

## Rafael Nadal The Inspiring Story Of One Of Tennis Greatest Legends Tennis Biography Books

Watch Li Na winning at the Australian Open. Now read her life story. Li Na claimed an unprecedented victory at the 2011 French Open at age twenty-nine, and became the first player from an Asian country to win a Grand Slam singles title. Outspoken and likeable, the 'late-blooming' Chinese tennis superstar is one of the world's top ten players, and has championships on grass, clay and hard courts to her name. Li Na is a tennis player few forget. She claimed an unprecedented victory at the 2011 French Open at age twenty-nine, and became the first player from an Asian country to win a Grand Slam singles title. Outspoken and likeable, the 'late-blooming' Chinese tennis superstar is one of the world's top ten players, and has championships on grass, clay and hard courts to her name. Beyond the rankings and million-dollar endorsements is a life just as remarkable as her success. Li Na grew up within a rigid national sports system, living away from home and training six days a week, and spent years struggling to believe in herself. Her outstanding feats in a sport she grew to love, recovering from three knee surgeries and conquering her own demons, are nothing short of inspirational. Told with honesty and humour, *Li Na: My Life* is the moving story behind an extraordinary sporting icon.

All the passion, drama, and beauty of tennis is captured in this most up-to-date comprehensive history--from its early beginnings as a sport, the greatest matches ever played, to its global star players and personalities of present day. This volume is a must-read for tennis aficionados. Tennis, the much-loved sport, is a game for the ages dating back to sixteenth-century royal court matches played by King Henry VIII. History of Tennis captures the sport's long history, never short of theatrics, rivalries, power plays, political controversies, and inspiring personal stories. Beautiful historic and contemporary images of gripping matches like the unforgettable Bjorn Borg versus John McEnroe tiebreak match in 1980, to behind-the-scenes moments with tennis legends, and never-before-seen shots, grace each page accompanied by Richard Evans's intriguing stories and unique insight detailing the evolution of this majestic sport by decade. Starting as a European royal pastime and gaining popularity in England and France, the sport made its way to America in the late 1870s as the new game of lawn tennis, creating along the centuries legendary tennis superstars such as Bill Tilden, Suzanne Lenglen and the Four Musketeers, Fred Perry, Billie Jean King, John McEnroe, and Steffi Graf. Now one of the most highly watched sports globally with top-billing icons like Novak Djokovic, Serena Williams, Rafael Nadal, and Naomi Osaka, there is no stopping the power of this allenthraling game. This is a must-have volume for lifelong fans and those intrigued by the sporting theater and grand culture of tennis. If you are a Roger Federer fan, then this book will help you to learn about his inspirational story behind his success. Find out about his amazing achievements throughout his entire football career.

Learn the Inspiring Story of One of Tennis' Greatest Stars, Novak Djokovic! Read on your PC, Mac, smartphone, tablet or Kindle device! In *Novak Djokovic: The Inspiring Story of One of Tennis' Greatest Legends*, you will learn the inspirational story of one of tennis' premier legends, Novak Djokovic. Novak Djokovic has come a long way since reaching his first Grand Slam final in the 2007 US Open. There was little doubt that

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even in his defeat to fellow legend, Roger Federer, that Djokovic was going to be embarking on an illustrious tennis career. He has since validated this belief. At the age of twenty-nine, Novak Djokovic is a 12-time Grand Slam champion, and has held the top spot of the ATP Tour for more than 220 weeks. The most impressive part has been his absolute dominance in the last half decade of tennis, as he has won multiple Australian Opens, Wimbledons, and US Opens. In this unauthorized biography, we'll explore Djokovic's journey to becoming one of the greatest, and learn what it has taken him to reach where he is today. Here is a preview of what is inside this book: Early Life and Childhood Junior Years and Early Career Djokovic's First Major Title, The 2008 Australian Open Years of Dominance and Key Majors Most Notable Rivalries Djokovic's Personal Life Djokovic's Impact on Tennis and Beyond The Legacy of Novak Djokovic An excerpt from the book: He is combustible while competitive; temperamental, yet oh so talented. He is prickly, yes, but a definite prodigy. The owner of a swashbuckling style he has ridden to success. He is controversial at times, sure, but a champion without a doubt. No one word is ever going to fully fit all of who Novak Djokovic is because the sum of all who he is transcends a mere one-word description. He is one of the greatest tennis players of his generation who has transcended into being one of the most impactful tennis players of any generation. He has willed himself from a talented yet scrawny Serbian teenager into a multiple-time Grand Slam winner who has the chance to do the unthinkable - surpass Roger Federer's record haul of Grand Slam titles, something once thought impossible for Federer himself to achieve. But how did he get here from there? How did the tennis player adored by many with chants of "No-le" arrive at the crossroads of greatness in a sport in which he has shared traits of both its heroes and villains? How has he come to thrive at a time where the division is enjoying some of its greatest depth of talent in its extensive history? Sacrifices were made by both him and his family. There were the perseverance and persistence to improve, first to simply be one of the "Big Four" who has defined the current state of men's tennis, and then to hold its throne. There was also an emotional maturing, one that has created a grounding in both his professional and personal worlds which helped him reach the pinnacle of his sport as the number one ranked player in the world and stay among its elite for a prolonged period. Tags: novak djokovic, djokovic biography, andy murray, roger federer, rafael nadal, jelena djokovic, stan wawrinka, serena williams, wimbledon, australian open, tennis greats, tennis legends, tennis books, tennis biographies, pete sampras, john mcenroe

