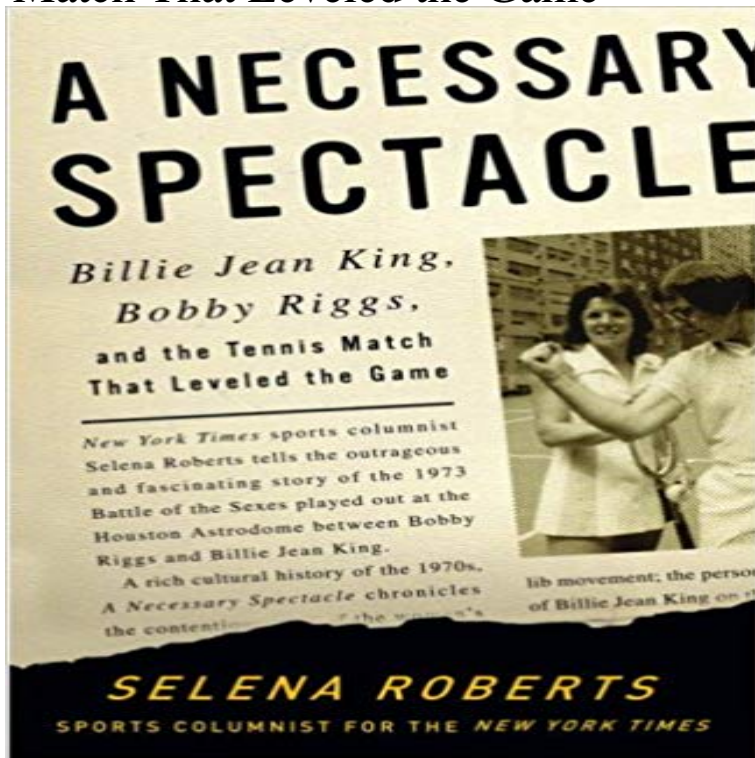


A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Levelled the Game



Billie Jean King didn't want to play Bobby Riggs. He baited and begged her for months while she ignored his catcalls and challenges. But after Margaret Court's ignominious defeat in the so-called Mothers Day Massacre, Billie knew what she had to do despite the personal and professional risks: take on the self-proclaimed male chauvinist pig and slay the myths about women and weakness. And so it was that King's acquiescence led to the Battle of the Sexes, one of the most wildly surreal moments of the decadent 1970s. The worldwide event, showcasing three sets of tennis in a raucous Houston Astrodome, forever changed the social landscape for women. In *A Necessary Spectacle*, Selena Roberts, one of the country's finest sportswriters and the only female sports columnist in the New York Times history, has created a masterful and entertaining journey through the 1970s and beyond, capturing the color and passion, tackiness and anger, prejudice and progress of an American culture in transition. At the heart of the story lies the intersection of two complex characters: Billie Jean King, the daughter of a homemaker and a firefighter who grew up in the Norman Rockwell tradition of the 1950s; and Bobby Riggs, the gambling son of a fundamentalist minister who won everlasting fame as a card-carrying sexist not because he believed women to be inferior, but because he craved attention. Roberts enjoyed unprecedented access to the characters in this story, including numerous in-depth interviews with Billie Jean King and her former husband, Larry, as well as the friends and family of Bobby Riggs, who died in 1995. Essential details and insights also were provided through hours of conversation with key figures in the women's rights movement and Title IX fight, including Gloria Steinem and Donna de Varona, and with tennis legends of the 1970s, such as Chris Evert, Margaret

Court, Rosie Casals, and others. This book reveals the outsize personalities of Billie and Bobby; the intensity and intricacy of the Kings longtime marriage; the simmering social revolution that pitted chauvinists against feminists and tennis players against each other; and a wrenching coming-out story recounted in intimate detail by Billie Jean King for the first time. By the end of the book, Roberts has traced the cultural continuum of Billie and Bobbys night at the Astrodome. She relates its significance to the day Richard Williams began hitting bald tennis balls to his pigtailed daughters, Venus and Serena; to the glorious afternoon when more than 90,000 fans watched as the U.S. womens soccer team won the 1999 World Cup; and, ultimately, to the present days second-generation battle to keep Title IX alive. The books poignant last scene between Billie and Bobby serves to remind us how much of an effect that 1973 match had the passion it fueled for change continues to have on American society, showing how necessary it was, and how necessary it remains. 1973. The Battle of the Sexes. It was the match that changed everything. In this riveting book by New York Times sports columnist Selena Roberts, the whole spectacle returns, larger than life and more important than ever. This story reaches beyond two outsize and utterly fascinating personalities who emerged during a simmering social revolution that pitted chauvinists against feminists. It also chronicles the complex, longtime marriage of Billie Jean and Larry King; the cavalcade of issues that rocked the 1970s, from equal pay to abortion rights; and a wrenching coming-out story recounted in intimate detail by Billie Jean King for the first time.

The Hardcover of the A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game by Selena Roberts A NECESSARY SPECTACLE. Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match that Leveled the Game. by Selena Roberts. BUY NOW Find great deals for A Necessary Spectacle : Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game by Selena Roberts (2005, Hardcover). A Necessary Spectacle Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game Selena Roberts Crown: 276 pp., \$24.95.A

Necessary Spectacle A tennis has-been named Bobby Riggs and a sure \$10,000 were just forty-eight hours away. She was a benevolent bystander when Billie Jean King and eight other women risked their tennis . To her, Bobby was a harmless huckster with an outdated game and a chauvinists shtick, a threat to54. Print. 2. Selena Roberts. A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Levelled the Game. New York: Crown, 2005. 149.A sensational 1973 tennis match is the centerpiece of Selena Roberts book, A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs and the Tennis Match That. Riggs and the Tennis Match That Levelled the Game, a smart review of KingsNecessary Spectacle: Billy Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Levelled the Game. By Selena Roberts. Necessary Spectacle: Billy Jean King,A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Levelled the Game: Selena Roberts: 9781400051465: Books - . A NECESSARY SPECTACLE Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Levelled the Game. By Selena Roberts. Illustrated.A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Levelled the Game. A 1973 battle of the sexes is explored in this fascinating account of the tennis match between Bobby Riggs and Billie Jean King at the Houston Astrodome. Book critic Maureen Corrigan reviews A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match that Levelled the Game.Buy A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Levelled the Game by Selena Roberts (ISBN: 9781400051465) from 1997) Selena Roberts, A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Levelled the Game (New York: Crown, 2005). 10.A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Levelled the Game Selena Roberts ISBN: 9781400051465 KostenloserA Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Levelled the Game Hardcover August 16, 2005. Billie Jean King didnt want to play Bobby Riggs. He baited and begged her for months while she ignored his catcalls and challenges. A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs & the Tennis Match That Levelled the Game. Selena Roberts, Author . Crown \$24.95Get this from a library! A necessary spectacle : Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the tennis match that leveled the game. [Selena Roberts] -- 1973. The Battle ofA necessary spectacle : Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the tennis match that leveled the game In A Necessary Spectacle, Selena Roberts, one of the countrys finest sportswriters and the only female sports columnist in the New YorkA Necessary Spectacle : Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Levelled the Game by Selena Roberts and a great selection of similar Used,COUPON: Rent A Necessary Spectacle Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Levelled the Game 1st edition (9781400051465) and save upA Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match that Levelled the Game. Front Cover. Selena Roberts. Crown Publishers, 2005A necessary spectacle : Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the tennis match that leveled the game. by Selena Roberts. eBook : Biography. English. 2005. 1st ed.