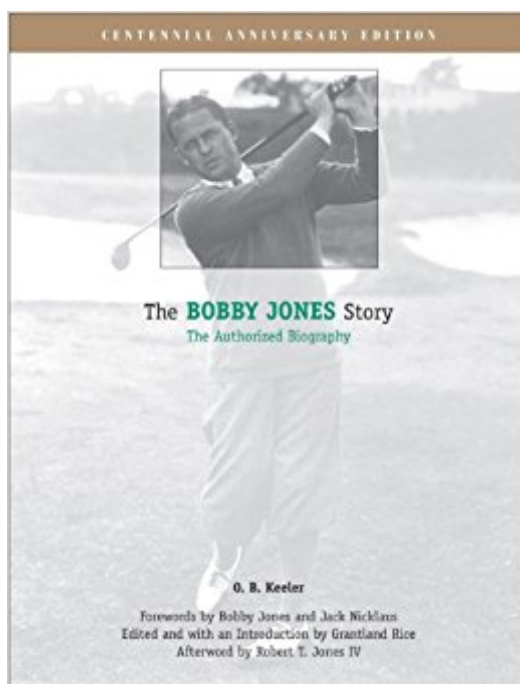


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# The Bobby Jones Story: The Authorized Biography



## Synopsis

The Bobby Jones Story: The Authorized Biography by O.B. Keeler is the most unprecedented publication about golf's first international icon. This classic edition is back with a fresh look 50 years after its original printing to celebrate the centennial birthday of golf's greatest legend. No other writer had the access and inside knowledge of Jones's life and game as Jones grew up down the road from Keeler, who was already entrenched as a reporter in Atlanta. Once he saw what Jones could do for the sport in his first shocking appearance in the U.S. Amateur tournament in 1916, Keeler knew this was a golfer destined to leave his mark on the sport. Over the next two decades, Keeler traveled more than 120,000 miles to cover Jones in 27 Majors. The two became more than working associates, they were close friends. When Jones went through an early dry spell of losing 10 straight major championships and questioned if he would ever win a Major, Keeler was there to assure the legend that nobody could beat him if he would only realize it. Keeler proved to be prophetic. At one point Jones won 13 of 21 Major championships including the famous 1930 season when he captured the "Impregnable Quadrilateral," better known today as "The Grand Slam." One month later, at the age of 28, Jones announced his retirement. Jones continued to steer the future of the sport as a golf course designer, golf club designer, teacher, and writer. But he will never be forgotten as the first world star in golf.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

O. B. Keeler is a famed golf writer and the long-time chronicler of Bobby Jones's career. Bobby Jones was the most successful amateur golfer to ever compete at the national an

international level. He won nine PGA Tour tournaments, including a Grand Slam, by winning all four major golf tournaments in a single year. Jack Nicklaus is a professional golfer who won 18 major PGA championships and is widely regarded as the greatest golfer of all time. Grantland Rice was an early 20th century sportswriter. Dr. Robert Tyre Jones IV is the grandson of the legendary golfer Bobby Jones.

After watching the movie, Bobby Jones, Stroke of Genius, I picked up this biography to see how accurate the movie was. OB Keeler's account in the book was well written and documented, and it kept me engaged all the way through.

A remarkable eye witness account of one of the world's great amateur golfers who beat the pros.

Wonderful read.

The book is beautiful and reading Bobby Jones story of how he lived and what he thought is just the best. He never once ever talks about himself as a good or great golfer but always lucky and helped by others. Not only is this a great book, written in the language of the 20's and 30's, also but it's a book to give kids to role model from as everything is relevant for today. If my kids could ever grow up to be like him as a human being, never mind the golfing accolades, I'd be so proud it would be beyond my dreams. Great, great book, with some pictures also in the middle. What I enjoy the most is his honesty and his fight against a terminal illness as all this goes on as he sets records and yet he never complains....this man makes me want to be a better human being in life. Inspirational to everyone I would think.

