



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

*Selena Roberts*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

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

*Selena Roberts*

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

Selena Roberts

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 Mother's 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 Bobby's 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. women's soccer team won the 1999 World Cup; and, ultimately, to the present day's second-generation battle to keep Title IX alive. The book's poignant last scene between Billie and Bobby serves to remind us how much of an effect that 1973 match—and 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.

 [Download A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Rig ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby R ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game Selena Roberts**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Janet Roldan:**

Do you one among people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game book is readable by means of you who hate the straight word style. You will find the info here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer involving A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game content conveys objective easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the articles but it just different such as it. So , do you still thinking A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

#### **Virginia Mack:**

This A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game are generally reliable for you who want to be described as a successful person, why. The main reason of this A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game can be one of many great books you must have is usually giving you more than just simple studying food but feed a person with information that possibly will shock your prior knowledge. This book is actually handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed ones. Beside that this A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game forcing you to have an enormous of experience for example rich vocabulary, giving you trial run of critical thinking that we know it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

#### **Judith Craig:**

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always aim to and must have the time or they will get large amount of stress from both way of life and work. So , when we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not just a robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, the book you have read is usually A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game.

#### **Richard Lamm:**

As a student exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher asked them to go to the library or even make summary for some publication, they are complained. Just little students that has reading's soul or real their leisure activity. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to go to the library. They go to there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that looking at is not important, boring as well as can't see

colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is to be complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this period, many ways to get whatever we want. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore this A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game can make you feel more interested to read.

**Download and Read Online A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game Selena Roberts #3GBCW0JSU5Y**

## **Read A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game by Selena Roberts for online ebook**

A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game by Selena Roberts Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game by Selena Roberts books to read online.

### **Online A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game by Selena Roberts ebook PDF download**

**A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game by Selena Roberts Doc**

**A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game by Selena Roberts Mobipocket**

**A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game by Selena Roberts EPub**