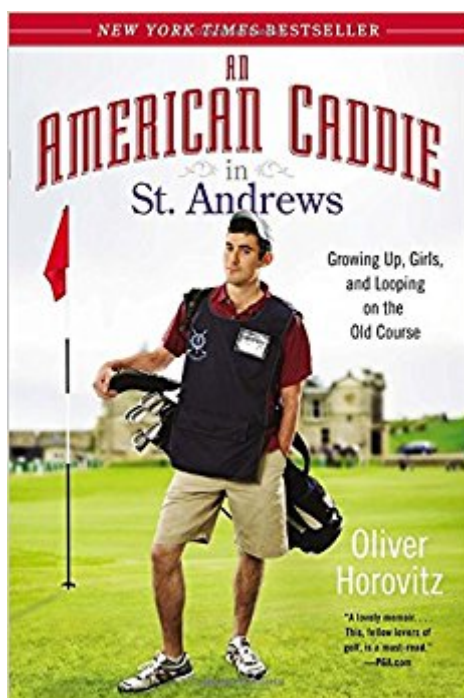


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# An American Caddie In St. Andrews: Growing Up, Girls, And Looping On The Old Course



## Synopsis

A hilarious and poignant memoir of a Harvard student who comes of age as a caddie on St. Andrews's fabled Old Course. In the middle of Oliver Horovitz's high school graduation ceremony, his cell phone rang: It was Harvard. He'd been accepted, but he couldn't start for another year. A caddie since he was twelve and a golfer sporting a 1.8 handicap, Ollie decides to spend his gap year in St. Andrews, Scotland—a town with the U.K.'s highest number of pubs per capita, and home to the Old Course, golf's most famous eighteen holes—where he enrolls in the St. Andrews Links Trust caddie trainee program. Initially, the notoriously brusque veteran caddies treat Ollie like a bug. But after a year of waking up at 4:30 A.M. every morning and looping two rounds a day, Ollie earns their grudging respect—only to have to pack up and leave for Harvard. There, Ollie's new classmates are the sons of Albania's UN ambassador, the owner of Heineken, and the CEO of Goldman Sachs. Surrounded by sixth generation legacies, he feels like a fish out of water all over again and can't wait to get back to St. Andrews. Even after graduation, when his college friends rush to Wall Street, Horovitz continues to return each summer to caddie on the Old Course. A hilarious, irresistible, behind-the-scenes peek at the world's most celebrated golf course and its equally famous caddie shack—An American Caddie in St. Andrews—is certain to not only entertain golfers and fans of St. Andrews but also anyone who dares to remember stumbling into adulthood and finding one's place in the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This poignant, funny memoir by Oliver Horovitz, a Harvard student who finds his calling on the Scottish links, is an intriguing tour of life at the world's most celebrated course." **Parade** "With the energy and joy of youth, he describes his gap year His interaction with the group of pretty university girls, deemed Model Caddies, is wondrous Horovitz shares his deeply felt memories of golf, girls, and the academy boldly, never taking himself too seriously or being irreverent about the caddie tradition on the time-honored Old Course links. **Publishers Weekly** "In this breezy memoir, the younger brother of a Beastie Boy spills insider tales about looping and living in St. Andrews the characters bitter old caddies, the author's university pals and his 83-year-old uncle are lovable. So, too, are Horovitz's yarns, which feature late-night antics in the Old Toon and a round caddying for Seinfeld creator Larry David. **Golf Magazine** "A must read." **PGA.com** "Anyone looking for a good read should look no further than An American Caddie in St. Andrews." **GolfBiz.net** "An utterly absorbing, affectionate, and funny narrative of his halcyon days in St. Andrews. I loved his memoir so much I lingered over it, relishing my own memories of that mysteriously captivating town, historic links, and addictive Scottish game, and I recommend Ollie's book to those who've either already walked in the footsteps of Old Tom Morris or have a visit to the home of golf on their bucket list." **Ron Hansen**, author of *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* "Oliver Horovitz is a writer to watch. Even if you don't play golf you will enjoy the Ring Lardner style of Ollie's *An American Caddie in St. Andrews*. The book has great characters and a wonderful sense of being a fish out of water." **Michael Douglas** "This is a story you have to read before your next bogey. Oliver has his priorities spot on!" **Gary McCord** "An American Caddie in St. Andrews is a funny, charming, coming-of age tale about golf and life ... Horovitz is a gifted writer, and an engaging storyteller ... and he can read putts!" **Huey Lewis** "While exposing the insular world of the St. Andrews caddie, Oliver Horovitz discovers a good deal of truth about golf, golfers, and himself. A terrific read. Recommended." **Curt Sampson**, author of *The War By the Shore*

Oliver Horovitz is a writer, filmmaker, and caddie on the Old Course in St. Andrews, Scotland. He has written feature articles about his rounds in *Sports Illustrated*, *Golf World*, *Golf Digest*, and *New England Golfer*. In 2007, he wrote and produced a documentary called *The Caddies of St. Andrews*. He lives in New York City.

