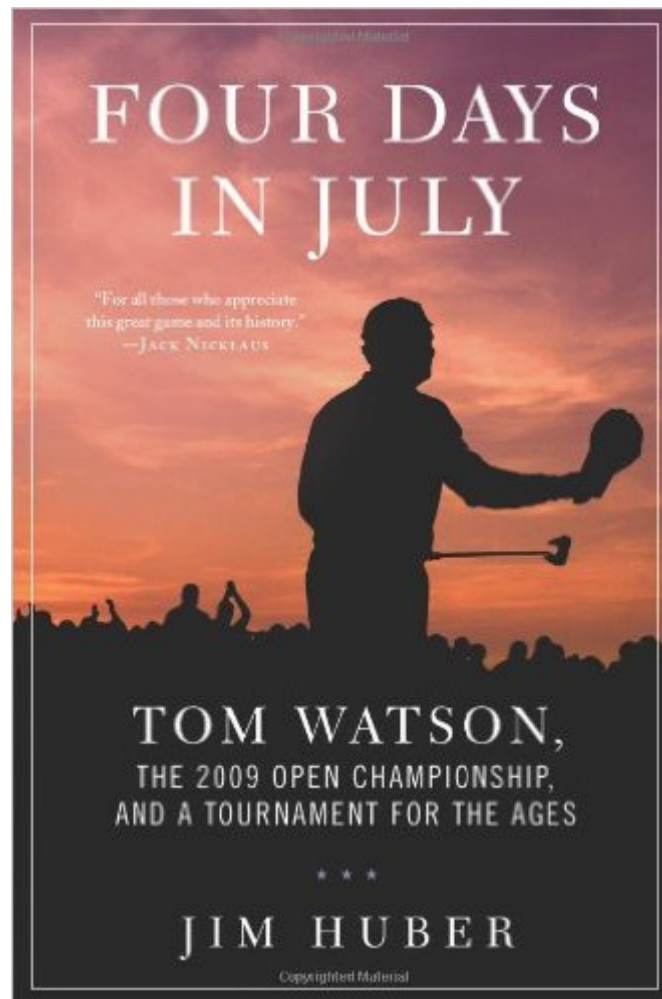


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# Four Days In July: Tom Watson, The 2009 Open Championship, And A Tournament For The Ages



## Synopsis

In July 2009, the sports world watched breathlessly as Watson, just shy of his sixtieth birthday and twenty-six years after his last Open title, battled Father Time through four amazing rounds at Turnberry. In *Four Days in July*, award-winning golf writer and commentator Jim Huber takes the reader from tee to fairway, from green to clubhouse, providing an intimate look at Watson's inspiring run. Entering the tournament as a sentimental wild card and nine years removed from his last top-ten finish in any of the four majors, "Old Tom" proceeded to shock the golf world by shooting an opening round 65. Although commentators and fans doubted he could keep up the level of play throughout the entire tournament, Watson proceeded not only to grab the lead but carry it into the final day. In Huber's hands, we can practically smell the wind blowing off the Irish Sea as we follow Watson and caddie Neil Oxman hole-by-hole along the Ailsa Course. A fascinating parallel narrative emerges as Stewart Cink, the fellow American more than twenty-three years Watson's junior who would be dubbed "The Man Who Shot Santa Claus," catches Watson in the fading sunlight that Sunday in Scotland and claims the British Open in a heart-wrenching four-hole playoff. The first media figure to speak with Watson at the end of each day, Huber mines his exclusive interviews with this golf legend as well as Oxman, Cink, and many other luminaries to recount a heroic tale of resilience, grit, and determination. This unforgettable story of the greatest links player ever and his courageous refusal to go gently into that good night is an unforgettable story that redeems the aging athlete in us all.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jim Huber's account of golfer Tom Watson's amazing run at the 2009 Open in Turnberry, Scotland, "Four Days in July", is a story mainly about Watson, golf and its history and traditions, and a little bit about Jim Huber. Tom Watson, just shy of age 60, was at Turnberry that summer to compete in the Open. He'd won it four times previously, but now he was competing against much younger men. He'd graduated to the PGA "Champions Tour" (formerly the "Senior Tour") many years before and had been doing well, competing against golfers his own age. Not much was expected of Watson at Turnberry; he had been a crowd favorite from way back, but even that loving crowd didn't expect what occurred those amazing four days. I don't know a lot about the game of golf so Huber's book was a good mini-education for me. For instance, I didn't know that "The Open" was the British Open, as opposed to the tournament in the United States, which is called the "US Open". (The Masters and the PGA, along with the two Opens, make up the "Major Championships" of golf.) Also, the Open is always played on one of nine "links courses" in England and Scotland. Tom Watson is considered a master at "links" golf. And on those four days in July, 2009, Tom Watson was magic-on-the-course. Jim Huber writes about Watson and another competitor, Stewart Cink, a young golfer from the US. As Watson played round after round - Thursday, Friday, Saturday - of great golf, Cink followed him. Finally, on Sunday, Cink and Watson were tied. They played the mandatory four hole playoff on Monday, where Cink finally bested Watson, and won his first "Open".

i enjoyed it for sure, but i must say that it was basically just a recap of the 4 rounds with a sprinkling of background that any decent golf fan already knows (the duel in the sun, cink's twitter activity, etc.)..i was hoping for a lot more stuff i didnt know just from watching the open on tv.but, since it was such a great open, it makes a good book.on a negative note, i noticed a few of the factual errors that seem to be endemic in golf books (where are the editors?)...i truly think that its ridiculous that I can easily pick up on these obvious errors on just my first quick read of the book, and I'm a serious fan but by no means a golf expert....examples (page numbers from my ebook)page 86 of 290 - 'edwards hesitantly carried the young pro's bag that week and never left it again...'.....bruce edwards caddied for Greg Norman for 3 years in between stints with Watson.page 96 - a few paragraphs earlier the author states that halfway thru round 2 watson was at -3 for the open, then has him making a par at the 10th hole to 'remain at -2 for the tournament'page 198 - referring to the 2009 US Open....'duval....saw his last-hole putt lip out on the final hole that would have earned him a US Open win'....duval finished at -2 after a 2 putt par at 18 and glover won at -4....thats not adding up. Wikipedia has this "Duval stood on the tee of the 71st hole in a tie for the lead, but his par putt lipped out on the hole, and he finished tied for second, two shots behind Glover"...given that duval

would've had to have been at -5 to win, there's no scenario of a lipped out putt costing him the win, whether it was on 17 or 18 or was for birdie or par.

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