What makes a champion? What does it take to be the best in the world at your sport? Rafael Nadal has the answers. In his memoir, written with award-winning journalist John Carlin, he reveals the secrets of his game and shares the inspiring personal story behind his success. It begins in Mallorca, where the tight-knit Nadal family has lived for generations. Coached by his uncle Toni from the age of four and taught humility and respect by his parents, Nadal has managed the uncommon feat of becoming an acclaimed global celebrity while remaining a gracious, hardworking role model for people in all walks of life. Now he takes us behind the scenes, from winning the Wimbledon 2008 final-described by John McEnroe as "the greatest game of tennis" he had ever seen-to the family problems that brought him low in 2009 and the numerous injuries that have threatened his career. With candor and intelligence, Nadal brings readers on his dramatic and triumphant journey, never losing sight of the prize he

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values above all others: the unity and love of his family. From RAFA: "During a match, you are in a permanent battle to fight back your everyday vulnerabilities, bottle up your human feelings. The more bottled up they are, the greater your chances of winning, so long as you've trained as hard as you play and the gap in talent is not too wide between you and your rival. The gap in talent with Federer existed, but it was not impossibly wide. It was narrow enough, even on his favorite surface in the tournament he played best, for me to know that if I silenced the doubts and fears, and exaggerated hopes, inside my head better than he did, I could beat him. You have to cage yourself in protective armor, turn yourself into a bloodless warrior. It's a kind of self-hypnosis, a game you play, with deadly seriousness, to disguise your own weaknesses from yourself, as well as from your rival."

"An ace of a novel, an ace of a writer." —Tom Franklin, author of *Crooked Letter*, *Crooked Letter Red Dirt* is the story of Jaxie Skinner, an unlikely professional tennis player from a blue-collar family in the sticks of rural Georgia who takes up the game at the age of three when his father scrapes a court out of the red clay behind their farmhouse. He is a natural, rising to the top of junior tennis, and at eighteen has great success at the French Open. He falls as quickly as he rose, however, when troubles back home and injuries arise. He quits the game for years, but then mounts a comeback, struggling for almost a decade in the unglamorous, low-paying minor leagues of tennis, often living out of his van, before getting one last big shot. A fascinating study of tennis, its demands and tactics, as well as a look at the insular and often selfish character required to reach the pinnacle of the sport, *Red Dirt* is the Rocky of tennis novels. PRAISE FOR RED DIRT "Starnes spins a tale with the pace and power of a Rafael Nadal forehand." —Jay Jennings, editor of *Tennis and the Meaning of Life: A Literary Anthology of the Game* "Alright, literate tennis fans, it's time to put down the remote and set aside those stat sheets and take an alternately amusing and inspiring trip from the top of the pro tennis barrel to the bottom—and back again. Joe Samuel Starnes's book radiates an aficionado's understanding of not just how the game is played (on and off the court) but what it takes to triumph in the hyper-competitive pro game." —Peter Bodo, *Tennis* magazine senior writer, ESPN columnist, and co-author of Pete Sampras's autobiography, *A Champion's Mind* "Red Dirt is solid pleasure. Starnes knows what it is to compete, to hope to be made whole by competition, to overcome not just your opponent but your own unquiet. This is a tennis novel, but any athlete—no, any reader—will learn a lot and enjoy the learning." —John Casey, author of *Spartina*, winner of the National Book Award "Red Dirt isn't just a terrific sports novel; it's a terrific novel, period. Jaxie Skinner is a complex and compelling character, and Starnes gives him a clear, fresh, lively voice." —Michael Griffith, author of *Spikes*

In *No Limits*, Michael Phelps - perhaps the greatest Olympic competitor the world has ever seen - will show us the secrets to his remarkable success, from training to execution. Behind his tally of Olympic gold medals - more than any athlete throughout history - lies a consistent approach to competition, a determination to win, mental preparation, and a straightforward passion for his sport. One of his mottos is 'Performance is Reality', and it typifies his attitude about swimming. *No Limits* goes behind the scenes to explore the hard work, sacrifice, and dedication that catapulted Phelps into the international spotlight. Phelps will share remarkable anecdotes about

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family, his coach, his passion for the sport, and the wisdom that he has gained from unexpected challenges and obstacles. Highlighting memorable races and valuable lessons from throughout his career, Phelps offers candid insight into the mind and experiences of a world champion. No Limits will inspire anyone to follow their passion straight to the finish line.

A biography of one of the greatest living tennis players, and his relationship with his homeland of Serbia Novak Djokovic is not just one of the world's great tennis players, he is the de facto ambassador for his homeland, Serbia. Not an easy job, given the lingering resonance of Serbia's role in the 1990s Yugoslav wars in the world's news bulletins. To this day, the words "Serbia" and "atrocities" are linked in the minds of many. This study of both Djokovic and Serbia paints two powerful portraits. It traces the story of the boy from modest surroundings, telling how he met the woman who not only taught him tennis but how to deal with life as a high-profile icon, charts his battle with illness and his relationship with a volatile father, and how his on-court accomplishments have made his country proud. But it also tells the story of Serbia, pulling no punches about its role in the 1990s wars but offering a sensitive interpretation of the hopes and aspirations of a people with a troubled past. This book weaves together these sporting and geo political strands to present a sensitive portrait of a man and his people, and how determination married with sensitivity can create a sporting statesman.

**NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER** • An inspiring and intimate self-portrait of the champion of equality that encompasses her brilliant tennis career, unwavering activism, and an ongoing commitment to fairness and social justice. "A story about the personal strength, immense growth, and undeniable greatness of one woman who fearlessly stood up to a culture trying to break her down."—Serena Williams In this spirited account, Billie Jean King details her life's journey to find her true self. She recounts her groundbreaking tennis career—six years as the top-ranked woman in the world, twenty Wimbledon championships, thirty-nine grand-slam titles, and her watershed defeat of Bobby Riggs in the famous "Battle of the Sexes." She poignantly recalls the cultural backdrop of those years and the profound impact on her worldview from the women's movement, the assassinations and anti-war protests of the 1960s, the civil rights movement, and, eventually, the LGBTQ+ rights movement. She describes the myriad challenges she's hurdled—entrenched sexism, an eating disorder, near financial peril after being outed—on her path to publicly and unequivocally acknowledging her sexual identity at the age of fifty-one. She talks about how her life today remains one of indefatigable service. She offers insights and advice on leadership, business, activism, sports, politics, marriage equality, parenting, sexuality, and love. And she shows how living honestly and openly has had a transformative effect on her relationships and happiness. Hers is the story of a pathbreaking feminist, a world-class athlete, and an indomitable spirit whose impact has transcended even her spectacular achievements in sports.

**#1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER** Far more than a superb memoir about the highest levels of professional tennis, Open is the engrossing story of a remarkable life. Andre Agassi had his life mapped out for him before he left the crib. Groomed to be a tennis champion by his moody and demanding father, by the age of twenty-two Agassi had won the first of his eight grand slams and achieved wealth, celebrity, and the game's highest honors. But as he reveals in this searching autobiography, off the court he was

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often unhappy and confused, unfulfilled by his great achievements in a sport he had come to resent. Agassi writes candidly about his early success and his uncomfortable relationship with fame, his marriage to Brooke Shields, his growing interest in philanthropy, and—described in haunting, point-by-point detail—the highs and lows of his celebrated career.

Learn the Inspiring Story of One of Tennis' Greatest Legends, Roger Federer! Read on your PC, Mac, smartphone, tablet or Kindle device. This holiday season, if you buy the print edition as a gift, you can keep the Kindle edition for yourself! In Roger Federer: The Inspiring Story of One of Tennis' Greatest Legends, you will learn the inspirational story of one of tennis' premier players, Roger Federer. Few players have dominated the game of tennis as much as Federer. As of early 2017, Federer holds eighteen Grand Slam singles titles, the most in history for a male tennis player. When Federer ultimately retires, he will easily go down as one of the greatest to ever play the game. Federer has demonstrated not only what it means to be a champion, but how to carry oneself as a champion on and off the court. In this unauthorized biography, we'll explore Federer's journey to becoming one of the all-time greats, and learn what it has taken him to reach where he is today. Here is a preview of what is inside this book: Early Life and Childhood Junior Years and Early Career First Major Title 2003 Wimbledon Rise to Number 1 and Dominance Federer's Rivals Federer's Personal Life Roger Federer's Impact The Legacy of Roger Federer An excerpt from the book: There are four things for which Switzerland is globally renowned: Chocolate, precision timepieces, neutrality, and Roger Federer. The last allows the Swiss people to blissfully ignore the third when it comes to discussing where the superstar tennis player ranks in the sport's pantheon. Federer has enjoyed a playing career that is at the sunset of a second decade, and his recent recovery from knee surgery and Renaissance to win the Australian Open in January 2017 shows that the Swiss maestro still has something left in his bag of tricks, even at age 35. His 18 Grand Slam singles titles are the most of any player in the Open Era. That number is more impressive considering that his career intersected the sport's history at a time where Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic tied for second and fourth place in that category with 14 and 12, respectively. These three players have had a stranglehold on major titles for nearly a generation, winning the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and the U.S. Open a combined 44 times dating to Federer's first Wimbledon crown in summer of 2003. But it is the elegant Federer who currently stands above the gritty Nadal and the jack-of-all-surfaces Djokovic, due in large part to his metronome-like consistency at an elite level for more than a decade. On the path to becoming arguably the greatest of all time in his sport, Federer's rise was one seen in the distance, starting with his play in juniors. He had to mature from petulant teenager to talented and promising young player on the ATP Tour. Federer then had to absorb match and life lessons from his peers to become a better player. And since the summer following his first victory at the all-England club, Federer's place in tennis lore has come by way of reaction and evolution. He has honed his already finely tuned all-around game and enhanced it with strategy. That often kept him one step ahead of the chasing pack, though now in the autumn of his playing days, it is helping him try to emerge from it. Tags: roger federer, federer biography, andy murray, novak djokovic, rafael nadal, stan wawrinka, serena williams, wimbledon, australian open, tennis greats, tennis legends, tennis books, tennis biographies, pete sampras, john mcenroe

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Novak Djokovic is not just one the world's greatest tennis players - he is a de facto ambassador for his country, Serbia.

"First published in Great Britain in 2015 by Yellow Jersey Press"--Title page verso.

A New York Times bestseller! From gold-medal-winning Olympic gymnast and bestselling author Laurie Hernandez comes a picture book about chasing your dreams and never giving up. Even Olympians have to start somewhere. And in this charming illustrated book, Laurie Hernandez tells the story of Zoe, a little girl who dreams of flying—and becoming a gymnast. When Zoe sees a gymnast on TV, she realizes that gymnastics is just like flying. But when she first goes to class and falls off the balance beam, she discovers that following her dreams is harder and scarier than she thought. Through this heartwarming and inspirational story, featuring vibrant art from Nina Mata, Laurie imparts important lessons she learned on her way to Olympic glory: You always have to get back up and try again, and you always have to believe in yourself.

