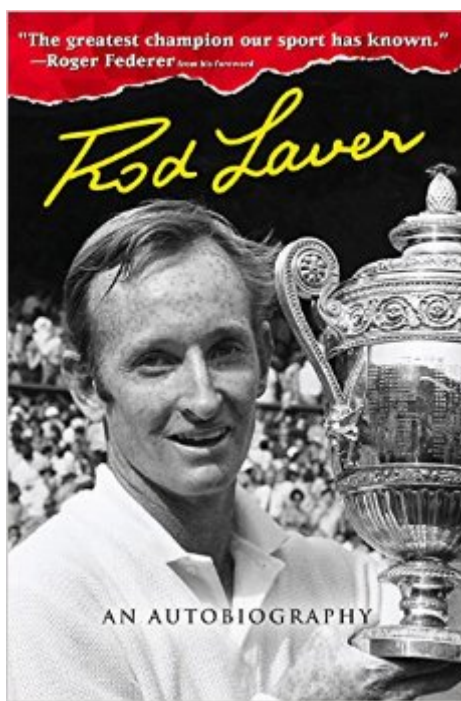


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# Rod Laver: An Autobiography



## Synopsis

Rod Laver's memoir is the inspiring story of how a diminutive, left-handed, red-headed country boy from Rockhampton, Australia became one of sports' greatest champions. Rod was a dominant force in world tennis for almost two decades, playing and defeating some of the greatest players of the twentieth century. In 1962, Rod became the second man to win the Grand Slam - that is, winning the Australian, French, Wimbledon and US titles in a single calendar year. In 1969, he won it again, becoming the only player ever to win the Grand Slam twice. Laver's book is a wonderfully nostalgic journey into Laver's path to stardom, from the early days of growing up in a Queensland country town in the 1950s, to breaking into the amateur circuit, to the extraordinary highs of Grand Slam victories. Away from on-court triumphs, Rod also movingly writes about the life-changing stroke he suffered in 1998, and of his beloved wife of more than 40 years, Mary, who died in 2012 after a long illness. Filled with anecdotes about the great players and great matches, set against the backdrop of a tennis world changing from rigid amateurism to the professional game we recognize today, Rod's book is a warm, insightful and fascinating account of one of tennis's all-time greats.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 416 pages

Publisher: Triumph Books (April 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1629372013

ISBN-13: 978-1629372013

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (27 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #205,684 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Australian](#) #85 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Tennis](#) #94 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Racket Sports](#)

## Customer Reviews

" The Education Of A Tennis Player " is one of my favorite tennis books, partly because of all the tips & Rod's insight into the game. That book is focused on the Open Slam in 1969. His memoir is far more reaching into his experiences in the game throughout his life & even more than " The Education Of A Tennis Player " into his personal life & personality. For the student of the game, this

is the best look into professional tennis I have ever read & even though the pro game has changed, you can't know where you are if you don't know where you've been. For any serious player today, this is a must read & should be a required read. His insights into the game as it moved into the Open area changed my understanding a great deal & you can't lose by getting this information from both a player who lived the time & a great champion of & for the game. I have read this twice so far & it's a consistently enjoyable read. I agree with another reviewer who said it should be fleshed out more as I would be perfectly happy to be able to spend more time with my favorite tennis player. Perhaps Rod should have a look at Tolstoy to get a good lesson on going for the tome of his life. Tolstoy did, after all, play tennis.....Another aspect I liked, which is very much in the style of " The Education Of A Tennis Player " is that the text reads more like a conversation or story telling than a narration. This makes Rod's memoir read more like a personal journal or that he is sitting there in your head telling you his story. Since I have listened to a number of interviews with him, it's easy to hear his voice through his book. To conclude, even if you aren't familiar with Rod Laver, this is a great book.

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