

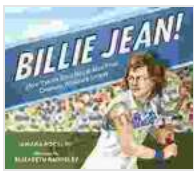
Billie Jean King: The Tennis Icon Who Changed Women's Sports



Billie Jean King is a true pioneer in the world of sports. As a tennis player, she won 39 Grand Slam titles, including 12 singles titles at Wimbledon. But her legacy extends far beyond her on-court accomplishments. King has

been a lifelong advocate for gender equality, and she played a key role in the founding of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA). She also founded the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, which is the home of the US Open.

King's fight for gender equality began in the early 1970s, when she was one of the first female athletes to speak out against the discrimination that women faced in sports. She famously challenged Bobby Riggs to a "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match in 1973, and her victory helped to raise awareness of the issue of gender inequality in sports. King's advocacy work has continued throughout her career, and she has been a vocal supporter of Title IX, which is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities.



Billie Jean!: How Tennis Star Billie Jean King Changed Women's Sports by Mara Rockliff

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 40 pages



King's story is an inspiration to anyone who has ever faced adversity. She has shown that it is possible to overcome even the most difficult challenges, and she has made a lasting impact on the world of sports. Her legacy will continue to inspire generations of athletes to come.

Early Life and Career

Billie Jean King was born in Long Beach, California, in 1943. She began playing tennis at the age of 11, and she quickly became one of the top junior players in the country. King turned professional in 1962, and she quickly rose through the ranks of professional tennis. She won her first Grand Slam title at the 1966 Wimbledon Championships, and she went on to win 12 singles titles at Wimbledon, 4 at the French Open, 6 at the US Open, and 4 at the Australian Open.

In addition to her singles success, King was also a successful doubles player. She won 16 Grand Slam doubles titles and 2 mixed doubles titles. She also helped the United States win the Fed Cup 7 times.

The Battle of the Sexes

In 1973, King faced off against Bobby Riggs in a "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match. Riggs was a former Wimbledon champion, and he was confident that he would defeat King. However, King won the match in straight sets, and her victory was a major victory for the women's rights movement.

The Battle of the Sexes was a watershed moment in the history of women's sports. It helped to raise awareness of the issue of gender inequality in sports, and it inspired a new generation of female athletes.

Advocacy for Gender Equality

King has been a lifelong advocate for gender equality. She has spoken out against discrimination against women in sports, and she has worked to promote opportunities for female athletes. In 1973, she founded the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), which is the governing body for women's professional tennis.

King has also been a vocal supporter of Title IX, which is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities. Title IX has been instrumental in increasing opportunities for female athletes at all levels.

Legacy

Billie Jean King is a true pioneer in the world of sports. She has won more Grand Slam titles than any other female tennis player, and she has been a lifelong advocate for gender equality. King's legacy will continue to inspire generations of athletes to come.

Billie Jean King is a true icon in the world of sports. She is a champion on and off the court, and she has made a lasting impact on the lives of countless people. Her story is an inspiration to anyone who has ever faced adversity, and her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.



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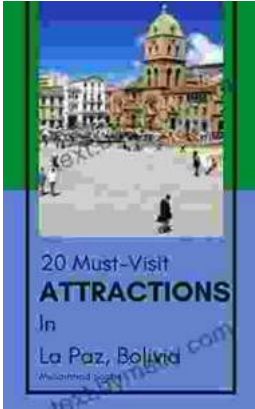
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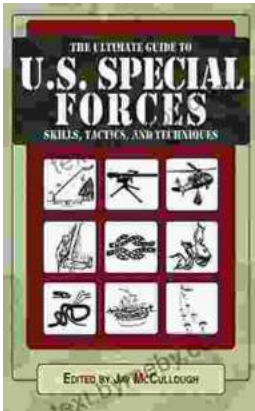
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