

Venus Envy: Power Games, Teenage Vixens, and Million-Dollar Egos on the Women's Tennis Tour

L. Jon Wertheim

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Venus. Serena. Anna. Martina. Lindsay. Jennifer.

Here are the stories behind their stories: the tragic Garbo-like star who is afraid to go outdoors; the teenager who tries to cope with the pressure of the big time as well as an abusive father; the brilliant number one who plays out her adolescent tantrums on the public stage; the coquette who launched a thousand websites; and a little-understood African-American family who proved that they could play by their own rules and still win the game -- not to mention the endorsements.

In Venus Envy, Sports Illustrated investigative reporter and tennis columnist L. Jon Wertheim covers the biggest story in sports in 2000: Venus Williams. Sidelined for several months by injuries to both her wrists and her psyche, she stormed back to win Wimbledon, the U.S. Open, and two Olympic gold medals. By the time Venus signed the biggest endorsement deal ever for a female athlete, her opponents' sentiments could be described in just two words: Venus Envy.



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