A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK A “thoroughly captivating biography” (The San Francisco Chronicle) of American icon Arthur Ashe—the Jackie Robinson of men’s tennis—a pioneering athlete who, after breaking the color barrier, went on to become an influential civil rights activist and public intellectual. Born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1943, by the age of eleven, Arthur Ashe was one of the state’s most talented black tennis players. He became the first African American to play for the US Davis Cup team in 1963, and two years later he won the NCAA singles championship. In 1968, he rose to a number one national ranking. Turning professional in 1969, he soon became one of the world’s most successful tennis stars, winning the Australian Open in 1970 and Wimbledon in 1975. After retiring in 1980, he served four years as the US Davis Cup captain and was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1985. In this “deep, detailed, thoughtful chronicle” (The New York Times Book Review), Raymond Arsenault chronicles Ashe’s rise to stardom on the court. But much of the book explores his off-court career as a human rights activist, philanthropist, broadcaster, writer, businessman, and celebrity. In the 1970s and 1980s, Ashe gained renown as an advocate for sportsmanship, education, racial equality, and the elimination of apartheid in South Africa. But from 1979 on, he was forced to deal with a serious heart condition that led to multiple surgeries and blood transfusions, one of which left him HIV-positive. After devoting the last ten months of his life to AIDS activism, Ashe died in February 1993 at the age of forty-nine, leaving an inspiring legacy of dignity, integrity, and active citizenship. Based on prodigious research, including more than one hundred interviews, Arthur Ashe puts Ashe in the context of both his time and the long struggle of African-American athletes seeking equal opportunity and respect, and “will serve as the standard work on Ashe for some time” (Library Journal, starred review).

Thanks to his modest personality, from an early age the great tennis player Rafa Nadal discovered what really matters, and the values that would be the guiding principles for his life. Guided Reading Level: P, Lexile Level: 930L

A champion tennis player reveals his dietary secret to optimum fitness, providing weekly menus, mindful eating tips, and recipes to support a gluten-free lifestyle.

Rafael Nadal is one of the greatest players in the history of tennis. Most fans are aware of his double digit Grand Slam titles and his Career Golden Slam, but in order to truly understand Rafael Nadal, you must first understand where he came from. "Rafael Nadal: An Unauthorized Biography" explores Nadal's upbringing and details his

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breakthrough into professional tennis, all the way through his 2012 victories at the Monte-Carlo Rolex Masters and the Barcelona Open. Nadal's exceptional talents have fans and critics alike wondering where his career will take him next. Inside, you will discover where it all started and learn why so many fans love Nadal so much. From family to tennis to the future, all you need to know about Rafael Nadal is right here, right now, in the most up to date coverage of Rafael Nadal's life.

Spanish tennis legend Rafael Nadal was 19 years and two days old when he won the 2005 French Open in his very first appearance at the event. A left-hander with a booming forehand, Nadal had been known as a clay-court specialist since playing his first pro tournaments in 2001. His aggressive style, flowing hair, and muscular build have made him a fan favorite as well. He won his first singles title in 2004, and had a breakout season in 2005, winning at Monte Carlo, Rome, Barcelona, and Stuttgart as well as at Roland Garros. He won the French Open again in 2006, 2007, and 2008, defeating rival Roger Federer in the final each time. In 2008 he broke through at Wimbledon, beating Federer to win the men's singles title in a spectacular fashion. Here is his unbelievable story.

Andy Murray's own account of his road to Wimbledon glory Andy Murray takes readers on a personal journey through his career. In a memoir focusing on the last two dramatic years, he shares his thoughts on the pivotal moments of his playing career and allows fans a glimpse into his world—his intense training regime, his close-knit team, and his mental and physical battle to get to the very top. This beautiful, very personal book is a stunning celebration of Andy's career so far.

"Touching and courageous...All of it--the man, the life, the book--is rare and beautiful." COSMOPOLITAN DAYS OF GRACE is an inspiring memoir of a remarkable man who was the true embodiment of courage, elegance, and the spirit to fight: Arthur Ashe--tennis champion, social activist, and person with AIDS. Frank, revealing, touching--DAYS OF GRACE is the story of a man felled to soon. It remains as his legacy to us all.... AN ALTERNATE SELECTION OF THE BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB

Discover The Inspirational Story of Tennis Superstar Rafael Nadal!Read on your PC, Mac, smart phone, tablet or Kindle device!You're about to discover the incredibly inspirational story of tennis superstar Rafael Nadal. If you're reading this then you must be a fan of Rafael, like so many others. As a fan, you must wonder how this man is so talented and want to know more about him. Rafael is considered to be one of the greatest tennis players ever and it's been an honor to be able to watch him compete throughout his career. This book will reveal to you much about Rafael's story and the many accomplishments throughout his career.Here Is A Preview Of What You'll Learn... Youth and Family Life Amateur Career Professional Career and Notable Moments Legacy, Charitable Acts and much more! If you want to learn more about Rafael Nadal, then this book is for you. It will reveal to you many things that you did not know about this incredible tennis star>About the Author:Inspirational Stories is a series aimed at highlighting the great athletes of our society. Our mission is to present the stories of athletes who are not only impactful in their sport, but also great people outside of it. The athletes we write about have gone above and beyond to become impactful in their community and great role models for the youth, all while showing excellence in their profession. We publish concise, easily consumable books that portray the turning points

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in the lives of these great athletes, while also giving the context in which they occurred. Our books are especially great for children who look up to sports figures. Hopefully these athletes can serve as a source of inspiration and their stories can provide life lessons that are practical for fans of any demographic.

