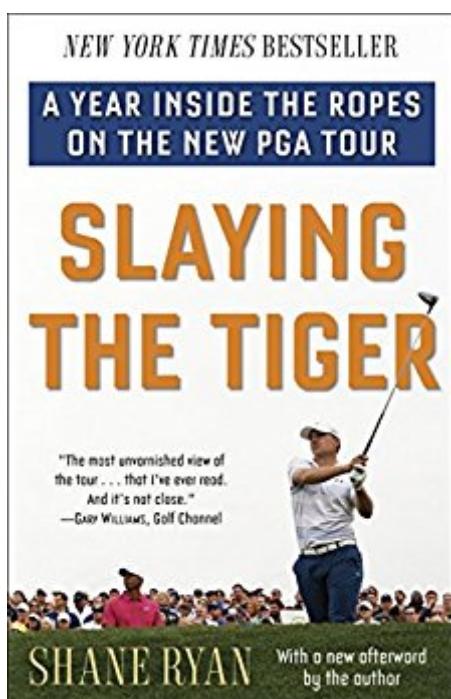


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# Slaying The Tiger: A Year Inside The Ropes On The New PGA Tour



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER *In Slaying the Tiger*, one of today's boldest young sportswriters spends a season inside the ropes alongside the rising stars who are transforming the game of golf. For more than a decade, golf was dominated by one galvanizing figure: Eldrick "Tiger" Woods. But as his star has fallen, a new, ambitious generation has stepped up to claim the crown. Once the domain of veterans, golf saw a youth revolution in 2014. In *Slaying the Tiger*, Shane Ryan introduces us to the volatile, colorful crop of heirs apparent who are storming the barricades of this traditionally old-fashioned sport. As the golf writer for Bill Simmons' *Grantland*, Shane Ryan is the perfect herald for the sport's new age. In *Slaying the Tiger*, he embeds himself for a season on the PGA Tour, where he finds the game far removed from the genteel rhythms of yesteryear. Instead, he discovers a group of mercurial talents driven to greatness by their fear of failure and their relentless perfectionism. From Augusta to Scotland, with an irreverent and energetic voice, Ryan documents every transcendent moment, every press tent tirade, and every controversy that made the 2014 Tour one of the most exciting and unpredictable in recent memory. Here are indelibly drawn profiles of the game's young guns: Rory McIlroy, the Northern Irish ace who stepped forward as the game's next superstar; Patrick Reed, a brash, boastful competitor with a warrior's mentality; Dustin Johnson, the brilliant natural talent whose private habits sabotage his potential; and Jason Day, a resilient Aussie whose hardscrabble beginnings make him the Tour's ultimate longshot. Here also is the bumptious Bubba Watson, a devout Christian known for his unsportsmanlike outbursts on the golf course; Keegan Bradley, a flinty New Englander who plays with a colossal chip on his shoulder; twenty-one-year-old Jordan Spieth, a preternaturally mature Texan carrying the hopes of the golf establishment; and Rickie Fowler, the humble California kid striving to make his golf speak louder than his bright orange clothes. Bound by their talent, each one hungrier than the last, these players will vie over the coming decade for the right to be called the next king of the game. Golf may be slow to change, but in 2014, the wheels were turning at a feverish pace. *Slaying the Tiger* offers a dynamic snapshot of a rapidly evolving sport. Praise for *Slaying the Tiger*  
"This book is going to be controversial. There is no question about it. . . . It is the most unvarnished view of the tour—the biggest tour in the world—that I've ever read. And it's not close."—Gary Williams, Golf Channel  
"A must-read for PGA Tour fans from the casual to the most dedicated. . . . This book is certain to be as important to this era as [John] Feinstein's [A Good Walk Spoiled] was two decades ago. . . . A well-researched, in-depth look at the men who inhabit the highest levels of the

game. • Examiner.com: "A masterfully written account of an important time in golf history." • Adam Fonseca, *Golf Unfiltered*: "Absolutely marvelous . . . Ryan's writing flows and his reporting turns pages for you." • Kyle Porter, *CBS Sports*: "A riveting read." • Library Journal: "Ryan's fresh look is just what we golfer/readers want." • Curt Sampson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Hogan*: "Ryan does a fantastic job painting a thoughtful and accurate portrait of the new crop of heirs apparent." • Stephanie Wei, *Wei Under Par*: From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There was much about this book that I liked. Shane Ryan clearly did his research, and the result is an entertaining look back to the exciting 2014 PGA Tour golf season. There were some things that rubbed me the wrong way. Bubba Watson is a controversial figure on the Tour, seemingly loved as much as he's hated. Ryan writes about having poor interactions with Watson, but took criticism to

