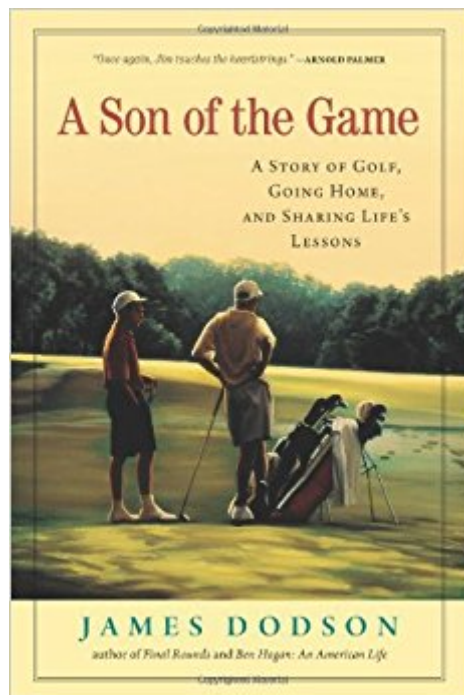




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A Son Of The Game: A Story Of Golf, Going Home, And Sharing Life's Lessons



Synopsis

When acclaimed golf writer James Dodson leaves his home in Maine to revisit Pinehurst, North Carolina, where his father first taught him the game that would shape his life and career, he's at a point where he has lost direction. But once there, the curative power of the sandhills region not only helps him find a new career working for the local paper but also reignites his flagging passion for the game of golf. And, perhaps more significantly, it inspires him to try to pass along to his teenage son the same sense of joy and contentment he has found in the game, and to recall the many colorful and lifelong friends he has met on the links. This wise memoir about finding new meaning through an old sport is filled with anecdotes about the history of the game and of Pinehurst, the home of American golf, where many larger-than-life legends played some of their greatest rounds. Dodson's bestselling memoir *Final Rounds* began in Pinehurst twenty-five years ago, and now *A Son of the Game* completes the circle as it follows his journey of discovery back to where his love of the game began—a love that he hopes to make a family legacy.

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Customer Reviews

Given that it's written by one of the sport's premier chroniclers and is set mostly in and around the bucolic grounds of Southern Pines, N.C.—a resort town based mostly on the pursuit of golfing—there is surprisingly little golf in this homey memoir, though that's probably for the best. Dodson (Ben Hogan; *Final Rounds*) recounts how he was gripped by a midlife crisis after a shakeup at his magazine and the deaths of several close friends and family members. These events, plus a desire to give his son the same memories of golf that his father imparted to him, sent the Maine

journalist scampering back to his Southern childhood home. Although Dodson knows perfectly well that possibly uprooting his whole family is little more than indulging a chance to live out a boyhood fantasy of being a smalltown newspaper man, he makes the idea as appealing as possible. There is not much forward momentum in this excessively ambling and self-satisfied work, and it suffers from Dodson's tendency to record conversations with a level of detail that sometimes strains credibility. However, it's all painted in a glossy, buttery hue of such fine vintage nostalgia that it's all the reader can do by the end to not immediately light out for the central North Carolina hill country. (Apr.)

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Dodson, author of the popular memoir *Final Rounds* (1996), revisits fathers, sons, and golf with this story of his return to Pinehurst, North Carolina, often considered the home of golf in America. For Dodson, it is also his own home, the place where his father introduced him to golf and where he hopes to inspire the same passion for the game in his teenage son. Turning down assignments from national magazines, Dodson takes a part-time job as a writer-in-residence for a small newspaper in the Pinehurst area and moves into a cottage, juggling between North Carolina and his home and family in Maine. The fabled Sandhills, home not only to Pinehurst but also to dozens of other world-class golf courses, prove the perfect tonic for Dodson's incipient midlife crisis, restoring both his sense of his past and his love of golf. This slow-paced, eulogistic memoir draws on the deep, near-archetypal feelings that dedicated golfers have for the game, its history, and their own connections to the fathers and mentors who first put clubs in their hands. A bit sentimental, to be sure, but, in Pinehurst, that's the rub of the green. --Bill Ott

There are some people that can just flat out write and no matter the subject matter they choose, they draw you in so that you just soak yourself up in the story and let it carry you along until it dumps you out on the last page wanting more. James Dodson is that kind of writer. I enjoyed his book on gardening and the people who inhabit that world, *Beautiful Madness*, as much as I have the insights he has given us into his life and family in *Final Rounds*, *The Dewsweepers*, *The Road to Somewhere* and *Faithful Travelers*. His biographies of Arnold Palmer and Ben Hogan are not to be missed either. And so it was with much happiness and anticipation that I ordered his latest to find out what he has been up to since heading back to his roots in North Carolina while still trying to keep one foot in his adopted State of Maine. I was not disappointed and I suspect you will not be either, even if this book is your first exposure to this writer. The golf season is returning to the parts of the United States that have had to put up with the travails of winter and there could be no finer

way to usher it in that to wrap yourself up in this book for a night or two as the days get longer and warmer. However, this is only tangentially about golf. It is about an interesting and very full life and it is told with love and great insight.

James Dodson is simply the best written on Golf stories and the Pine Hurst / Sand Hills area. Love all of his books ... You should check out his books on Hogan and Palmer --- The best!

Wonderful story of golf writer, his son, and the mysteriously delightful Pinehurst, NC.

Like no other author Mr. Dodson captures the heart & soul of golf. Through his own experiences, and that of family and friends he brings the sport so many toil over for hours, a refreshing life and reality. More importantly he captures much more than the passion golfers have for this game, he tells the story of life which parallels the ups-and-downs this game show us so well. Great stuff Mr. Dodson! Thank you for another great read!

An excellent book. A follow up to The Final Rounds. A gifted author. I recommend it highly.

a really great read

I enjoyed Dodson's writing style immensely. It reads like a personal letter to you the reader or a comfortable conversational story. I have his autographed prior book about golfing in Scotland with his dad but haven't read it yet.

I enjoy Dodson's writings as golf is the overall theme. However this particular story was my least favorite of his books as I became painfully aware that he is close to being a scratch golfer. Sorry but I just can't relate.

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