Especially for the golfer, but even for anyone else, this is a most enjoyable book with several special themes. It is written lightheartedly autobiographically about a young American New Yorker trying to fit in with the caddies at St. Andrews, and thereby describes the unique world of the caddie shack, the relationship between caddies and players, and the various hilarious situations that occur in this most intense, obsessive, frustrating and patently ridiculous sport. The caddie is part teacher, part juggler, part psychiatrist, part weatherman, and part burro - performing at all hours of the day, in any clime, with a smile on his face and a wry comment, all while working for tips. But this book is much more than that. It describes the magic of playing at the birthplace of golf (no golfer who hasn't been there can appreciate it) as well as the fanaticism of the golfer (Ollie is a good one himself). It is also a coming of age story about an engaging and enterprising young man: about his growing up and finding out what is important in life. We follow along with Ollie as he resists the temptation to follow the herd in an Ivy League environment (Horovitz attends Harvard when not caddying), experiences relationships with women, and touchingly appreciates a family relationship with an elderly Scottish uncle, among much else. Disclaimer: I am a lifelong golfer who has played lots of places. My only trip to Scotland was in July 2012, and my caddie was this refreshing young New Yorker. In person, he is true to the engaging protagonist of this book. He made the round truly special, as any good caddie can. If you play golf, if you have ever played the Old Course, if you have ever had a caddie carry your bag and can appreciate it, if you enjoy reading at all, buy this book.

A delightful story of how Horovitz comes of age, bouncing back and forth between caddying at St. Andrews and getting his degree at Harvard. First and foremost the book is a love story at multiple levels (and not in a formulaic or expected way). For such a young lad, this kid can write, his prose is fast moving, funny, poignant and insightful. Not only does he give interesting insights into the lifestyle challenges of making a living as a caddie, but he also captures the essence of the Scottish people very well. The best book about the Auld Grey Toon since George Peper's *St. Andrews Sojourn*, I found it a satisfying read. As a golfer who always takes a caddie when they are available, I appreciated the insights into the profession. Lovers of the game will love this book. Trigger Alert: The book contains material that will make you extremely envious and jealous of this talented young man.

...pick this up and give it a read. Great story and a nice view to the inner-workings of an amazing culture. I enjoyed reading this just a couple weeks before I played the Old Course with my 14 yr old

son who wants to start caddying this summer. The fact that we are Americans living in the UK just made it that much better. The book is well written and made our visit that much more special.

I really enjoyed reading this tale of Ollie H working the links and bonding with his ancient uncle. It's a light read but definitely provides insight into what it's like to caddy. I hired a caddy when I last played at Chambers Bay and I wish I had read this before that outing. It would have been fun to have more insight from the caddie while I was playing but I'll know better next time. Definitely recommended for anyone who enjoys golf.

A British St. Andrews caddy recommended this to me, a former caddy myself. Well worth the read, if you've had the great good fortune to visit there.

Oliver's book brought back memories of my college life from the 60's and my trip to Scotland in 1999 with my college golf teammates from 1968. We played Carnoustie, the Old Course, Jubilee, the New Course and putted on the Himalayas. Meeting the caddies and being invited to join them during the early mornings in the basement of the Dunvegan Hotel to hear their stories was priceless. We asked them where they drank coffee in the morning and they replied "Coffee" and laughed at us. They said "scotch is what we drink". We also met Tip Anderson and sat with him. Our caddies liked us and we laughed a lot. When we got to the 11th, they told us the yardage and we all hit the green in regulation. Before we left the tee one caddie said "you know we had a group from Chicago two weeks ago that were not nice to us, they even talked down to us, so we gave them the distance as 150 and got three of them in the bunker". We loved it. Thanks Oliver for the heartwarming story of your Uncle Ken and the wonderful stories about the other caddies. If you want to meet our golf team, go to youtube and look up ForeSycamores.

I liked this book on so many levels. Really fookin liked. Initially, Having made the pilgrimage to St Andrews, I loved reliving it from an insider's perspective. But this book has a lot more to offer. It's a wonderful coming of age story. It's very touching tribute to his great uncle Ken and a lesson on growing old gracefully. I loved the descriptions of the town itself and the people and their golf and gardening centric lives. It's well written and the tense and style really keep it moving along. I was sorry to finish it. Well played Ollie. Very well played!

Just returned from my maiden journey on the Old Course. This was a light and fun read providing

context to the inner workings of the caddies at St. Andrews. And for that matter, probably all over the world. Glad I didn't know what they were saying about my 15 handicap before I got up at 2 a.m. to go play the Old Course as a single! ha

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