an unfair level. Don't get me wrong - I love a good Bubba-bashing session as much as anybody, but it felt like Ryan was trying too hard to fit in with the, "cool kids" with his almost personal bashing of Watson. The other thing was the Victor Dubuisson chapter. Dubuisson had a good year, but he is not as big of a star that warranted the amount of ink he received in this book. I didn't understand why Ryan felt the need to go as far as he did in tearing down Dubuisson's back story. It wasn't that important, in my opinion. Overall, a fun look back at the last golf season, and a good look forward to the future.

For me, Golf is all about the Sunday nap. What I mean is that, I like to put on golf and take a nap, waking up just in time to catch the final few holes. I've never paid much attention to it. Shane Ryan has changed my mind about that. Before, I failed to see all the story lines. I didn't know the people playing on my TV. Now I do and they're fascinating. Ryan really captures what makes each of these pros tick. His writing is effortless and unencumbered. I balked at the length at first, but the pages fly by. While I think you have to have some appreciation of the sport to enjoy the book, you don't have to be an expert or somebody who spends tons of money on their own clubs (I don't have any). Ryan will help guide you there. He doesn't write for the experts. He writes for regular folks and has a talent for showing the uneducated how beautiful and nuanced a sport and athletes can be (This was also true of his writing on the art of pitching in baseball for Grantland). Highly recommended.

This book isn't just good sportswriting, it's just good writing. I took the bait with the author's op. ed. in the NYT: "How I Learned to Hate Golf" and it referenced this book, of which I had never heard. The article coincided with the paperback release so for \$11 I could take a chance. I was not disappointed as the writing exhibited in the NYT article held up throughout the book and made for an enjoyable, if formulaic, read. Mr. Ryan's comments on the state and structure of the game were candid and in my view spot on. His take on the four majors, Augusta National, the Ryder Cup, Tiger Woods, Tom Watson, et. al. were acerbic and hilarious. Parsing the components of competition and the personality distortions required to compete at the highest level were revealing when contrasted with the official pabulum of the PGA Tour. His unrelenting attempts to break into the insulated world of professional golf to provide background is a story in itself. And his thesis, that Woods is history and the young guns are here and the game has moved on, has been validated by the events of 2014 and subsequent seasons. The reason the book doesn't feel dated is that most of players he discusses are now in the thick of competition week after week. Tiger set the standard so high that this generation's coming of age would inevitably overwhelm him. This book is a very worthy account

of that premise.

Interesting insights by one writer into some of golfs better known names. Have mostly enjoyed the read. The books weakness is that it is centered around one year -2014- of PGA tournaments. Will likely not hold much interest for readers after, say, 2015. His disdain for Augusta National did not impress me much either. His list of Augusta's rules for what one can and cannot do there during The Masters week seemed adolescent at best. And he seems to have a general disdain for the 'rich and powerful.' Still, I appreciated his forthrightness in writing his honest impressions of what he experienced over a year of following the tour. I might add, he's a pretty good writer to boot. :-)

This is a fantastic book detailing the "young guns" on the PGA during the 2014-2015 season. This book details many of the young stars like Patrick Reed and Jordan Spieth, along with many of the veterans (Bubba Watson) or international stars. The book follows the PGA season in chronological order and offers interesting profiles of many PGA players along the way. By far, the best chapter was on the Master's and Shane Ryan (great follow on Twitter, by the way) tells you how the media covers the Masters (the stories are always glowing) and some of the darker, unreported history behind Augusta National.

Very readable portrait of the upcoming class in the PGA. Ryan has the ability to paint marvelous pictures with his words, evoking both laughs as well as empathy for the incredibly hard path to success in pro golf. He is neither a fan boy nor a cynical critic, but an excellent journalist expertly telling his story. His descriptions of in game action are precise and gripping. Must read for all fans of the game.

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