## **Tiger Phil: Golf's Most Fascinating Rivalry**

Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson have been rivals on the golf course for over two decades. Their rivalry is one of the most famous and well-documented in sports history. In this article, we will take a look at some of the most memorable moments from their rivalry, and we will discuss the impact that they have had on the game of golf.



#### Tiger & Phil: Golf's Most Fascinating Rivalry by Bob Harig

4 out of 5

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### **The Early Years**

Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson first met as teenagers at the 1991 Junior World Golf Championships. Woods won the tournament, while Mickelson finished second. The two players quickly became friends, and they often practiced together. However, their friendship began to sour in the late 1990s, as Woods began to dominate the game of golf.

In 1997, Woods won his first major championship at the Masters Tournament. Mickelson finished second, and he was visibly upset by Woods' victory. The two players did not speak to each other for several months after the tournament.

### The Rivalry Heats Up

The rivalry between Woods and Mickelson reached its peak in the early 2000s. The two players were constantly competing for major championships, and they often finished in the top two. In 2001, Woods won the Masters Tournament by two strokes over Mickelson. The following year, Mickelson won the PGA Championship by two strokes over Woods.

The rivalry between Woods and Mickelson was not just limited to the golf course. The two players also had a public feud in the media. In 2003, Mickelson criticized Woods for his "robotic" swing. Woods responded by saying that Mickelson was "not a true champion." The feud between the two players continued for several years, and it reached its peak in 2006, when Mickelson accused Woods of cheating.

#### The Later Years

The rivalry between Woods and Mickelson has cooled down in recent years. The two players are now in their 40s, and they have both started to slow down. However, they still remain two of the most popular players in the game of golf, and their rivalry is still one of the most talked-about in sports.

In 2018, Woods and Mickelson teamed up to play in the Presidents Cup. The two players won their matches, and they helped the United States team to victory. It was a fitting end to one of the greatest rivalries in sports history.

#### The Impact of the Rivalry

The rivalry between Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson has had a significant impact on the game of golf. The two players have helped to popularize the game, and they have inspired a new generation of golfers. They have also raised the level of competition in the game, and they have helped to make it more exciting to watch.

The rivalry between Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson is one of the most memorable in sports history. The two players have shared some of the greatest moments in the game, and they have helped to shape the way that golf is played today.



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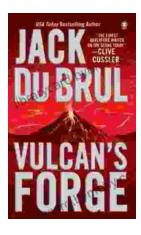
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