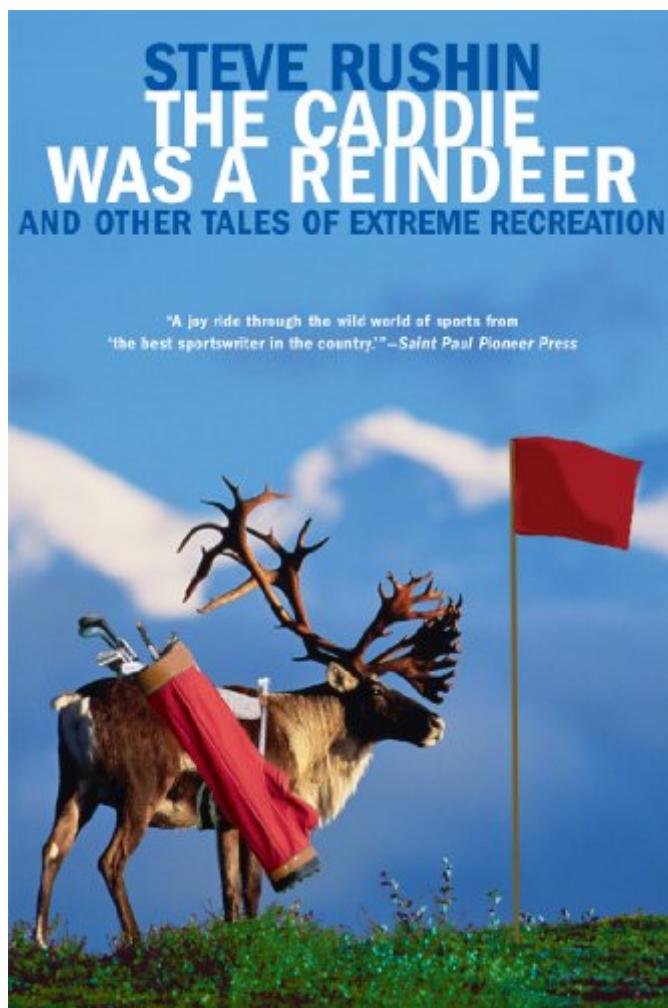


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# The Caddie Was A Reindeer: And Other Tales Of Extreme Recreation



## Synopsis

Steve Rushin, a four-time finalist for the National Magazine Award, has been hailed as one of the best sportswriters in America. In *The Caddie Was a Reindeer* he circumnavigates the globe in pursuit of extreme recreation. In the Arctic Circle, he meets ice golfers. In Minnesota, he watches the National Amputee Golf Tournament, where one participant tells him, "I literally have one foot in the grave." Along the way, Rushin meets fellow travelers like Joe Cahn, a professional tailgater who confesses aboard the RV in which he lives: "It's wonderful to see America from your bathroom." And even Rushin has logged fewer miles in pursuit of extreme recreation than Rich Rodriguez, a marathon roller-coaster rider who makes endless loops for entire summers on coasters around the world. *The Caddie Was a Reindeer* is a ride to everywhere: to south London (where Rushin downs pints with the King of Darts), to the Champs-Elysees (where the author indulges in "excessive nightclubbing" with World Cup soccer stars), and to Japan (where Rushin eats soba noodles with the world champion of competitive eating). Enlightening, hilarious, and unexpectedly heartwarming, this collection is not a body of work: it's a body of play.

## Book Information

File Size: 688 KB

Print Length: 272 pages

Publisher: Grove Press (December 1, 2007)

Publication Date: December 1, 2007

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B008RZKH80

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #513,437 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #92

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Miscellaneous > Essays #123

in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Journalism #419 in Books > Sports &

## Customer Reviews

Terrific book by my favorite sports writer!

so funny and so well-written. READ IT!

Enjoyed the articles. I miss reading Steve in the Sports Illustrated. His humor and vast sports knowledge made the read enjoyable.

Rushin goes everywhere in pursuit of a story. My favorite (maybe) is "Beers and Shots" which takes you to the heart of dart world in a London pub, where he measures the pressure that Ted Hankey felt while defending his World Darts Championship (a prize worth a quarter of a million dollars) against all comers. Rushin nacechecks Martin Amis' London Fields, which he praises as the "epic darts novel" but for my money he (Rushin) can say just as much in 4,000 words as Amis can say in 90,000. He's funnier too, asserting that "sometimes the healthiest thing a body can do is get out of the sunshine, off the green grassm out of the fresh air and breathe in the opposite--air that is equal parts smoke, tension, and BO. Only then will you rediscover what first drew you, as a child, to games." Some of his pieces collected here are a little flimsy, like an essay poking fun at some of the outlandish names of athletes, such as "the insuperable Hannibal Navies, whose name always conjures in my head a fleet of amphibious elephants--in bathing cas and nose plugs--swimming ashore at Normandy en route to the Alps." It's kind of cute, but minor, feels like padding in the context of the other, meatier pieces. His reconstruction of the 1962 Mets is priceless, even to those of us who lived through the horror. He calls it "Bad Beyond Belief" and reading through the shocking details once again you rest a little bit easy, knowing that no team, anywhere, will ever play as badly as our beloved Mets that year. His profiles of Roone Arledge and Jim Brown are razor sharp, and his visit to the Topps Factory plays out the dream of every little boy. You might have read some of these stories before in SPORTS ILLUSTRATED. You'll enjoy them even more in this sharp volume. There was only one I didn't like, the misguided attempt at South Asian Pacific dialect in Rushin's account of his travels in Bali, called wincingly, "Mr. Stiv's Excellent Adventure." Pointing out how funny foreigners talk must have been a scream back in the days of Bret Harte and Mark Twain but today it goes down like a lead balloon and I'm surprised none of Rushin's editors took him aside for a chat.

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