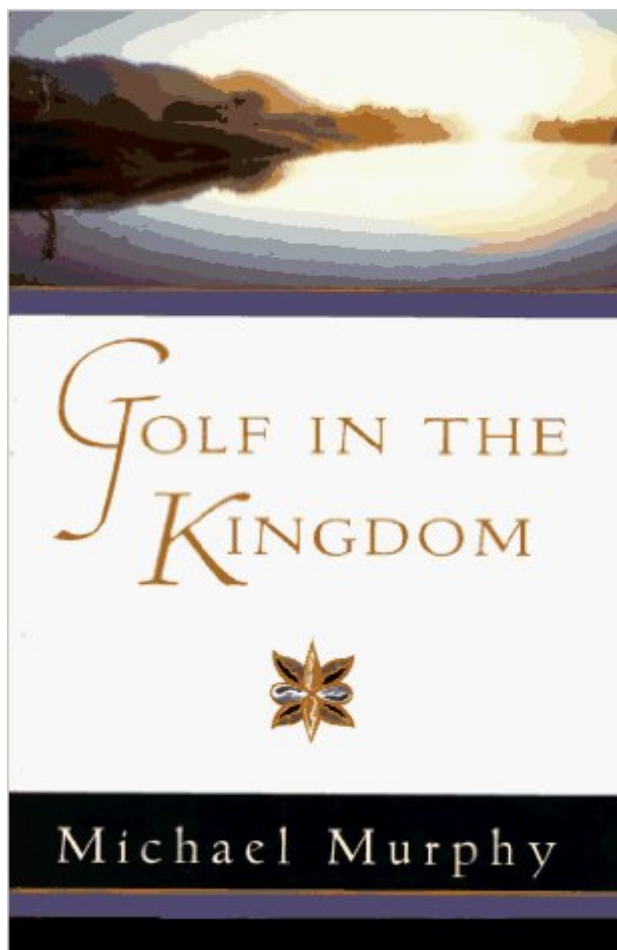


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Golf In The Kingdom (An Esalen Book)



Synopsis

A new deluxe edition of a golf classic by the director and co-founder of the Esalen Institute recounts the author's encounter with the mystical golf pro Shivas Iron and explains the philosophical truths to be gained from playing golf. 15,000 first printing.

Book Information

Series: An Esalen Book

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Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (117 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I read this book when it first came out and found it to be awe-inspiring. I've actually never read a book that has captivated me in the way in which this one has -- while reading it and the after-effect it has had on my life. Michael Murphy's writing abilities to captivate you on a mystical journey about golf of all things -- is just amazing! And the sequel "The Kingdom of Shivas Irons" is just as incredible. I love many things about golfing and these books have opened my interest to the world of golf even further. I was surprised by a few of the reviews which had a different experience reading this book. I think you either understand the essence of these stories or you don't, but if you do they leave you with an overwhelmingly profound feeling and deeper interest in golf.

A delightful journey through Eastern and Western philosophy and mysticism fashioned by the master teacher and acclaimed 'human potential' researcher/philosopher/writer from Esalen. The fine writing combines the simplicity and depth of Steinbeck with more than touch of J.P. Donleavy's raucous good humor. Don't miss the opportunity to laugh at yourself and the human condition with Murphy's wonderful characters. You may want to improve your golf score and succeed by reading

this book, but this is a work with the potential to transform your perspective on life. Murphy delivers this jewel with an elegance and wit worthy of the wonderful game he uses to convey his message. Treat yourself to a classic. Thank you Michael!

This book is great for the golfer and non-golfer alike. I read this book while traveling from Washington, DC to Chicago and needed something to read through Pennsylvania and Ohio. Murphy weaves a masterful tale of his round of golf with Shivas Irons, a mythical caddie/coach and through this experience Shivas helps him understand more about himself, his swing, and his life, and his place in the universe. While this book is a bit out there compared to your run of the mill golf book, it is entertaining and thought provoking in a way not seen in many books about sport. This book has soul-not many do.

I found the first part of this book to be much like what most of the other readers have said: It is an entertaining story about the author's encounter with Shivas Irons. The second part of this book: Let me put it like this: There is a series of commercials airing...I don't recall what product they are advertising. In the commercials, the same three guys are standing around a barbeque grill in someone's backyard. It appears they are having some sort of football tailgate party. One of the three guys is trying to explain how grilling is related to football on some higher plane. For instance, in one commercial, he says that the lines on the grill represent the yard lines on a football field. In another, he states that they are "huddling" around the grill much like football players huddle before a play. Also, he mentions that the top to the grill is like a retractable dome on a football stadium. Well, the second half of *Golf in the Kingdom* is like these commercials. The author is trying to relate golf, the ball, the hole, etc. to some type of spiritual existence. Personally, I don't get it...and I've been playing golf for decades and am a practicing Buddhist. What I will admit is that how someone carries himself on the golf course is a good reflection of how he carries himself in real life (follows rules or cheats, fixes ball marks or ignores them, throws a tantrum or remains calm). However, I don't see the golf ball as some intergalactic satellite and myself as God controlling it.

Read this book, and you'll really want to be a better golfer. It may not help your score (in fact, it will make you stop cheating and you'll have to deal with your real score), but it will give voice to strong feelings you probably have always had about the game, but may not have realized out on the muni. What is our true relationship with nature? Shivas takes dead aim, and one round of golf will change you forever. If you are one of those who understands that *Caddyshack* (the best movie

about golf), like all great comedy, not only is fun to watch, but also actually changes the way you play golf (and do everything else), then you will find that GITK (the best book about golf), like all great philosophical art, not only is fun to read, but also actually changes the way you play golf (and do everything else).

Golf at its best bares us, shows us not who we think we are, but who we truly are. As we curse and delight in the game's cagey offerings of disappointment and intermittent reward, as we alternately buck and welcome its fabulous mystery and rolls, even the most reluctant of us cannot help but heed the ageless pull--we unwittingly fathom the game is alive, stirring our souls. Like no other work before or after, *GOLF IN THE KINGDOM* calls us to this recognition. From its epigram, "The game was invented a billion years ago--don't you remember?" on to the now-famed, "Let the nothingness into yer shots," we are beckoned to what we know. With grace and lyricism, Michael Murphy concocts a shimmering world in which golf can live, and like an alchemist--through the whimsical, wise, larger-than-life magical master Shivas Irons--creates the voice of the game itself. Some years ago this book drew me back to the game I love. As a golf coach, I've carried it as a talisman, recommended it to my students, and bought more than my share of copies for friends. Because Murphy's magic is infinite and simple. In his kingdom he lures us to fascination, moves us to believe in golf's--in life's--special powers, and so, ourselves.

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