*Ian nats: “Its early, very early…all in a good day’s work, right? where’s my caddy? Shouldn’t have said that really, should I? That is ridiculous. Ha-ha. You can’t air that one. You can’t air that one.”*

Poulter sot: (02:37:04) “So, what are you gonna ask me?”

*Question: “There’s been so many things written about you, said about you, about, who people think you are. Describe yourself for us.”*

Poulter sot: “Well…”

*(PGA TOUR Presents…Title page.)*

Poulter sot: (01:19:05) “Describe myself from my perspective, or from a perspective that I think other people have a perspective of?”

Poulter sot: “The people that really know me, they just think of me as Ian. I don’t think I've changed, really, from that super confident kid / who was scoring goals because I believed I could. The guy who was chipping in because he believed he could.”

*Nats:*

Poulter sot: (p/u) “And that’s the Ian that my family and good, close friends know me as. You got a whole another perception of people, whether it be social media people, or people that I might have ruffled a few feathers of through time, they see me as probably not confident, but cocky.”

*Nats: “Boooo”*

Poulter sot: (p/u) “So I think there's a separate side right there which people don't really know the real background story enough to make an honest opinion.”

**THEY SAY: A HOUSE IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS FOUNDATION, SO IT STANDS TO REASON, A STORY WOULD BE ON ONLY AS GOOD AS ITS BACKSTORY.**

**WELL THE PAUPER-TO-PRINCE STORY OF ENGLAND’S IAN POULTER IS, INDEED, A GOOD ONE, FOR ITS BACKSTORY IS ROCK-SOLID.**

Poulter sot: (01:19:19) “I grew up just loving the aspect of winning. Whatever it was we were doing, I had to win.

Dad sot 1: (01:24:11) “Growing up as kids, anything we played I would never let them win. That was the first lesson that I always taught them, if you're gonna win, you gotta beat me.”

Mum sot 1: (01:02:46) “Very ultra-competitive. As brothers, [01:03:02] They both wanted to be the winner. I think where the sport came in a bit to start with.”

Poulter sot: “[01:30:36:703] “I wanted to be the kid that played every sport, so cricket, athletics, basketball, I mean the whole lot. I tried every single sport.”

Dad sot 2: (01:25:06) “We took him to a trial at Tottenham // And Ian wasn't one of the three that they picked out of 300. And on the way back Ian said, 'I want to play golf. I think that's what I would like to do,' and there you go.”

Lee Scarbrow sot 1: (01:20:45) "Back in my Leighton Buzzard days //I was looking for a new assistant. / /And a young man applied for the job with me, called Ian Poulter."

*Poulter: “This is when I moved to Leighton Buzzard Golf Club. This shed, which is at the bottom end, is the shed that we basically worked at for 12 months. //* and when I mean a shed, I mean a shed. // We set up a camera inside, a net. And we would hit balls in the net all the time, all day. We'd be videoing each other. Lee would come in after his lessons. He would look at our swings. He would kind of give us tips. For him to understand who I was, what I wanted to do, where I wanted to go was amazing.”

Lee Scarbrow sot 2: (01:24:43) "I’d just be in awe of how much self-belief and how much self-determination he had// (sot 3 01:27:58) As a coach and as a mentor, if you like, we are occasionally blessed with these sort of people that come along. And we can only really be as good as the people wants to be. With Ian, he wanted to get to the top. // and he believed he could get there."

**DESPITE ABSOLUTELY NO AMATEUR COMPETITION EXPERIENCE, NOR ANY COLLEGE TUTELAGE, IAN TURNED PROFESSIONAL.**

Poulter sot: "I[01:42:52:540] “I got accepted off of a four handicap, and I remember playing my first event. Which was probably only a couple of months later, and I shot 66 in the first round. //went home that night. Had an asthma attack in the middle of the night, had to get a hospital nebulizer.

Mum sot 3: (01:30:26) "Went back the following day and won. // Yeah, just doesn't want to lose. Just doesn’t like to lose."

Poulter sot: (01:47:03) “At school, a teacher I didn’t like// (01:47:21) dragged me out into the corridor and was poking me in the chest.”

“And told me, you're never gonna be a golfer, you're a failure, you're a waste of time, you're a waste of space. And I remember that like yesterday.”

“From that day on-wards I detested anybody that said I couldn't do anything,”

“When people say I can’t do something, like, it pisses me off!"

