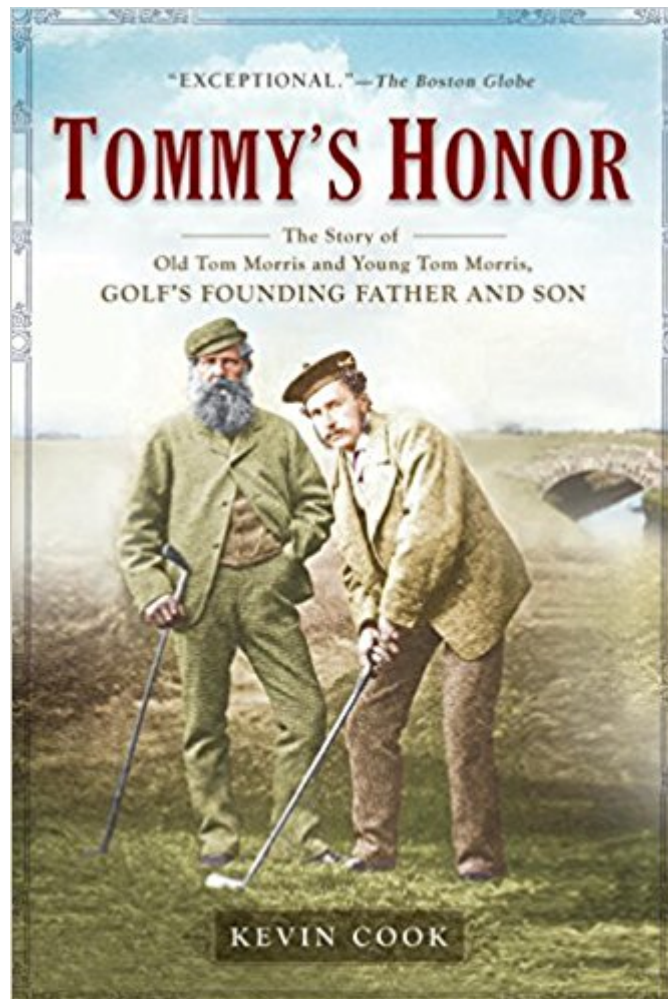


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Tommy's Honor: The Story Of Old Tom Morris And Young Tom Morris, Golf's Founding Father And Son



Synopsis

In the tradition of *Seabiscuit*, the riveting tale of two proud Scotsmen who beat all comers to become the heroes of a golden age; the dawn of professional golf. Bringing to life golf's founding father and son, *Tommy's Honor* is a stirring tribute to two legendary players and a vivid evocation of their colorful, rip-roaring times. The Morriszes were towering figures in their day. Old Tom, born in 1821, began life as a nobody; he was the son of a weaver and a maid. But he was born in St. Andrews, Scotland, the cradle of golf, and the game was in his blood. He became the Champion Golfer of Scotland, a national hero who won tournaments (and huge bets) while his young son looked on. As "Keeper of the Green" at the town's ancient links, Tom deployed golf's first lawnmower and banished sheep from the fairways. Then Young Tommy's career took off. Handsome Tommy Morris, the Tiger Woods of the nineteenth century, was a more daring player than his father. Soon he surpassed Old Tom and dominated the game. But just as he reached his peak; with spectators flocking to see him play; Tommy's life took a tragic turn, leading to his death at the age of twenty-four. That shock is at the heart of *Tommy's Honor*. It left Tom to pick up the pieces; to honor his son by keeping Tommy's memory alive. Like the New York Times bestseller *The Greatest Game Ever Played*, *Tommy's Honor* is both fascinating history and a moving personal saga. Golfers will love it, but this book isn't only for golfers. It's for every son who has fought to escape a father's shadow and for every father who had guided a son toward manhood, then found it hard to let him go. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

If I were to recommend a single book to read about the famous Morris family, it would be Kevin Cook's *Tommy's Honor: The Story of Old Tom Morris and Young Tom Morris, Golf's Founding Father and Son*. Many of us know the familiar history of these men - of Old Tom's falling out with famous ball maker and player Allan Robertson, and of Young Tom dying of a broken heart on Christmas Day. This book goes beyond that and reveals fascinating layers of their lives previously unexamined. This work is a wonderfully crafted narrative along the lines of Mark Frost's *The Greatest Game Ever Played*. It draws on facts gleaned from numerous sources, including contemporary newspaper accounts, and creates a compelling story of father and son. We are taken inside their lives in equal measure. We can feel the cold water of St. Andrews Bay as Old Tom goes for his morning swim, we are inside Allan Robertson's kitchen as Tom makes feathery balls for him. We witness his big money matches, we move with Tom, wife Nancy and baby Tommy to Prestwick, we win Opens with him and then return to St. Andrews and follow Young Tom's ascendancy to golf immortality. The enduring impact Old Tom had as Keeper of the Green at St. Andrews and his lasting legacy on the game of golf is developed quite thoroughly. Cook even touches on the class differences between Tom and the men of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews he served. Old Tom is portrayed as a man with great dedication to his family and profession. Beyond that, he also possessed a steady, dignified grace. The following passages are illustrative of both Cook's scholarship and expressive style: "For greens other than the one at the wet High Hole he used clay pipes as hole liners."

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