



Play It As It Lies

Nick Hoffman

WestBow Press, 110 pages, (paperback) \$23.99, 9798385062263

(Reviewed: April, 2026)

In *Play It As It Lies*, author Nick Hoffman details personal challenges and his relationship with his late, beloved father as the latter dealt with declining health.

Anyone who has dealt with the debility of an aging parent will relate to Hoffman's experience watching his father's health and mental capacity deteriorate. "He was slipping away," Hoffman writes. "His short-term memory was fading fast, but he could still tell me about the swimming hole on Walburn Run from his childhood two or three times in the same conversation and not change a word."

The memoir also explores Hoffman's own issues with life-threatening seizures, including one that precipitated a head-on car crash. Additionally, he battled alcoholism in his younger years. Throughout these challenges, Hoffman's Christian faith remained his rock, and he quotes the Bible often.

Hoffman was a journalist most of his life. His writing is clear, sometimes even poetic. Relating his father's eventual passing, he writes: "The circle was complete. I stood beside the man who had ushered me into life and added immeasurable meaning and value to it as he was ushered out. Any other thoughts I had slipped away like fireflies in the backyard on a warm June night."

Unfortunately, however, several flaws impact its success. The book's cover is misleading, with title, image and copy relating to golf. However, the sport is mentioned only sporadically and superficially.

More importantly, the book frequently becomes so granular that it loses its universal appeal. The author discusses medical issues and medications in depth, at one point even noting the color of his father's bowel movements; reprints the contents of his family newsletter; mentions when his car was detailed, explains the minutiae of buying a particular plane ticket, etc. Editing to cull all but the most important details would help the narrative immeasurably.

Ultimately, the book tells a poignant story that the author's family and friends will cherish. However, it's unlikely to appeal widely to general readers.

Also available as an ebook.