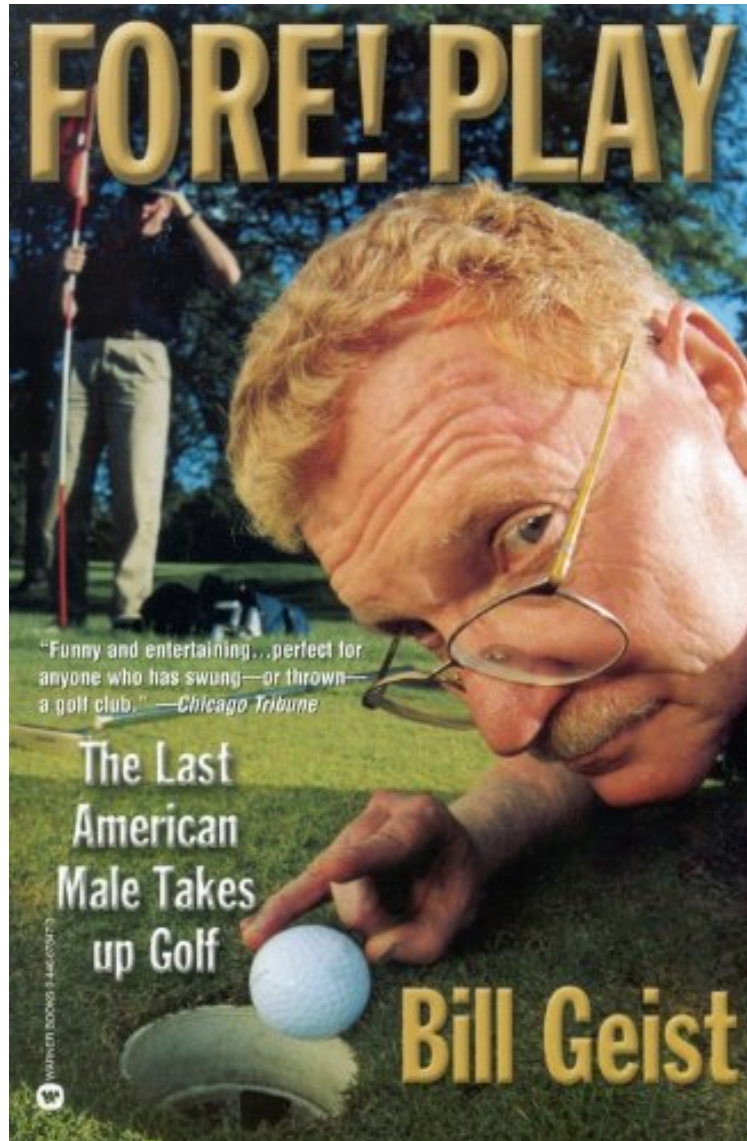


[Free download] Fore! Play: The Last American Male Takes up Golf

Fore! Play: The Last American Male Takes up Golf

Bill Geist

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Bill Geist : Fore! Play: The Last American Male Takes up Golf before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fore! Play: The Last American Male Takes up Golf:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Cindy S.great0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book!By Rita A FieldbinderGood book! Told a friend about it and purchased it for her to give to her

golfing grandson. 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Shanked it
By Brian M. Ayres
I'm sorry, but am I slow? I found no memorable lines or sections that could even remotely categorize this book as laugh-out-loud funny or even giggle, ha-ha humorous. This book went absolutely nowhere, and frankly I could only make it 100 pages in before I had had enough. As a golfing male, I could relate to the experiences of Mr. Geist, but I just didn't see the humor in anything. Although fiction, read Rick Reilly's *Missing Links* or Dan Jenkins' *Dead Solid Perfect* for an understanding of what true hackers are like.

Bill Geist, who had never picked up a club before, sets off determined to learn the game and to uncover what accounts for America's infatuation with this "royal and ancient" sport. Geist's unique approach provides uproarious insight into the nuances of the game that will ring true for any golf lover.

It was only a matter of time before Bill Geist, the comic bard of suburban life, collided with the royal and ancient game. "Golf fever. It's serious, it's viral, it's epidemic, and," he observes in *Fore! Play*, "unlike West Nile no one is spraying for it." And if it hasn't thoroughly infected him, too, it's at least brought out enough writer's curiosity to spur an odyssey in search of why the game casts such a spell over so many devoted pilgrims. His curiosity hits most of the expected stops on a beginning golfer's journey, and at times--his community night-school golf lessons, his interview at a ritzy country club, brief chronicles of trouble-filled rounds with his wife and son--he hits with enough spin to keep the humor pin-high and his narrative moving. But this is, in the end, an old story, one that every golfer has likely experienced and heard before, and Geist brings little new to it beyond his wry persona. More often than not, he winds up in a rough of his own making, reaching too hard for laughs that just aren't there. His Geistian golf definitions and tips ("Don't bend over to tee up your ball with a bag full of clubs over your shoulder or they'll spill out and make you look like Jerry Lewis") are simply silly when they're not out-and-out sophomoric. Of course, golf does have a knack for bringing out the worst in people. When Geist swings too wildly for a laugh in *Fore! Play*, the consequence is inevitable: he shanks it. --Jeff Silverman
From Publishers Weekly
Geist, humorist and regular CBS commentator, takes on one of the most popular American pastimes, despite his obvious skepticism about golf's appeal. Geist (*Little League Confidential*) resents hearing his friends endlessly discuss their latest golf outing or having to schedule his dental appointments around his dentist's games. "What is it about this sport? Is it a sport? I mean are there teams? Uniforms? Stadiums? Coaches? Cheerleaders? Hot dogs and beer? Bench-clearing brawls? Any of that stuff they have in real sports?" he quibbles. Ever the adventurer, Geist attempts to understand the widespread enthusiasm for the game by enrolling in an indoor class at a New Jersey elementary school in the middle of winter. The six lessons are just enough to get him started, and Geist goes to the driving range and then to the actual course. Disregarding his snail-paced improvement and persistent dislike of the game, he checks out the necessary paraphernalia at a Golf Merchandise Show, where he learns that there are special performance socks ("Now, how, exactly, will these socks perform for me?"), hand lotion, golf tension bands and so much more. He makes lots of suggestions for enriching the culture of golf, from playing in the carts, "polo-style," to introducing a little spirit via cheerleaders, pep bands and bonfires. Geist's amusing, inimitable style will engage sports and humor fans alike, with particular appeal for those golf widows and widowers who share his displeasure with the game. This light, delightful jab at a leisure-class sport comes just in time for the spring golf season. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.
About the Author
Bill Geist is the New York Times bestselling author of *Little League Confidential*, *The Big Five-Oh*, *Fore! Play!*, and *Way Off the Road*. He has been a correspondent for "CBS News Sunday Morning" since he joined CBS News in 1987. He chronicles some of the quirkiest people and places in America for the broadcast and has won two Emmys for his work on the show. To date, one of Bill's greatest achievements is taking third place in the Illinois State Fair Bake Off in 1979. Geist lives in New York City with his wife. They have two children.