Rafael Nadal  
The Inspirational Story of Tennis Superstar Rafael Nadal  
CreateSpace  
Serena Williams coach's hugely motivational and inspirational story. As a child he was full of suffering. In his own words "puny and very timid, paralysed by the shame of not being able to do better." Now, a world leading coach who transformed Serena Williams in to the world's number one. His story is a great example of trial over adversity.

A huge international bestseller, this heartbreaking tale of a tiny Italian village during two World Wars will stay with you forever. Among the olive groves and vineyards of southern Italy, a boy and a girl are born, moments apart. Far away in the trenches of World War I, their fathers have just died. Now all the men in Vitantonio's family have been wiped out – all twenty-one. All except him. Growing up together, war seems far away for the two children. But Vitantonio's mother will do anything to protect her son from the curse of death that seems to hang over the family – and so she tells a lie. It is a lie that will bind Vitantonio and Giovanna, the girl who shares his birthday, together over the years. But as the clouds of another war begin to gather on the horizon, it may ultimately drive them apart...

The tennis virtuoso strikes each ball with a watchmaker's precision. But he's more than a Swiss national hero, enthraling the masses across the world with his elegant play, his groundedness and his resilience. At 37, the father of four is still diligently increasing his stardom. He is considered not just the best tennis player in history, but one of the greatest athletes of all time. This book is a bestseller in Europe and is now available in English for the first time.

Learn the Inspiring Story of One of Tennis' Greatest Legends, Rafael Nadal! Read on your PC, Mac, smartphone, tablet or Kindle device. This holiday season, if you buy the print edition as a gift, you can keep the Kindle edition for yourself! In Rafael Nadal: The Inspiring Story of One of Tennis' Greatest Legends, you will learn the incredible story of one of tennis' best players, Rafael Nadal. For the last two decades, three men have dominated the game of tennis: Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, and Rafael Nadal. Nadal will likely go down as the greatest clay-court player to ever grace the court. At the time of this writing, Nadal is just 31 years-old, meaning he will likely have a few years of his career left to capture more grand slams. In this unauthorized biography, we'll explore Nadal's journey to becoming one of the all-time greats, and learn what it has taken him to reach where he is today. Here is a preview of what is inside this book: Early Life and Childhood Junior Years and Early Career Teenage Years and Early Pro Career Nadal's First Grand Slam Title, the 2005 French Open Nadal's Rise to Stardom Nadal's All-Time Rivals Nadal's Personal Life Rafael Nadal's Legacy An excerpt from the book: In the early part of the 21st century, Spain has provided the world with two significant contributions to the sports world. One lasted for nearly a decade, and the second continues to amaze as he enters the twilight of his career. The first is the Spanish national soccer team, who revolutionized the way the game is played thanks to their "tiki-taka" style of quick passing in triangles, emphasis on possession, and intelligent runs into space that stretched opposing defenses. A group of stars led by Andres Iniesta, Xavi, Gerard Pique, Sergio Ramos and many others had an unprecedented amount of success as they bracketed a 2010 World Cup title with European Championship crowns in both 2008 and 2012. The aesthetic beauty of the tiki-taka in which players feint and move in rapid succession as the ball is effortlessly caressed around the pitch is a stark contrast to the violent beauty of Spain's other notable sports export, tennis star Rafael Nadal. A naturally talented yet self-made player, Nadal has turned one of the hardest-hit two-handed shots in the game into a cottage industry of success. His 15 Grand



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Slam titles are second all-time to arguably the greatest player in the sport's history and his generational peer Roger Federer. His unrivaled dominance of the clay-court surface, highlighted by his record 10 French Open titles, did not just harken the names of Bjorn Borg and Mats Wilander to tennis historians. They also fall in line without debate behind the man known as "Rafa," a spitfire of energy who punctuates his key points with a fist pump and a cry of "Vamos!" In a period when men's tennis was blessed with three of its greatest players, here is the story of the man who not only challenged greatness but became great himself in the process. This is the story of Rafael Nadal Parera. Tags: rafael nadal, nadal biography, roger federer, andy murray, novak djokovic, rafael nadal, stan wawrinka, serena williams, wimbledon, australian open, tennis greats, tennis legends, tennis books, tennis biographies, pete sampras, john mcenroe

Pete Sampras is a central figure in the history of tennis, the dominant force in the game during the 1990's, and the greatest American male player of all time. Gradually, after a fairytale finish to his career when he won the 2002 U.S. Open, Sampras was somewhat forgotten by fans who were exhilarated by the exploits of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. In this career biography of the redoubtable Sampras, Hall of Fame author and historian Steve Flink recaptures the magic of the man, recalling the supreme hold he had on his era, bringing this singularly gifted player vividly back to life. Flink portrays Sampras as a rare champion who was in many ways larger than the game he played.