Paul Dunkley sot 2: (01:05:12) "I got a call from a guy called Lee Scarbow / He called me and said, ‘I'd like you to meet this kid because he tells me that he's gonna earn a fortune playing tournament golf’”. So I go meet Ian and // He engaged me for four hours and I was absolutely knocked out by this guy's commitment, by his application. // the self-belief that oozed out of this guy was incredible. He told me he was gonna win in the first season. And it was unlikely that he was ever gonna win in his first tournament season.”

*Annc: “Ian Poulter, the new Italian Open Champion and rookie of the year to boot.”*

Terry Mundy sot: (01:06:39) “Self-belief's always been one of his biggest attributes. // if you don't have that self-belief, he would not have done what he's done// (sot 2) we were inside the top 50 in the world, almost a whole 12 years.”

*Annc: “This man is a winner. Golf’s Mr. Positive, Ian Poulter”*

Ian Poulter sot: (01:53:30) “I had a lot of success, I won every year. I think for the first seven or eight years in Europe.

*Annc: “No wins on US soil, it’d be a nice first one wouldn’t it? The poltergeist is done; he has won his first one.”*

Poulter sot: (01:54:43) “that was a big win. // (01:54:57) match play I love, I've always loved it. It is a pure form of golf. (01:55:09) The whole one-on-one situation just really gets me going.”

**IAN’S FIRST PGA TOUR VICTORY SOLIDIFIED HIM AS A WORLDWIDE STAR...**

**BUT IT WAS HIS PERFORMANCE ON ONE STAGE IN PARTICULAR…**

*Nats: “Ian Poulter.”*

**THAT WOULD MAKE HIM A SUPERSTAR.**

Lee Scarbrow sot 4: (01:34:35) “He's one of these players that thrives under pressure. the more pressure you put him under, the more he makes it happen, the more he makes it work. // sot 5 (01:35:15) And that's why he's a champion. That's why he's great in the Ryder Cup.”

*Nats:*

Poulter sot: (02:00:04) “It gave me the feeling of what I was missing from the football days. // being part of a team, the team spirit, the atmosphere, camaraderie, just the buzz of playing not just for yourself.”

*Nats:*

Poulter sot: (002:01:06) “You get so much adrenalin // when you win a match”

*Nats:*

Poulter sot: “when you chip in, it just comes out. It brings everything out in me that I've always wanted to be.”

*Annc: (023:08:15) “What a Ryder Cupper, Ian Poulter. Now 12 and 3, Poulter, That’s the best individual record in Ryder Cup history.”*

Lee Scarbrow sot 6: (01:30:39) “He wasn't given the silver spoon. He wasn't hand-fed and said, you know, here's a vast load of money. Go and enjoy yourself. Ian had to work for everything he achieved. I think that's why he enjoys it so much.”

Andrew Bedford sot: (02:13:55) “Ian’s shown people how you can start in a pro shop and win a WGC event and for good golfers, every young golfer, it’s the dream.

*Annc: “(03:49:38) “When the going gets tough, the tough get going, and they don’t come any tougher than Ian Poulter.”.”*

Paul Dunkley sot 4: (01:14:41) “he was at the peak of his powers, from a results point of view. // And then in 2015, I was looking at a guy that wasn't the same individual because of a series of things that had been on the background.”

**ONCE POSITIONED AS HIGH AS FIFTH IN THE WORLD RANKINGS… BY 2017, POULTER HAD TUMBLED TO 207TH…**

**BUSINESS AND PERSONAL LOSSES, INJURIES AND THE INTERNAL STRUGGLE THAT CAME WITH IT ALL, AFFECTING HIS LIFE AND HIS GAME…**

**LIKE EVERYTHING ABOUT IAN POULTER…IT WAS COMPLICATED.**

*Annc: “Man, he is just having a nightmare round. Nightmare!”*

Poulter sot; (02:04:35) “You've gotta hit rock bottom sometimes, to know when you need to really make some changes // It's a situation where I had to clean everything up from behind the scenes.”

Paul Dunkley sot 4: (01:15:32) “You need to take all the cloudiness out of somebody's personal life, and that allows them to concentrate on doing the job.”

Poulter sot: “We got rid of the things we needed to get rid of, and it was a big turning point, a huge turning point.”

**IN EARLY 2017, IAN BEGAN THE RESTRUCTURE OF HIS OFF-COURSE CONCERNS, AND ONE WEEK BEFORE THE PLAYERS, THEY WERE ALL BUT FINALIZED.**

Poulter sot: [02:07:37:069] It's hard to fire people. It's hard to restructure stuff, but it had to be done. // It was why I could go to the Players Championship with a clear mind. I played like I had a clear mind. // So, I mean, I just free willed it.