Quiet possibly the best golfer ever produced by America...yes, better than Nicklaus or Woods; for he was the first (and only grand slam winner). His accomplishments are unmatched. This book is for the serious golfer and historian and fan. Jones was an amateur and won his majors while studying to become a lawyer and engineer! Unmatched! A good insight into the character and persona of BJ. Recommended!

Marvelous story about a man who combined remarkable athletic ability with standards of living that were part of an age long gone- ethical, compassionate, affable. He was someone who came along following World War 1 and became an icon both as a man and as a sportsman - and the best golfer

of his generation. Well written by a close friend, the book it is a story to cherish!

Very good read I enjoyed it

Bobby Jones is one of the most revered names in the rich history of golf. However, beyond the fact that all golf fans, and many casual observers, know that Jones won what was golf's Grand Slam in 1930 (U.S. Open, British Open, U.S. Amateur, British Amateur) and created Augusta National Golf Club and the Master's tournament, little is known about the man beyond a few blurbs. What better way to really learn about the man than to read the authorized biography penned by Jones' personal confidante, journalist O.B. Keeler. Unfortunately, a great opportunity seems to have been missed here. While "The Bobby Jones Story" does capture the amazing feats of golf career, it gives very little insight into the man himself. Keeler writes this biography less as a study of Bobby Jones and more as just an excited observer who was present for much of Jones' accomplishments. Let it not be said that there isn't anything of worth in this book, though. The three-star rating obviously means that there are enough redeeming qualities to recommend it. The reader is able to get some insight into the pressures golf placed upon Jones. Pressure so great that he had decided to retire from competitive play following the 1930 season, Grand Slam or not. It also shows that earlier in his career, before he started winning majors, Jones could be considered by the Phil Mickelson of his era. He was gambler with his game who often went for too much with tournaments on the line and was frequently the victim of just horrible luck in tournaments, not unlike Mickelson today. This book also benefits from detailing the amazing golf accomplishments of Jones. The seven-year run of success Jones had between 1923-1930 is unmatched in the annals of golf, even with Tiger Wood's modern mastery (13 major wins, including 7 straight U.S. titles). That success is made all the more remarkable by the fact that the only competitive golf Jones played during that period was at the majors. "The Bobby Jones Story" covers these matches and their key moments in great detail. Alas, that three-star rating also indicates that this book suffers in many areas. Most of the problems center around Keeler's literary style and choices. One such problem may just be symptomatic of time period in which the book was written. Keeler has a tendency to use certain antiquated words when describing the action on the golf course. He uses words like 'niblick', 'mashie', and 'mashie-niblick' to describe types of clubs being used without ever explaining what exactly those clubs are. While that could just be indicative of the language of the time, it is distracting to the contemporary reader who has no idea what those are. Another area where Keeler makes a mistake is with his tendency to use hyperbole to describe Jones' accomplishments. Far too many times

Keeler refers to a shot made by Jones, or a round or tournament played by Jones as the 'best he's ever seen' or 'best Jones ever played'. This happens too much and leads the reader to believe that there are far too many occasions of Jones' best ever accomplishments. Keeler seems to also be writing in a 'stream of consciousness' style. He skips around too much with stories he's telling. One moment, the 1925 U.S. Open is being discussed and the next line or paragraph, Keeler is talking about events in 1926 Open without using any sort of segue or transition statements to indicate to the reader that such a change has occurred. The readers will often find themselves having to backtrack just to make sure they have sequence of events understood correctly. Keeler also focuses on too short a period of Jones' life, from the start of his golfing career as a young teen until his retirement at age 28 in 1930. Keeler, himself, died in 1953 and this book was released just prior to his death. There was plenty opportunity to go into detail about Jones' creation of Augusta National and The Masters. There also should have been mention of Jones' remarkable war record in World War II. Not of that makes its way into this book and that's a shame. This is not a bad read, though. Though incomplete and wordy, "The Bobby Jones Story" is still an interesting look at a portion of the life of Bobby Jones from a close, first-person observer.

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