



# Harvey Penick's Little Red Book: Lessons And Teachings From A Lifetime In Golf

*Harvey Penick , Davis Love III (Introduction)*

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Harvey Penick's life in golf began when he started caddying at the Austin, (Texas), Country Club at age eight. Eighty-one years later he is still there, still dispensing wisdom to pros and beginners alike. His stature in the golf world is reflected in the remarkable array of champions he's worked with, both men and women, including U.S. Open champion and golf's leading money winner Tom Kite, Masters champion Ben Crenshaw, and LPGA Hall of Famers Mickey Wright, Betsy Rawls, and Kathy Whitworth. It is not for nothing that the Teacher of the Year Award given by the Golf Teachers Association is called the Harvey Penick Award.

Now, after sixty years of keeping notes on the things he's seen and learned and on the golfing greats he's taught, Penick is finally letting his Little Red Book (named for the red notebook he's always kept) be seen by the golf world. His simple, direct, practical wisdom pares away all the hypertechnical jargon that's grown up around the golf swing, and lets all golfers, whatever their level, play their best. He avoids negative words; when Tom Kite asked him if he should "choke down" on the club for a particular shot, Harvey told him to "grip down" instead, to keep the word "choke" from entering his mind. He advises golfers to have dinner with people who are good putters; their confidence may rub off, and it's certainly better than listening to bad putters complain. And he shows why, if you've got a bad grip, the last thing you want is a good swing.

Throughout, Penick's love of golf and, more importantly, his love of teaching shine through. He gets as much pleasure from watching a beginner get the ball in the air for the first time as he does when one of his students wins the U.S. Open.

*Harvey Penick's Little Red Book* is an instant classic, a book to rank with Ben Hogan's *Modern Fundamentals of Golf* and Tommy Armour's *How to Play Your Best Golf All the Time*.

## Harvey Penick's Little Red Book: Lessons And Teachings From A Lifetime In Golf Details

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## **From Reader Review Harvey Penick's Little Red Book: Lessons And Teachings From A Lifetime In Golf for online ebook**

### **Kurtbg says**

Anecdotes and advice from a golf pro for days of yore.

The game of golf has changed since then, and he notes it near the end of the book when he covers trick shots. He laments a bit that the game has become more power biased.

Some interesting notes (very basic).

- Practice your swing with a 7 iron.
- most time is spent with irons and putting. Don't over practice on a driver.
- Relax and find what works for you. there is no perfect swing/stance, etc that works for everyone. It's your perfect swing you strive for.
- Walk the grounds to learn the course, feel the rhythm of the game and enjoy. Golf carts take away from that experience.
- Practice the 4 foot putt.

See you in the fairways!

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### **Aidan Boyd says**

Harvey Penick's Little Red Book is a book on a series of tips and instructions to make the reader a more knowledgeable golfer. The book covers almost any scenario an armature golfer will face and how to fix it. Some teachings and lessons take up less than a page and others are more extensive. I would recommend this book to a new golfer or someone who does not know much about golf.

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### **Brad Lyerla says**

What a comfort this little book is for a golfer! Simple and wise, Penick makes golf sensible for expert and hacker alike. It is a must read for all golfers.

A key take away for me is that Penick instructs us to "take dead aim." Of course. And yet, I bet the vast majority of shots I hit in a round are just approximations. No more. I resolve to take dead aim. That now is my mantra.

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### **Guillermo Macbeth says**

Un clásico del golf lleno de anécdotas y consejos que no sirven para nada, por supuesto. Tampoco suma esa irritante comparación permanente entre el golf y la vida que intenta brillar como sabiduría. Opino que los que insisten con esa comparación lo hacen porque les falta vida o porque les sobra golf. Es una analogía, es

cierto, pero muy laxa. Están las reglas, la frustración mezclada con gratificación, el aprendizaje que no termina nunca y cierta incomodidad saludable. Pero el emparejamiento es un exceso, un out-of-bounds diría uno de estos filósofos del golf si tuviera un despertar kantiano, un pasaje del dogma a la crítica. Tampoco suma el psicologismo, esa confusión voluntarista que premeditadamente busca la alienación en la autoconfianza. Hay también un excesivo salón de la fama. Son interesantes las anécdotas en primera persona sobre Hogan, Palmer, Snead, Trevino y Nicklaus, pero se pasa cuando nombra a todos los amigos que pensó que debía nombrar. Contra todo esto, creo que se trata de un buen libro. Tiene una prosa cálida, ágil, directa y honesta. De biomecánica hay poco, pero muy bueno. Es una mezcla ecléctica de la vieja escuela escocesa con pragmatismo texano. ¿Habrá algún lector de este libro que no termine la lectura con ganas de haber sido alumno de este gran maestro de maestros que fue Harvey Penick? No lo creo.