*Annc: (16:17:56) “What a putt from Ian Poulter. And that keeps him just a shot behind.”*

Poulter sot: (02:15:15) “I knew I needed a big finish. parred 17, and then rushed my second shot into the last, hit a beautiful shank way in the trees. // I had a window of opportunity. It was all but two feet wide// if you as a gambling man, you would have obviously had me not pulling that shot off. But I guess that's what excites me.”

*Annc: (18:45:55) “What a shot. I did not see that. What a shot by Poulter. That is quite the shot. And he’s pumped!”*

Poulter sot: [02:16:51:249] “It was an up and down I'll remember for the rest of my life. [02:08:02:380] And that was kind of refreshing, to know that in five days of sitting around this desk to sort my life out. All of a sudden, having me finishing second in the Player's Championship, and changed the rest of 2017. Which then has changed 2018 into the position that I am today, with a two year exemption, just won the Houston Open.”

*Annc: (17:59:22) “And Poulter with a birdie to look at, after Hossler strokes his”*

Poulter sot: (02:22:49) “Bo hit his shot into the last. I’ve just hit it inside him but three feet to the right. It's straight match play.”

*Annc: “The first half is pretty straight, and then it starts moving a little left. Is he gonna make that? He’s gonna… Oh, just misses for the win.”*

Poulter sot: (02:23:27) “As soon as that missed, it was a realization of I need to take control.”

*Annc: (02:52:55) “A guy that’s known for his putting grit and clutch play, this for the tie.”*

Poulter sot: (02:02:09) “When you're under that much pressure, the pure buzz of what that is, is almost suffocating. What that's gonna do to the crowd that are willing it in and willing it out is unbelievable. It's the best. // (02:02:55) You transfix yourself to the one half of the fans that want it to go in. You don't transfix yourself to the other half that want you to miss. In fact, you do a little bit because the ones that want you to miss are the school teacher that was poking me in the chest.”

*Annc; “And Poulter buries it, of course he does!*

Mum sot 5: (01:53:09) ““the whole house took off.”

Dad sot 3: (01:39:33) “if anybody was walking by the house, they might have thought I'd murdered the wife”

Dad sot 4: (01:38:46) “I knew when //he'd holed it, he'd win it, because I know what he’s like on a one-on-one situation with the Ryder Cup background.”

*Annc: “Ian Poulter is a champion.”*

Mum sot 6: (01:53:18) “It was very exciting, yeah. To see that chest, but he must have had a bruise.”

Poulter sot: “(02:24:09) It meant that much. I mean, I kinda beat my chest a little crazy like some mad gorilla. But, it just came out.”

Dad sot 6: (01:34:04) “No, it's brilliant and, I mean, yeah, it's amazing.”

Poulter sot: “[02:27:25) “It was an amazing win. I might put it down as one of my best wins to date, // for that reason. You know the longest break I've ever had between wins. The situation of where we've come from in the last couple of years, [02:08:26:790] And all of a sudden, I sit here thinking, why didn't I do this a couple of years before? But, it's the journey, I wouldn't change any of the journey because it's been an amazing run.”

Dad sot 5: “A lot of people say he's different, and I don't understand why//I think he's just, he is what he is.”

Paul Dunkley sot 5: (01:01:03) “The public see him sometimes as arrogant, as pretty direct, as pretty over confident. And the reality of the situation is completely the opposite. //(sot 6 I would describe him as an enthusiastic committed winner. A really nice guy, who thinks the right things are good and the wrong things are bad. He's a nice lad.”

Terry Mundy sot 3: (01:10:10) “There's a conception that he's one way, but if you spoke to anyone //He is a family man, he is a good guy, he cares about his wife and his kids.”

Andrew Bedford sot: “To a lot of people, you can call it tough, gruff or rough but that's the passion of the man. But when you see him away from work, he's an incredible family man.”

Dad sot 6: (01:34:11) “There's not words to say how proud I am of him, but I'm so proud of him, he's brilliant.”

*Nats: “Good shot Lily, very good.”*

**END OF STORY? NO WAY. THE AUTHOR STILL HAS A FEW MORE CHAPTERS TO PEN.**

Poulter sot: (02:03:53) “I'm proud of the journey I've been on. I think it's been an amazing road to today. I still think we've got a journey to go. // And to see what’s been achieved, it’s crazy, I mean it is really is crazy. I have to pinch myself to think it’s, to think it’d real.”