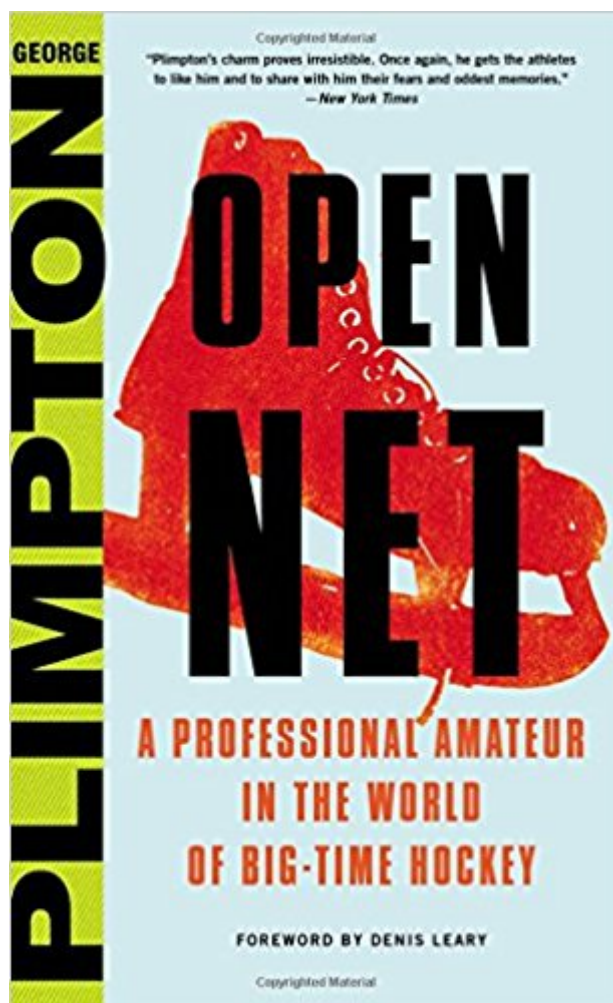


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# Open Net: A Professional Amateur In The World Of Big-Time Hockey



## Synopsis

George Plimpton takes to the ice with the Boston Bruins in this memorable portrait of the rough-and-tumble world of professional hockey, repackaged and now featuring a foreword from Denis Leary and never-before-seen content from the Plimpton Archives. In *OPEN NET*, George Plimpton takes to the ice as goalie for his beloved Boston Bruins. After signing a release holding the Bruins blameless if he should meet with injury or death, he survives a harrowing, seemingly eternal five minutes in an exhibition game against the always-tough Philadelphia Flyers. With reflections on such hockey greats as Wayne Gretzky, Bobby Orr, and Eddie Shore, *OPEN NET* is at once a celebration of the thrills and grace of the greatest sport on ice and a probing meditation into the hopes and fears of every man.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Participatory journalist (and celebrity editor) Plimpton delivers yet another insider's account of professional sports; this time, the game is ice hockey. A season with the Boston Bruins is the basis for Plimpton's absorbing personal report of what many consider the most awesomely brutal of sports. The crowds, coaches, athletes' wives and players each have their own stories, and each is recounted in a seemingly effortless, breezy, captivating style. As Plimpton learns his formidable duties as a goal-tender (a position which detailed description and hockey legend explicates is remarkably dangerous and isolated), he gathers the spirited tales and ambience of the brouhaha and brawls that belie the agility and skill and team camaraderie of the game. A winning entertainment for fans of sports, told with warmth and integrity. Photos. Foreign rights: Russell & Volkening.

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In the interest of "participatory journalism," Plimpton joined the Boston Bruins hockey team to learn to play goalie. His sojourn with the Bruins in training camp culminated in a five-minute stint in goal against the Philadelphia Flyers. The book follows the format of *Paper Lion* and *Out of My League*, as Plimpton tries valiantly to acquire the skills of the position and comes to his moment of truth with some degree of success. Although *Open Net* does not have the depth and richness of *Paper Lion*, it clearly illustrates the difficulty in playing the very physically demanding game of hockey. Jo DeLapo, Queens Borough P.L., New York Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

*Open Net* is my personal favorite attempt of Plimpton's career as a "professional amateur". Being a huge hockey fan and a lover of his prose, Plimpton creates new wrinkles to the "lunch pail gang" of Don Cherry's Bruins. Written during a time where fisticuffs was a big issue in hockey (before the Great One piled in all those goals), Plimpton does what Plimpton does best - act as a fly on the wall. From trying to make it as a goalie, to writing about Grapes satorial equipment, to Derek Sanderson and Gerry Cheevers, this is a great read. He always gets credit for "*Paper Lion*", but *Open Net* is an underappreciated read.

Plimpton is at his best in this light-hearted memoir about training with the Boston Bruins. His descriptions of the humor and characters that define the sport are spot-on. As an outsider on the inside, Plimpton gives us a glimpse of what life is really like for these professional athletes.

Plimpton had fun as a participatory athlete and to read of his experiences was fun; this book is a bit light compared to the *Golf* one or others, but enjoyable to learn more about the hockey stars of past.

Another excellent George Plimpton read. I'm not a hockey fan, but I could read Plimpton on curling!

It made me an even bigger hockey fan.

If you like the game of hockey and have an interest in the Boston Bruins, you will like it. Like all

books, you have to be interested in the subject to enjoy the book.

THIS IS ONE OF PLIMPTON'S BEST. I REALLY ENJOYED HIS STORY PLAYING GOAL FOR THE BRUINS. HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH VARIOUS PLAYERS AND COACHES ARE EXCELLENT. HIS DESCRIPTIONS OF THE EVENTS MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE RIGHT THERE ON THE ICE WITH HIM. PLIMPTON DOESN'T WASTE TOO MUCH TIME DESCRIBING HIS SURROUNDINGS LIKE HE DOES IN OTHER BOOKS. HE GOES STRAIGHT TO THE POINT. SOME HIGHLIGHTS ARE DESCRIBING HOW HE PUTS HIS UNIFORM ON IN A DETAILED ORDER, OLD STORIES ABOUT EDDIE SHORE, AND HIS ACTUAL TIME ON THE ICE PLAYING GOAL DURING A COUPLE OF EXHIBITION GAMES MAKE THIS A GREAT READ.

Book came in good shape. This is a very good book as I grew up during this time and I am a Bruin's fan, and I play hockey myself.

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