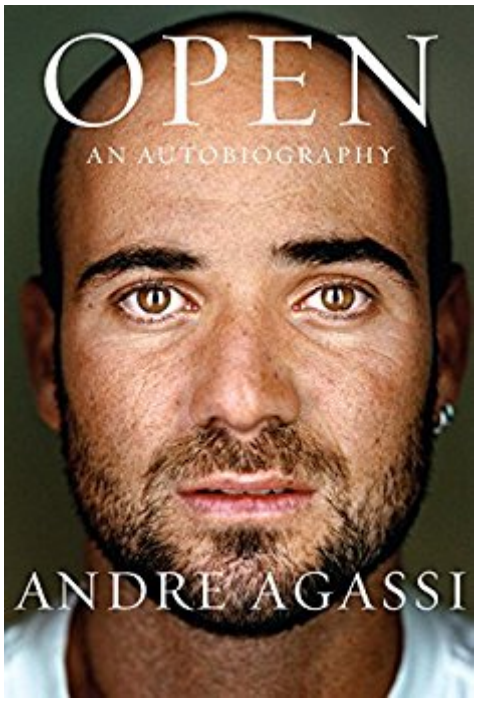
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Synopsis

#1 NATIONAL BESTSELLERFar more than a superb memoir about the highest levels of professional tennis, Open is the engrossing story of a remarkable life.Ã Â Andre Agassi had his life mapped out for him before he left the crib. Groomed to be a tennis champion by his moody and demanding father, by the age of twenty-two Agassi had won the first of his eight grand slams and achieved wealth, celebrity, and the gameÃ¢â ¬â„¢s highest honors. But as he reveals in this searching autobiography, off the court he was often unhappy and confused, unfulfilled by his great achievements in a sport he had come to resent. Agassi writes candidly about his early success and his uncomfortable relationship with fame, his marriage to Brooke Shields, his growing interest in philanthropy, andÃ¢â ¬â •described in haunting, point-by-point detailÃ¢â ¬â •the highs and lows of his celebrated career.From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Open, by AndrÃƒÂ© Agassi, is a spectacular intimate daring memoir. He tells not only his own story of growing into a whole conscious self, learning how to choose what matters and be the honorable

character we all hope for; he talks about how this delicate complicated task works itself out deep inside any one of us. This book is a contribution not only to the living history of tennis, and to the project of human self-discovery, but also to the story of who we are, in our time, and how we can overcome the challenges that would put us back on our heels.

A great read if you are at all into Tennis. AA keeps the pace fast, and makes you feel like you are on the court with him. Really a great inside look at the life of a professional tennis player. AA doesn't hide any of the dirt under the rug...He shakes the rug, so we see all the good and bad.

This book was hard to put down and I enjoyed in immensely. I played tennis back in the 80's when he was huge and just got back into a couple of years ago. What I got most from this book is staggering amount of hard work and suffering that goes into being a world class athlete. The tennis court can be a lonely place and the book shows a look inside to what it takes to compete at this level. Did he really hate tennis? I think he resented it more than "hate" which was his inability to see himself accomplishing anything else. His rivalry with Sampras is great and he is very open about his superior skills in the Grand Slam events. I enjoyed reading about his relationship with Gil, a man in his life that had his back in very way. After reading this it make me appreciate the new breed of tennis players such as Nadal and Federer and the skill and stamina that they bring to the game. Would be nice to see another American player of Agassi's caliber in the future!!

What an excellent way to start the book "The End". Very much in keeping with the rest of his story. Do what others wouldn't do. Kudos to Andre for putting it all out there, and doing it in such a way that keeps you hooked right from the start.

I like how honest he has been in writing about his life. He hated playing tennis. He wore a wig during the early part of his career;he worried constantly that people would find out about it, and during the final of one grand slam he was more bothered that the wig would fall off than about the match; the wig had fallen off the previous night and he had fixed it on his head with pins.He consumed crystal meth-a recreational drug.He wanted to give up tennis many times and did too because of which he fell to a very low ranking.He mentions how even successful people are bored with their lives.We all are faced with similar challenges in our lives and aspire to be successful, and when we succumb to the challenges or fall short of our expectations of success we lose all hope. But when you hear it from another human being, who has been successful, that he also has faced challenges and lost

hope just like you, you feel that you are not alone and you derive confidence from this.

Agassi was always an enigma during his career. Seemingly brilliant tennis player, under-acheiver, tortured soul and sex symbol rolled into one. As he progressed in his career, he seemed to grow up before our eyes. The book captures all of these dimensions of his life to perfection...and more.The progression of his life throughout the book was fast-paced, fascinating and, most importantly, honest and real. Though a play on words, the title of the book is perfect. Rare is a self-portrayal as critical and incisive. Andre exposes events devoid of any hint of the self-importance one would normally expect from a celebrity of his stature. In a word, his presentation of his life is humble.The scenes are described in stunning color, emotion and presented startlingly clear mental images. He also captures many of the scenes with hilarity (the scene when Andre's father meets Stephanie's father is worth the price of the book). Both haircut scenes (his and his son's later in the book) were comical.Perhaps most interesting to many is his incredible portrayal of the mentally and physically grueling nature of the tour. I got the feel of almost actually being there when he describes the actual games. His explanation of the Sampras rivalry was priceless. His descriptions and views on other players, particularly Connors, like most of the book, gives the sense of being there. He seemed fair in his assessments and, like his tennis game, stayed just inside the line. The relationship with Shields was presented clearly without being critical. One gets no sense that she was at fault for the divorce or a bad person, generally. A difficult line to walk for anyone in such circumstances, but he managed it artfully. The description of his run-in with meth could not have been more forthcoming and, to me, was courageous given the hysteria surrounding the issue in America.I was sometimes surprised by the almost perfect diction, grammer and prose used in some scenes given the absence of a co-writer. After all, although Andre comes across as intelligent in television interviews, he has only a self-proclaimed 9th grade education. Regardless, he finally fessed up at the end that one of the better writers in this genre assisted. This, of course, is to be expected and does nothing to detract from the genuineness of the book.My only complaint is that the book was not longer and needed more explanation for why he continually reminded the reader of his paradoxical "hate" for tennis. The words "hate tennis" appear 17 times in the book. Generally, it's just another person who he is letting in on his dirty little secret. I think 2 or 3 times as a shock to the reader would have sufficed. It seems his writing helper could have steered him clear of this overuse. Overall, thIs was a minor nuisance and has the nominal value of reminding the reader of his emotions at the time.The real question was why he hates tennis. The answer to the question seems apparent in that he was forced to play from an early age and into his his early teens. His father was cast in an unfavorable

light as the slave master, but it is apparent that he has now moved beyond that difficulty. Anyone generally hates something that is forced upon them. Regardless, it is unfortunate that he didn't explore the why a little deeper.Regardless, this is one of those reads that you just want to go on because it's so well done. Some might be put off by the rather lengthy descriptions of the games, but for me, reliving some of those moments in such dramatic detail was awesome, particularly since he describes his emotions in the moment so perfectly.I believe this is one of the more unique, well-written and inspirational books of its kind. It's an absolute must read for Agassi and sports fans, generally. Beyond that, almost anyone should read this as a testament to the ability to overcome the demons in one's soul and life difficulties generally.Agassi presents such an honest portrayal that my estimation of him as a person increased immeasurably. Finally, the success of his foundation and work on his charter school as described were inspirational. I was never a huge Agassi fan, but I am now.

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