



A POCKET GUIDE · VOLUME II

*Every Shot*  
**Is a First Shot**

FOR THE PLAYER WHO CAME BACK

A N O T E B E F O R E T H E S E C O N D R O U N D

*Volume Zero said: the green is a bowl, the club has no edge, the swing is one loop. You carried it. You came back. Good.*

This one is about what happens between shots, and what to do when the round goes long. Five plates. One thought each. Same rule as before: no fancy words. The course doesn't grade on vocabulary.

— T H E M A P I S N O T T H E T E R R I T O R Y —



LESSON I

## *Every Shot Is a First Shot*

---



The grass is not the grass it was on the last hole. The wind is not the wind. You are not the player who swung an hour ago — you have eaten, you have walked, you have remembered things. Stop dragging the last shot to this one. Walk up to the ball the way you walked up to the first ball of your life: curious, not owed.

---

*Yesterday's birdie does not putt for you. Yesterday's shank does not swing for you either.*

LESSON 11

## Chase the Picture

---



Don't calculate the swing. The body already knows how to swing — it has done it ten thousand times. What it needs from you is a picture: the ball rattling in the cup, the line it took to get there, the small clean sound. Hold that picture. Then let the club go and chase it.

---

*Aim the eye. The hands follow the eye. The ball follows the hands.*

LESSON III

## *The Club You'd Never Carry*

---



No pro carries a club that shanks one ball in three. They'd throw it in the lake before the back nine. Yet every workplace, every habit, every recurring argument has at least one such club still in the bag — tolerated because it's fast, or familiar, or because nobody wants to be the one to pull it. Open the bag. Find that club. Take it out.

---

*What you tolerate, you carry. What you carry, you swing.*

LESSON IV

## Joe Is the Read

---



The yardage app tells you the distance to the pin. It does not tell you that the green sheds left after rain, that the grain runs toward the clubhouse, that the cup was cut on a shelf this morning. Joe — the old caddie, the long-time teammate, the person who has been on this ground before — tells you that. The number is the yardage. The person is the read. Don't confuse them.

---

*Trust the instrument for the number. Trust the human for the meaning.*

LESSON V

## One Swing, Two People

---



When the round is good, the player and the caddy are not two people doing two jobs. They are one swing with four eyes. The player can't see the line from where they stand. The caddy can't feel the weight of the club. Neither one finishes the shot alone — and neither one ever has. The lone champion is a story told after the fact, usually by people who weren't there.

---

*No shot is solo. Even the silent ones have witnesses on the green.*

T H E O N E L A W ( R E S T A T E D )

*You cannot step  
onto the same green twice.*

---

And you would not want to. The whole point of the game is that the ground keeps changing, and you keep showing up anyway, with the same set of clubs and a slightly different pair of eyes.



*Walk on.*

*Show up new.*

*Let the caddie speak.*

---

THE MAP IS NOT THE TERRITORY.

THE QUIET ROUND

POCKET SERIES · VOLUME II