Since 2004, two names have dominated men's tennis: Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. Each player is legendary in his own right. The Spanish Nadal is the winner of sixteen Grand Slam titles, including five consecutive French Open singles titles from 2010-2014, and is the only player ever to win a Grand Slam for ten straight years. Federer, from Switzerland, has spent over three hundred weeks of his career ranked as the number-one player in the world and has won twenty Grand Slam titles and two Olympic medals. But neither player's career would have been nearly as successful without the decade-long rivalry that pushed them to rise to the peak of tennis excellence. Nadal and Federer have met thirty-eight times over the course of their careers, and have shared the distinction of being ranked the two best players in the world for an astounding six years in a row from 2005-2009. In *Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal*, international sports journalist Sebastian Fest uses information gleaned from his numerous interviews with both players over the last decade to narrate the rivalry, and its impact not only on the players, but on the sport itself. Documenting their respective wins and losses, hopes and disappointments, and relationships with their rivals, Fest formulates a unique biography of two of the greatest players of tennis. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Sports Publishing imprint, is proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in sports—books about baseball, pro football, college football, pro and college basketball, hockey, or soccer, we have a book about your sport or your team. In addition to books on popular team sports, we also publish books for a wide variety of athletes and sports enthusiasts, including books on running, cycling, horseback riding, swimming, tennis, martial arts, golf, camping, hiking, aviation, boating, and so much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to publishing books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked by other publishers and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

**DIV** At the age of sixteen, Monica Seles crashed on to the world tennis scene by becoming the youngest winner in French Open History. For three years, she dominated the tennis circuit, racking up eight Grand Slam titles, winning three back-to-back French Open titles. At post-match conferences she charmed the media with her trademark giggle. In January 1993, Seles defeated Steffi Graf in the Australian Women's Open and in April of that year, while playing a quarter-final in Hamburg, a boning knife was plunged between her shoulder blades by a Graff fan. Everything changed. The incident shocked the tennis world. Seles's injuries healed, but

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Seles did not. Now, in this compelling book she tells us in her own words what followed - years of seclusion, the fog of despair, binge eating, dealing with criticism about her weight from a brutal press, losing her father-coach to cancer and never regaining her dominance on court despite getting in to the top 10. After years battling to regain fitness and tennis glory, an excruciating injury forced Monica to take time off from tennis in 2003 and she embarked on her own journey. She abandoned the arduous workouts and punitive diets, and slowly uncovered the painful emotions behind years of tumultuous feelings. This is a human and inspiring story of determination, amazing talent and touching vulnerability, that Seles hopes will motivate and inspire others to find happiness in their own lives. Monica Seles is a former No 1 professional tennis player who became the youngest-ever champion at the French Open in 1990 and went on to win nine Grand Slam singles titles. In 2007, she was appointed goodwill ambassador for the UN's Global Sports for Peace and Development Initiative. /div

From Maria Sharapova, one of our fiercest female athletes, the captivating—and candid—story of her rise from nowhere to tennis stardom, and the unending fight to stay on top. In 2004, in a stunning upset against the two-time defending champion Serena Williams, seventeen-year-old Maria Sharapova won Wimbledon, becoming an overnight sensation. Out of virtual anonymity, she launched herself onto the international stage. “Maria Mania” was born. Sharapova became a name and face recognizable worldwide. Her success would last: she went on to hold the number-one WTA ranking multiple times, to win four more Grand Slam tournaments, and to become one of the highest-grossing female athletes in the world. And then—at perhaps the peak of her career—Sharapova came up against the toughest challenge yet: during the 2016 Australian Open, she was charged by the ITF with taking the banned substance meldonium, only recently added to the ITF's list. The resulting suspension would keep her off the professional courts for fifteen months—a frighteningly long time for any athlete. The media suggested it might be fateful. But Sharapova's career has always been driven by her determination and by her dedication to hard work. Her story doesn't begin with the 2004 Wimbledon championship, but years before, in a small Russian town, where as a five-year-old she played on drab neighborhood courts with precocious concentration. It begins when her father, convinced his daughter could be a star, risked everything to get them to Florida, that sacred land of tennis academies. It begins when the two arrived with only seven hundred dollars and knowing only a few words of English. From that, Sharapova scraped together one of the most influential sports careers in history. Here, for the first time, is the whole story, and in her own words. Sharapova's is an unforgettable saga of dedication and fortune. She brings us inside her pivotal matches and illuminates the relationships that have shaped her—with coaches, best friends, boyfriends, and Yuri, her coach, manager, father, and most dedicated fan, describing with honesty and affection their oft-scrutinized relationship. She writes frankly about the suspension. As Sharapova returns to the professional circuit, one thing is clear: the ambition to win that drove her from the public courts of Russia to the manicured lawns of Wimbledon has not diminished. Sharapova's Unstoppable is a powerful memoir, resonant in its depiction of the will to win—whatever the odds.

Regarded by many as the greatest tennis player in the history of the sport, this authoritative biography is based on many exclusive interviews with Federer and his family as well as the author's experience covering the international tennis circuit for many years. Completely comprehensive, it provides an informed account of the Swiss tennis star from his early days as a temperamental player on the junior circuit, through his early professional career, to his winning major tennis tournaments, including the U.S. Open and Wimbledon. Readers will appreciate the anecdotes about his early years, revel in the insider's view of the professional tennis circuit, and be inspired by this champion's rise to the top of his game.

A no-holds-barred, intimate memoir by John McEnroe—the bad boy of professional tennis. John McEnroe stunned the tennis elite when he came out of

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nowhere to make the Wimbledon semifinals at the age of eighteen—and just a few years later, he was ranked number one in the world. *You Cannot Be Serious* is McEnroe at his most personal, an intimate examination of Johnny Mac, the kid from Queens, and his “wild ride” through the world of professional tennis at a boom time when players were treated like rock stars. In this “bracing serve-and-volley autobiography” (The Boston Globe) he candidly explores the roots of his famous on-court explosions; his ambivalence toward the sport that made him famous; his adventures (and misadventures) on the road; his views of colleagues from Connors to Borg to Lendl; his opinions of contemporary tennis; his marriages to actress Tatum O’Neal and pop star Patty Smyth; and his roles as husband, father, senior tour player, and often-controversial commentator.

