

The Right Set: A Literary Ace's Guide to Vintage Tennis Lore

In the annals of sports literature, tennis occupies a unique place, its pages adorned with tales of triumph, heartbreak, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. Amidst the vast literary landscape dedicated to the sport, a hidden gem awaits discovery: "The Right Set," an anthology that captures the golden era of tennis through the eyes of legendary authors.

"The Right Set" was born from the brilliant mind of John McPhee, an acclaimed writer known for his incisive prose and keen observation of the human condition. In the 1960s, McPhee, a lifelong tennis enthusiast, embarked on a literary journey to chronicle the sport's rich history and enduring legacy.

Over the course of several years, McPhee assembled a diverse group of writers, including literary giants like John Updike, James Baldwin, and Vladimir Nabokov. Each contributor brought a unique perspective to the anthology, weaving their words into a tapestry of tennis lore that transcended the boundaries of mere sports writing.



The Right Set: A Tennis Anthology (Vintage International) by Caryl Phillips

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2882 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 347 pages



The contributors to "The Right Set" were not simply sportswriters; they were literary titans who brought their distinct writing styles and literary prowess to the court of tennis.

- **John Updike:** The master of American realism, Updike's essay "Match Point" delves into the psychological complexities of a crucial tennis match, capturing the tension and drama that unfolds on the court.
- **James Baldwin:** A renowned novelist and essayist, Baldwin's contribution explores the social and cultural significance of tennis, particularly its role in shaping African American identity and aspirations.
- **Vladimir Nabokov:** The enigmatic Russian-American novelist, Nabokov's "The Defense" is a playful and philosophical take on the game of tennis, blending humor with profound insights into the nature of human competition.

"The Right Set" transports readers to the golden era of tennis, when the sport captivated the imagination of the world. Through the eyes of its contributors, the anthology vividly recreates the iconic matches, unforgettable players, and unforgettable moments that shaped the sport's legend.

John McPhee's profile of Wimbledon captures the grandeur and tradition of the tournament, while George Plimpton takes us behind the scenes at the US Open, providing an intimate glimpse into the world of professional tennis.

Since its publication in 1982, "The Right Set" has become a beloved classic among tennis enthusiasts, literary aficionados, and anyone who appreciates the power of great writing. Its timeless prose and insightful observations continue to inspire and entertain readers of all generations.

Today, "The Right Set" stands as a testament to the enduring power of sports literature, demonstrating that even the most seemingly niche topics can be transformed into literary masterpieces when approached with passion and skill.

The relationship between tennis and literature is a rich and mutually beneficial one. Tennis provides a fertile ground for literary exploration, offering themes of competition, triumph, and the human condition. In turn, literature elevates tennis to an art form, capturing its beauty and complexity in a way that transcends mere athleticism.

"The Right Set" is a prime example of this symbiotic relationship, showcasing the power of literature to illuminate the hidden depths of the game of tennis and leave an indelible mark on the literary landscape.

"The Right Set" is not only a collection of tennis stories; it is a literary masterpiece that has immortalized the sport's golden era in print. Through its pages, readers can relive the iconic matches, marvel at the unforgettable players, and delve into the complex social and cultural tapestry that surrounds tennis.

For those who love tennis or appreciate great literature, "The Right Set" is an essential read. It is a reminder that even in the realm of sports, the power of words can create a lasting legacy and inspire generations to come.



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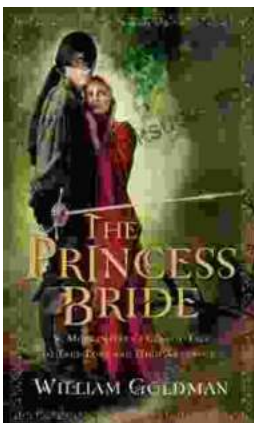
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