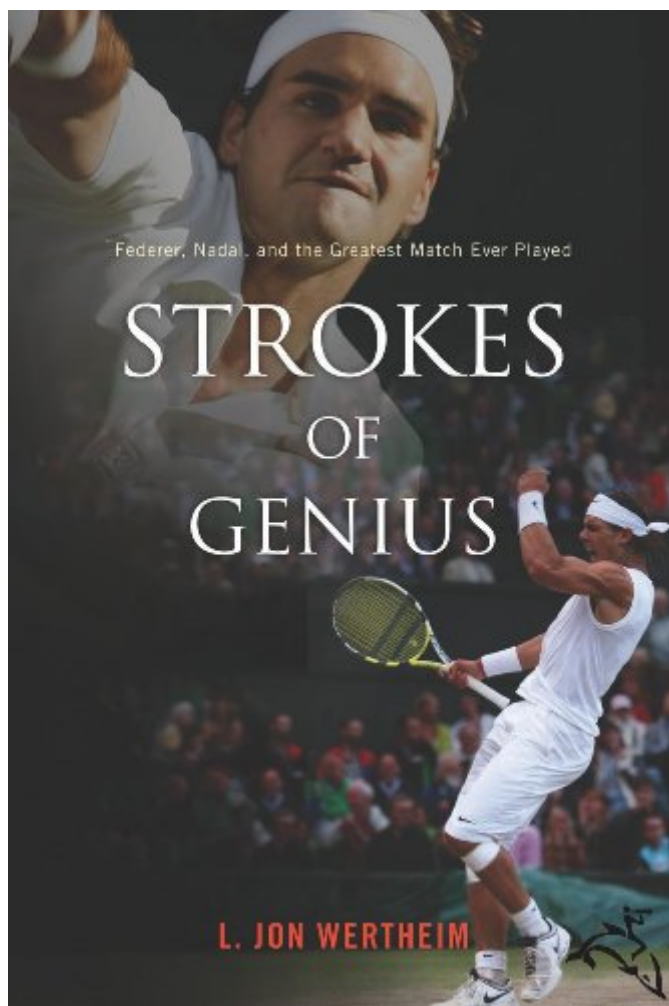


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# Strokes Of Genius



## Synopsis

In the 2008 Wimbledon men's final, Centre Court was a stage set worthy of Shakespearean drama. Five-time champion Roger Federer was on track to take his rightful place as the most dominant player in the history of the game. He just needed to cling to his trajectory. So in the last few moments of daylight, Centre Court witnessed a coronation. Only it wasn't a crowning for the Swiss heir apparent but for a swashbuckling Spaniard. Twenty-two-year-old Rafael Nadal prevailed, in five sets, in what was, according to the author, "essentially a four-hour, forty-eight-minute infomercial for everything that is right about tennis—a festival of skill, accuracy, grace, strength, speed, endurance, determination, and sportsmanship." It was also the encapsulation of a fascinating rivalry, hard fought and of historic proportions. In the tradition of John McPhee's classic *Levels of the Game*, *Strokes of Genius* deconstructs this defining moment in sport, using that match as the backbone of a provocative, thoughtful, and entertaining look at the science, art, psychology, technology, strategy, and personality that go into a single tennis match. With vivid, intimate detail, Wertheim re-creates this epic battle in a book that is both a study of the mechanics and art of the game and the portrait of a rivalry as dramatic as that of Ali—Frazier, Palmer—Nicklaus, and McEnroe—Borg.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Even if you are not a regular Tennis fan, you can get an insider's look at the little nuances that occur during every Tennis match, and The most descriptive account of The greatest match ever played. Roger Federer lost this game, but everyone who witnessed it knew that his defeat was a minor glitch in his resume, for he fought hard until The end to pull almost The impossible comeback, with his trademark genius and artistry, wich by The way, his rival sorely lacked. Tremendous tale by mr. Wertheim!!

Jon Wertheim had an advantage in writing "Strokes of Genius," in that he was describing one of the best and most exciting tennis matches in the sport's history. Yet in less capable hands, this book could have dragged on endlessly with repetitive descriptions of forehands and backhands. Instead, Wertheim wrote one of the best sports books I've read in the past few years. The book is not just the story of the one match, but also the story of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Wimbledon, and tennis itself. Wertheim looks at the match from what seems like every possible angle, even telling the story of the chair umpire. I was amazed at Wertheim's ability to sustain interest over a full book on a single tennis match. No matter how great the match was, and it was one of the best ever, an account of any tennis match can only remain interesting for a thousand words or so. Because Wertheim uses the match as a springboard to tell many related stories, the narrative remains compelling throughout.

A great account of a fascinating rivalry. The book is even more interesting given the paths that each of these players has taken since this memorable clash. Great background information on each player as well as on the match itself. This needs to come with a DVD of the match!

I liked Jon's easy writing style. Lots of interesting factoids come out about pro circuit tennis during description of the 2009 Wimbledon final. I had already read other biography's on both players, this book went into less depth on childhood development. Look forward to an official biography by either star.

Solid read if you enjoy the Rafa Nadal and Federer rivalry. It weaves in their background and upbringing which I thought was the most interesting part of the book, not necessarily the play by

play of the sets. Good read if you're a tennis fan.

A great book! I started reading and I finished it the same day !

This is a very good book that tells the story of the infamous 2008 Wimbledon final between Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. Not only does the author go into details of each set of this historic match but provides insightful information regarding the traditions of Wimbledon and the player's family/team. I would advise potential readers that this book is geared for the hard core tennis fan, not a casual fan of the sport.

You do not have to be a tennis fan to truly enjoy this superbly written book. I stayed up all night to finish this book. It greatly details the lives of both Nadal and Federer as it parallels the greatest sporting event I have ever witnessed. I grew up with Montana's 49ers, Jordan's Bulls, Tyson's knock outs and the Sampras vs Agasi classics and this match tops them all in my opinion. This book puts a heart and soul to the greatest tennis match that history will ever see.

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