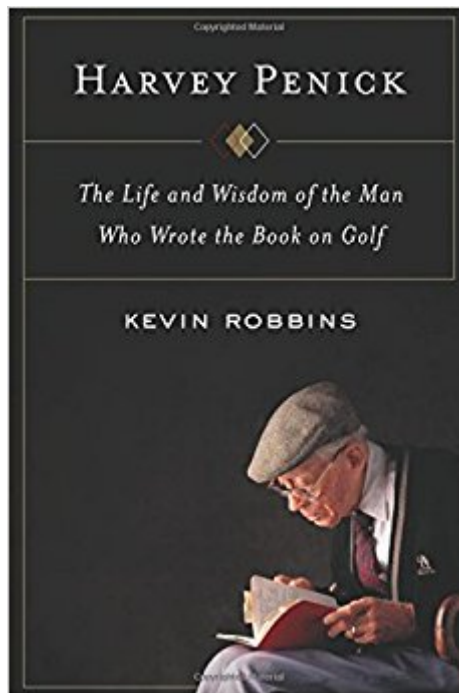




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# Harvey Penick: The Life And Wisdom Of The Man Who Wrote The Book On Golf



## Synopsis

The first-ever biography of the iconic and beloved golf coach who caddied for Francis Ouimet, played with Ben Hogan, competed against Bobby Jones, shaped Ben Crenshaw, and distilled his golf wisdom into the *Little Red Book*, granting simplicity to a vexing yet beloved sport. Millions of people were charmed by the homespun golf advice dispensed in Harvey Penick's *Little Red Book*, a sports classic that went on to become the best-selling sports book of all time. Yet, beyond the Texas golf courses where Penick happily toiled for the better part of eight decades, few people knew the self-made golf pro who coaxed the best out of countless greats • Tom Kite, Ben Crenshaw, Betsy Rawls, Mickey Wright • all champions who considered Penick their coach and lifelong friend. In *Harvey Penick*, Kevin Robbins tells the story of this legendary steward of the game. From his first job as a caddie at age eight to his ascendance to head golf pro at the esteemed Austin Country Club to his playing days when he competed with Bobby Jones and Walter Hagen to his mentorship of some of golf's finest players, Penick studied every nuance of the game. Along the way, he scribbled his observations and anecdotes, tips and tricks, and genuine love of the sport in his little red book, which ultimately became a gift to golfers everywhere. Part elegy to golf's greatest teacher, part inquiry into his simple, impactful teachings, part history of golf over the past century, *Harvey Penick* is an exquisitely written sports biography.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"To read Robbins' bio on the life of Penick is to read about how golf can shape a life and

how that life can extend into others in a unique and special way." **•GolfDigest.com** "A readable, conscientious biography that fills in the blanks, doing justice to Penick's lucid teachings, and the legacy he left behind." **•The Austin American-Statesman** "Deeply researched and lovingly written [The most important book of the last decade in the sports genre. If you are a golf fan, you owe it to yourself to read it.] **•The San Jose Examiner** "A detailed biography... This book will appeal to those interested in the development of golf in the 20th century." **•Library Journal** "Harvey Penick was a rare gentleman whose legacy deserves this book. Kevin Robbins has revealed through extensive and caring research the aspects of Penick's life that made him the endearing man he was." **Harvey Penick: The Life and Wisdom of the Man Who Wrote the Book on Golf** opens wide a window into the soul of someone whose story transcends the game. **•Ben Crenshaw**, two-time Masters Tournament champion "This thorough, absorbing biography is also a history of golf in America and how one man taught so many how to hit a golf ball so well. Kevin Robbins provides great anecdotes and stories about and from [Harvey Penick's] most accomplished students, including Betsy Rawls, Mickey Wright, and Tom Kite." **•Kirkus Reviews** "Finally the book that explains how Harvey Penick's humble, humane life led to an incomparable treasure trove of golf wisdom and insight. Kevin Robbins's work is an important contribution to golf history." **•Bill Pennington**, author of *Billy Martin and On Par* "I'm always thrilled to learn about the quiet giants and caretakers of golf, no less so with Kevin Robbins's beautiful account of the game's most influential teacher and mentor. Harvey Penick's life was a graceful journey through the game, a story of one man's humble trials and epiphanies and gently tutored wisdom that, down the fairway, resulted in the bestselling sports book of all time • a gift to every golfer and student of the game. This book deserves an honored spot right by Harvey's beloved Little Red Book." **•James Dodson**, author of *American Triumvirate* and *The Final Rounds* "A warm, insightful portrait of an uncommonly wise and gentle soul. Harvey defined 'teacher'; and you will learn why." **•Mark Frost**, best-selling author of *The Greatest Game Ever Played*, *The Grand Slam*, and *The Match* "Harvey Penick led an exceptional golfing life, and Kevin Robbins has written an exceptional account of it. His book is transporting. I have a whole new understanding of Penick, his writings, and how Ben Crenshaw, Tom Kite, Betsy Rawls and all the others under his tutelage became the people they became. What a life, captured here beautifully." **•Michael Bamberger**, author of *Men in Green* and *To the Linksland* "What a great story about a great man. Anyone who knew

Harvey knew he was special. This book just confirms it. —Kathy Whitworth, LPGA Hall of Fame  
“Legendary golf coach Harvey Penick touched so many lives, Hall of Fame players and weekend duffers alike. Thanks to Kevin Robbins’s fascinating biography, Penick’s advice, encouragement and good counsel once again allows us to play through.” —Tim Wendel, author of *Summer of ’68* and *Castro’s Curveball*

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I have just finished a marvelous book on Harvey Penick by my friend and former colleague Kevin Robbins. The gentle life of Mr. Penick is worth studying and Kevin captured the essence of the man responsible for the successes of Tom Kite, Ben Crenshaw and many LPGA pros from the past. I recommend this to you if you love the game. If you love a golfer and are looking for a great gift, this beats naked lady tees and that hat Judge Smails was wearing in "Caddyshack"! It’s a terrific read because Kevin Robbins has the ability to take thorough reporting and turn it into the kind of writing that makes you keep turning pages.

You have to be a golfer to enjoy this book because it is so detailed, and it would help if the reader

also is a former caddy, but having said that, I am a former caddy and a current golfer and I loved this book. Ironically, I don't own the first Harvey Penick book but I will be buying a hard copy edition via soon. The insights into Harvey's amazing life were fascinating, but an added bonus was the in depth coverage and analysis of the makings of Tom Kite and Ben Crenshaw. Just a great read from beginning to end. Did I mention I loved this book?

The book told the story of this wonderful gentleman & no doubt one of golf's greatest teachers who didn't have to say or do much during his lesson! His students came away with key advice to improve their golf game! Great story of his life in Austin, ACC & UT Men's golf team! Also the respect that pros had for him & how he helped develop them! Will read again!

gentleman, great teacher of golf, and humble man.

More than a golf book or a biography, it is an insight to the life of a man who helped create Texas golf.

An excellent biography about a wonderful man. Harvey Penick was unique in many ways and Robbins does a good job of uncovering and exploring them. A good way to learn about the man behind golf's Little Red Book!

I have read every one of Harvey Penick's books, from Little Red to For All Who Love the Game. All are wonderful for golfers, and this biography enhances the experience.

As a golfer I was fascinated by this biography of an outstanding person. But you do not have to be a golfer to enjoy this human interest story.

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