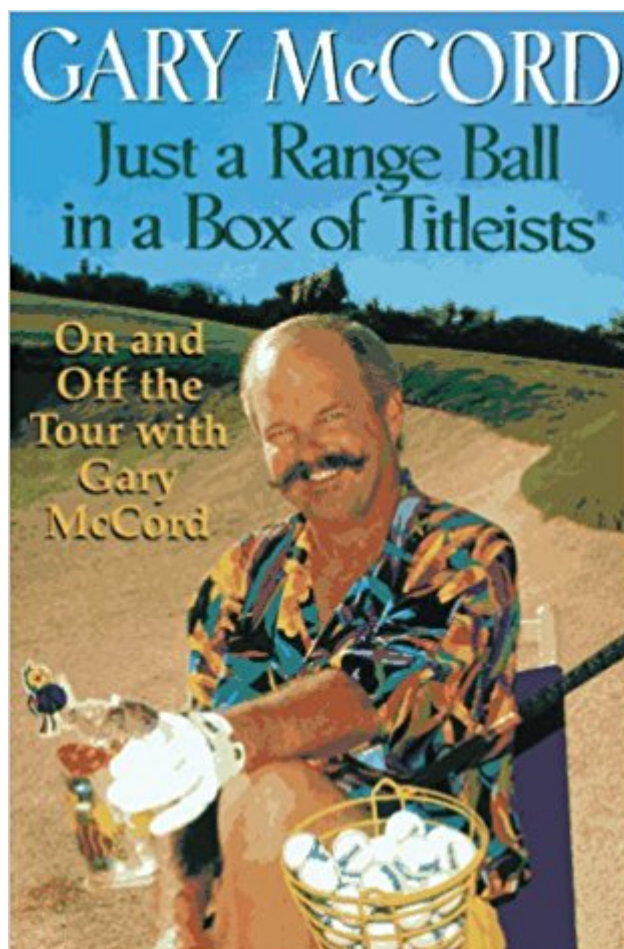


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# Just A Range Ball In A Box Of Titleists



## Synopsis

The irreverent golfer and sports commentator offers an entertaining look at the world of professional golf, discussing the PGA Tour, the colorful personalities and legendary golfers, the courses, and the culture of golf. 150,000 first printing. \$100,000 ad/promo. Tour.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In his 20-plus years as a touring pro, CBS golf commentator Gary McCord may never have won a tournament, but all those hours on the course obviously honed his skills as a raconteur. His memoir, filled with pithy observations of his fellow pros, is funny and self-effacing, enjoyable from tee to green.

McCord injected new life into the pious world of professional golf commentating when he arrived in the CBS booth more than a decade ago. Whether unabashedly criticizing poor play or flamboyantly inventing his own language (in McCordspeak, "Grow hair, ball" means "Slow down"), McCord has managed to infuriate traditionalists and captivate the average fan. (His image as a maverick was only heightened when he was banned from Augusta National, home of the ever-so-stuffy Masters, for saying that the course's notoriously fast greens must have been "bikini-waxed.") Unfortunately, McCord's nineteenth-hole humor works much better delivered in short bursts on television than it does in print over a full-length book. His stories about his own mediocre career on the PGA Tour or about hanging with the boys at San Luis Rey Downs (his local course, sort of a Tin Cup, California style) are amusing enough, but extended to essay length, they often seem forced, the premises

belabored and the punch lines flat. And when he tries to really extend himself--as in a mock Shakespearean version of the "The Globe Open" starring the earl of Palmer--the results are, to use one of McCord's favorite terms, roadkill. Still, as Putnam's 125,000 first printing indicates, there are plenty of golf fans out there, many of whom respond to McCord's irreverence. Expect demand, but most readers will quickly realize that McCord should stick to sound bites. Bill Ott

Gary McCord is a sometimes-funny, sometimes-not golf commentator whose checkered past and unconventional professional golf career fuel his rambling discourse during golf telecasts. In this book he has presented a number of "essays" on various golf-related subjects, opening with an admonition to his fellow golfing professionals that they should write their own books and eschew the services of a ghostwriter. While it does take quite a skillful writer to craft a book in another person's voice, there is much to be said for employing the services of a professional. Even if McCord didn't trust anyone else to be able to stay true to his particular form of wackiness, he (or his publisher) might at least employed a competent proofreader and copy editor for this book. Factual errors (and even spelling errors) abound, and a firm hand on the reins when McCord veered off into his more fanciful flights of imagination would have served him, and his readers, well. His anecdotes about the zany crew of misfits at his old stomping grounds, the San Luis Rey Downs golf course in Southern California, read like a D-List version of Dan Jenkins' Goat Hills crowd, who were immortalized in Jenkins' book "The Dogged Victims of Inexorable Fate" and they come off quite poorly by comparison. About half of the "essays" in the book are worth the time you will invest in reading them; some I got no more than a page into before I flipped ahead. Of course many of the references are quite out of date now, the book having been written in 1998, but even so, well-told stories stand the test of time; unfortunately, McCord's do not.

McCord's story about the annual ex-wives' golf day at his home course is, by itself, worth the price of admission. It is the funniest, most wicked thing I have ever read. I don't make a habit of reading Pro golfers' memoirs (except Jack's, big John's and, of course, our Greg's), but I am glad i made this book another exception to the rule. It is a collection of very short stories about his life on the Tour and his golfing adventures with his club mates. You couldn't invent the profiles of some of his mates. Birds of a feather....? Gary throws a lot of adjectives and adverbs into some of his sentences and sometimes get tangled up amongst them. As you would expect he doesn't take himself too

seriously and is often the butt of his own jokes. No doubt this is why we don't get his account of his famous conversation with Hogan, and the low down on his eviction from Augusta. Buy, Buy, Buy.

Love McCord's work on CBS. He's a good storyteller and tells several good ones here.

I would have liked for him to talk more about his relationships with the other golfers on the tour. Get an insight on the players he played with. Who he liked and disliked. I know he is (he thinks) a comedian, but some of his euphemisms went right over my head. I really like biographies. Not just about the subject, but about the people they work with.

Funny!

Full of laughs

not very informative - McCord sacrificed real stories for attempts at humor - disappointed - no wonder it was so cheap

This book won't cure your swing or putting problems...but you'll laugh your club socks off reading it! McCord is top notch in my book!

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