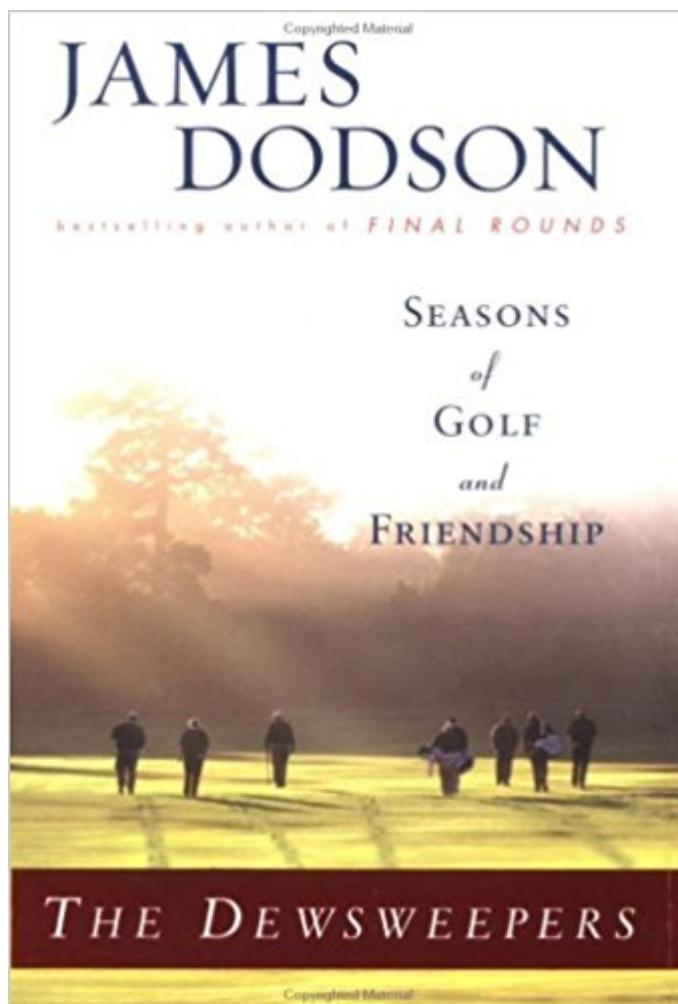


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The Dewsweepers: Seasons Of Golf And Friendship



Synopsis

James Dodson, one of the most critically acclaimed and beloved golf journalists of all time, tells the story of an eclectic, eccentric group of men who call themselves the Dewsweepers-so named because they are the first players off the tee every weekend morning at an old club in upstate New York. "Adopted" by the Dewsweepers, Dodson sets out through the seasons of one all-too-brief golf year to try and get back in touch with the simpler joys and uncomplicated leisures that once made him fall madly in love with the royal and ancient game. As friendship deepens and each man's tale movingly and sometimes hilariously unfolds, the author's own life is ultimately tested, examined, and changed-for the better. Through laughter and tears, he reveals intimate details, and finds that each Dewsweeper-including and maybe especially the author himself-needs golf and friendship at the core of his life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dodson, author of bestsellers Final Rounds and the Arnold Palmer bio A Golfer's Life, confronts his own mid-golf-life crisis in a sprightly study of the "royal and ancient" game. Now in his mid-40s, Dodson finds his handicap has slipped from a two to a nine (on a good day); more importantly, golf has ceased to be fun. Personal and professional commitments (he writes an award-winning column for Golf magazine) have left him little time to play. He decides to work less and play more for one year to reconnect with the game he loved so much before he made writing about it his career.

Dodson is aided in his quest by the "Dewsweepers," a group of "white, rich, Republican" men (some retired, some not), who live in Syracuse, N.Y., and are the first two foursomes off the tee at their

home course every weekend thus "sweeping" the dew from the fairways. Dodson pays homage to the camaraderie, dirty jokes and male bonding during the year as he joins the Dewsweepers, finds a fianc?e, loses his mother, is estranged from and then reconciled with his brother and eventually rediscovers the joy of golf as his young son decides to take up the game. Despite entertaining writing and the truly humorous banter of the Dewsweepers, Dodson himself admits his problem may appear "shallow." A thin read that loses track of the appealingly curmudgeonly Dewsweepers, the book strays into personal revelations that were perhaps better left to a memoir. (Oct.) Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"James Dodson is a gifted writer who clearly understands and loves golf; but more importantly he understands people and relationships." JOHN FEINSTEIN, author of *A Good Walk Spoiled*
"Good-humoured and overwhelmingly tender -- Dodson's wonderful book will teach you a lot about life, a little about golf, and have you wishing for even a quarter of the relationship he obviously had with his father. Heartbreaking." Maxim --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Dodson is able to say and express all the things you feel about golf, but don't have the writing skill or depth of understanding to express yourself. He will write about some sublime experience of golf and you will be transported to your own similar experience and have the revelation of finally understanding why you had such a visceral reaction to the moment when you experienced it yourself. That is a gift only the very best authors are able to do, and he's able to do it with non-fiction. If you love golf, read his stuff...it's makes you love golf even more.

This book should be read if you love golf or love a golfer or even if you never picked up a club. Its rewarding reading by one of the best writers I have had the good fortune to discover on one of my weekly jaunts to the library. It is more than a golf book its about family and friends and just everyday life by a master story teller that will leave you with wanting more. I know because after reading it I purchased my own copy.

One need not look any further than the magical pages of *The Dewsweepers* (or *Final Rounds*) to understand why those of us play this beautiful game. The Dewsweepers takes the reader to far greater places than the golf course (freudian slip). Instead, it is a journey into life's unexpected twists and turns -- yet always returning to peace and tranquil feeling that only golf provides. It

reminds all -- that Friendship is more important than breaking 80. Like Final Rounds, The Dewsweepers is eloquently written. The diversity of characters can be a bit confusing but all in all it is a very good read. I'd really rate this 4 1/2 Stars, falling just short of Final Rounds.

I'll admit that James Dodson is one of my favorite authors. That being said, "The Dewsweepers" is one of his best. James has a terrific talent to make the reader a "friend" to the characters. You know them, you laugh with them, you care where they're headed. Another great offering from a great storyteller.

I enjoy the game of golf and I have recently returned to the upstate New York area to take advantage of the many golf courses that the area offers. I was envious of the relationships that the author had in both New York and Maine.

excellent book

Hard to put down James Dobson is a brilliant writer

James again captures the essence of friendship in this book. He has an amazing gift of combining golf and life and friendship into a nice tale.

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