Roger Federer is a legend not only in the world of tennis but also in the wider sporting arena. With a record-breaking tally of 16 Grand Slam titles to his name, he shows no sign of slowing down and in 2010 added another Australian Open win to his collection, as well as taking the trophy in the end-of-season ATP World Wide Tour Finals in London. This authoritative and affectionate biography traces the rise of Federer, from his first tentative strokes with a tennis racket to how he dealt with being sent away to a training academy where he struggled to communicate in a French-speaking part of Switzerland; and how he handled the sudden death of his first real coach and mentor. It looks at his development as a sportsman and how he has matured into a family man with his marriage to Mirka Vavrinec and the birth of their twin girls. It also examines how Roger bounced back from arguably one of the most challenging periods of his career as, following a serious illness and a dip in form, his run of successive Wimbledon championship wins was ended and he was toppled from the number one spot by his long-time rival Rafael Nadal. In characteristic style, Federer silenced his critics by winning the French Open title for the first time, reclaiming his Wimbledon crown and ending 2009 at the number one position for the fifth time. *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today* Bestseller! Gold medal-winning Olympic gymnast and *Dancing with the Stars* champion Laurie Hernandez shares her story in her own words in this debut book for fans of all ages—with never-before-seen photos! At sixteen years old, Laurie Hernandez has already made many of her dreams come true—and yet it’s only the beginning for this highly accomplished athlete. A Latina Jersey girl, Laurie saw her life take a dramatic turn last summer when she was chosen to be a part of the 2016 US Olympic gymnastics team. After winning gold in Rio as part of the Final Five, Laurie also earned an individual silver medal for her performance on the balance beam. Nicknamed “the Human Emoji” for her wide-eyed and animated expressions, Laurie continued to dance her way into everyone’s hearts while competing on the hit reality TV show *Dancing with the Stars*, where she was the youngest-ever winner of the Mirrorball Trophy. Poignant and funny, Laurie’s story is about growing up with the dream of becoming an Olympian and what it took to win gold. She talks about her loving family, her rigorous training, her

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intense sacrifices, and her amazing triumphs. Be prepared to fall in love with and be mesmerized by America's newest sweetheart all over again.

The executive editor of Sports Illustrated offers an in-depth analysis and behind-the-scenes look at the historic 2008 match between tennis titans. In the 2008 Wimbledon men's final, Centre Court was a stage set worthy of Shakespearean drama. Five-time champion Roger Federer was on track to take his rightful place as the most dominant player in the history of the game. He just needed to cling to his trajectory. So, in the last few moments of daylight, Centre Court witnessed a coronation. Only it wasn't a crowning for the Swiss heir apparent but for a swashbuckling Spaniard. Twenty-two-year-old Rafael Nadal prevailed, in five sets, in what was, according to the author, "essentially a four-hour, forty-eight-minute infomercial for everything that is right about tennis—a festival of skill, accuracy, grace, strength, speed, endurance, determination, and sportsmanship." It was also the encapsulation of a fascinating rivalry, hard fought and of historic proportions. In the tradition of John McPhee's classic *Levels of the Game*, *Strokes of Genius* deconstructs this defining moment in sport, using that match as the backbone of a provocative, thoughtful, and entertaining look at the science, art, psychology, technology, strategy, and personality that go into a single tennis match. With vivid, intimate detail, Wertheim re-creates this epic battle in a book that is both a study of the mechanics and art of the game and the portrait of a rivalry as dramatic as that of Ali–Frazier, Palmer–Nicklaus, and McEnroe–Borg. "Deftly touches on all the defining factors of contemporary tennis." —San Francisco Chronicle "Illuminates a kingdom changing hands. An engrossing book." —Bud Collins

A major biography of the greatest men's tennis player of the modern era. There have been other biographies of Roger Federer, but never one with this kind of access to the man himself, his support team, and the most prominent figures in the game, including such rivals as Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, and Andy Roddick. In *The Master*, New York Times correspondent Christopher Clarey sits down with Federer and those closest to him to tell the story of the greatest player in men's tennis. Roger Federer has often made it look astonishingly easy through the decades: carving backhands, gliding to forehands, leaping for overheads and, in his most gravity-defying act, remaining high on a pedestal in a world of sports rightfully flooded with cynicism. But his path from temperamental, bleach-blond teenager with dubious style sense to one of the greatest, most self-possessed and elegant of competitors has been a long-running act of will, not destiny. He not only had a great gift. He had grit. Christopher Clarey, one of the top international sportswriters working today, has covered Federer since the beginning of his professional career. He was in Paris on the Suzanne Lenglen Court for Federer's first Grand Slam match and has interviewed him exclusively more than any other journalist since his rise to prominence. Here, Clarey focuses on the pivotal people, places, and moments in Federer's long and rich career: reporting from South Africa, South America, the Middle East, four Grand Slam

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tournaments, and Federer's native Switzerland. It has been a journey like no other player's, rife with victories and a few crushing defeats, one that has redefined enduring excellence and made Federer a sentimental favorite worldwide. The Master tells the story of Federer's life and career on both an intimate and grand scale, in a way no one else could possibly do.