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## **Eustacia Tan says**

I read this book at the driving range and I like it enough that if the second book is still at BookOff the next time I visit, I'll probably get it (I obviously didn't learn my lesson about having too many books when I moved).

Harvey Penick's Little Red Book is basically a collection of golfing tips and stories (and even one poem). Harvey Penick is supposed to be this really great teacher, although I haven't heard of him before. But he sounds really kind and like a good teacher.

Basically, Harvey's philosophy is that golf is a game you can spend your whole life learning (agree) and that although each person has their own style of playing, there are certain principles that can help you play a better game. So while he talks about people who are exceptions to the rules, he does give you the 'rules' that can help you improve golf.

And a lot of stories. I think there are more stories about golf than tips about golf in the book. I found most of them interesting, but I have a feeling that I'm supposed to be impressed at the people who wrote the introduction/are mentioned in the book. Then again, I like playing golf but not really watching it, so that probably explains my ignorance regarding those people.

This is definitely a book that fans of golf would like. But I don't think this is a good book for people looking to get into the game because it uses quite a lot of golf terminology (do the words "hook your putts" and "squaring the club face" mean anything to you?). In fact, I would probably understand and appreciate this a lot more when I was in MG because I was learning and using those terms regularly back then. Reading it now, I have to think hard to understand some sentences.

Still, I'm glad I got this book. It's always fun to read about golf from someone who loves it, and it serves as a good motivator for me(:

This review was first posted at [Inside the mind of a Bibliophile](#)

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## **Dave Wallace says**

If you play golf you must read this book.

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## **Trevor says**

### **Entertaining and eye opening**

This book was an exceptionally easy read. The information, for me, was more of a philosophical view on golf. There are great stories to get you thinking and I believe that follows Mr. Penick's teaching style. All-in-all, this is a wonderful with lessons from the greatest teacher golf has probably ever had.

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## **Ashley says**

This book is really great but written for right handed golfers, and I'm a lefty...

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## **Patrick Norman says**

As a golfer myself this was a very fun book to read. Some humor and beautiful history of the game. Harvey was an old fashioned man with old fashioned teaching. His motto in life was the same as on the course. Humility, Compassion, and of course Take Dead Aim!

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## **Joseph Cognard says**

This book will teach you more about golf than any other. To me it is an inspiration that I will often return to for both help with my golf game and life.  
Golf is a game of simplicity. To which I mean the real object is to get a ball in a hole in fewest strokes in the simplest way.  
This man often puts me on track to the simplest way. To which work is often part of it. Often working hard is the simplest way, maybe not the funnest but the simplest.

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## **Ric says**

A book that greatly simplifies golf, and will be helpful for any beginner. I read it in an attempt to help me take the game less seriously in tournament play and to gain any knowledge I can from a great teacher. The game has changed since Penick's day, but it's still a book all golfers should read at some point.

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## **Jim Healy says**

I would rank this #2 to Hogan for the golf library. the vignette format of the book makes it a great one to keep in the bathroom.

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### **Mark says**

The lessons are great. That's what I bought the book for. I don't (didn't) really care about the name-drop stories at the end. I just wanted to absorb the wisdom.

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### **Ben Margraves says**

This book was released while I was in high school in the 90's. I was a golfer and it consumed my life most of the time. This book was like my bible. I read this book to improve my game by taking notes from it and writing them on my hats, bags, scorecards and anything else I could imagine. The lessons in this book were not only applied o golf but to life as well.

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### **Linda Kelly says**

This little book can delight a reader, whether a golfer or not. The organization into specific topics makes this book useful as a resource. If I were a golfer, I would really use the book as an ongoing resource.

As a history buff, I really enjoyed reading the history of the Austin Country Club, which opened in 1898, as well as the many historical anecdotes about the history of golf and golf players. Harvey became the pro there in 1923 and stayed for over 50 years.

Harvey coached at the University of Texas. Since I am from West Texas, I really enjoyed the story about his college players from West Texas: their grip was different due to holding club steady for shots in those fierce winds.

I just loved reading this book.

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