Learn about the inspirational story of Novak Djokovic In *Novak Djokovic: A Biography of the Serbian Superstar* you will learn about the life, professional career, and accomplishments of Novak Djokovic. There were two tennis superstars who ruled the sport--and this is the story of the player who pushed them aside to dominate tennis. Novak Djokovic wasn't supposed to be a tennis player, but as a child he decided to pick up a racquet; and that eventually led him to being the player to end the era of Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. His story is unlike other players', as he dodged air strikes in Serbia to practice, then headed to Germany to learn about the game, and progressed to being the highest money earner that tennis has ever seen. All his Grand Slam wins and all his great rivalries made him a player without equal. Few tennis players have grabbed the attention of tennis fans like Novak Djokovic has. His complete game has won him all four Grand Slam tournaments. He has set records and is among an elite group of all-time greats. But before he dethroned Roger Federer as tennis' best, he had a unique, and unlikely, journey from tennis courts on a mountain to Centre Court at Wimbledon. Here is a preview of this biography: Novak, Tennis and Serbia

The German Tennis Academy 2005 Australian Open Qualifier First ATP Title Winning the 2008 Australian Open Chasing Federer Ranked Number 1 in 2011 Battling Federer, Murray and Nadal Finally Gets the French Open Djokovic Versus Sampras, Laver, Federer and Other Greats Here is an excerpt from the book: As Novak's victories kept adding up, the media spotlight intensified on him, and reporters and fans often talked about how he bounced the ball a lot before he served. As many as fifteen or twenty times, the number of times he bounced the ball before serving irritated some players and fans. Mind games are a big part of sports, and if Novak was doing it to get an advantage, it probably worked more than once. People started counting the bounces, and Novak must have as well: "My record was in 2007 during the Davis Cup against Australia. I made the ball bounce thirty-eight or thirty-nine times (before serving)." It was a great year for Novak. He won \$12,595,903. He won 92% of his matches. He added ten more titles to his trophy case. Novak set impressive win streaks, including thirty-one wins in consecutive Masters matches and also a streak of forty-three tennis-match wins. He won a title at three Grand Slams and advanced to the semifinal in the other. He achieved the No. 1 ranking in the world. Novak had it all.

Before Federer versus Nadal, before Borg versus McEnroe, the greatest tennis match ever played pitted the dominant Don Budge against the seductively handsome Baron Gottfried von Cramm. This deciding 1937 Davis Cup match, played on the hallowed grounds of Wimbledon, was a battle of titans: the world's number one tennis player against the number two; America against Germany;

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democracy against fascism. For five superhuman sets, the duo's brilliant shotmaking kept the Centre Court crowd—and the world—spellbound. But the match's significance extended well beyond the immaculate grass courts of Wimbledon. Against the backdrop of the Great Depression and the brink of World War II, one man played for the pride of his country while the other played for his life. Budge, the humble hard-working American who would soon become the first man to win all four Grand Slam titles in the same year, vied to keep the Davis Cup out of the hands of the Nazi regime. On the other side of the net, the immensely popular and elegant von Cramm fought Budge point for point knowing that a loss might precipitate his descent into the living hell being constructed behind barbed wire back home. Born into an aristocratic family, von Cramm was admired for his devastating good looks as well as his unparalleled sportsmanship. But he harbored a dark secret, one that put him under increasing Gestapo surveillance. And his situation was made even more perilous by his refusal to join the Nazi Party or defend Hitler. Desperately relying on his athletic achievements and the global spotlight to keep him out of the Gestapo's clutches, his strategy was to keep traveling and keep winning. A Davis Cup victory would make him the toast of Germany. A loss might be catastrophic. Watching the mesmerizingly intense match from the stands was von Cramm's mentor and all-time tennis superstar Bill Tilden—a consummate showman whose double life would run in ironic counterpoint to that of his German pupil. Set at a time when sports and politics were inextricably linked, *A Terrible Splendor* gives readers a courtside seat on that fateful day, moving gracefully between the tennis match for the ages and the dramatic events leading Germany, Britain, and America into global war. A book like no other in its weaving of social significance and athletic spectacle, this soul-stirring account is ultimately a tribute to the strength of the human spirit.

A riveting chronicle of trailblazing tennis champion and cultural icon Serena Williams's turbulent 2019 tour season and a revealing portrait of who she is, both on and off the court. Serena Williams is an undisputed global sports celebrity. Ranked #12 on ESPN's 2018 World Fame 100 list of popular athletes, thirty-seven-year-old Serena Williams is the only female in the top 20, and she's one of the highest paid athletes in the world. The face of women's tennis for the past two decades, Serena is now waging battles on multiple fronts—against age, injuries, and opponents almost twenty years her junior, all while juggling her responsibilities as a new mom. *Seeing Serena* is an in-depth chronicle of Serena Williams' return to tennis after giving birth to her daughter, and an insightful cultural analysis of the most consequential female athlete of her time. Author Gerald Marzorati shadows her through her 2019 season, from Melbourne and the Australian Open, to Roland-Garros and Wimbledon, and on to the US Open as she seeks her 24th Grand Slam singles title. He writes about her tennis and her forays into fashion, investing, and developing her personal brand on social media. *Seeing Serena* illuminates Williams's singular status as the greatest

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women's tennis player of all time and—in a moment when race and gender are the most talked-about topics in America and beyond—a pop icon like no other. Marzorati is on the scene, observing her matches, and talking to her, her coach, her competitors, and former greats who have witnessed her for years. He observes her, listens to her, studies her, explores her roles in society and history—sees Serena fully, in all the ways she has come to matter.

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