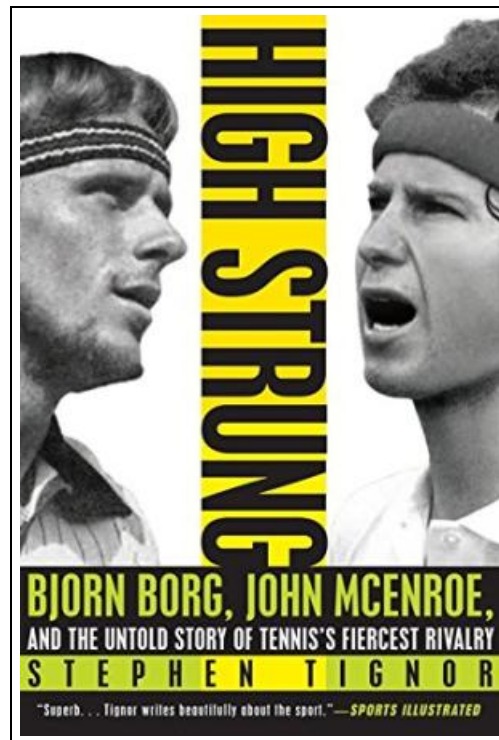


## High Strung



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HarperCollins Publishers Inc. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, High Strung, Stephen Tignor, The golden age of tennis came crashing down suddenly at the 1981 U.S. Open. Bjorn Borg, the stoical Swede who had become the richest and most famous player in the sport's history, had just lost to his brash young rival, John McEnroe, in the final at Flushing Meadows. After his last shot floated out, Borg walked to the net, shook McEnroe's hand in silence, and disappeared from the game he had dominated for the last decade. No one realized it at the time, but the era that Borg and the three other semifinalists at that year's Open - McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, and Vitas Gerulaitis - had helped define had also ended. For nearly a century, the lawns of tennis had been reserved for wealthy amateurs-gentlemen, in the original British parlance - but in 1968, the game was opened to professionals and was forever changed. The 1970s were boom years for tennis. Thanks to charismatic young players and dramatic matches, participation skyrocketed in the United States and brought the game to a new peak of global popularity. In the ensuing decade, the sport would be taken further from its genteel roots than anyone thought possible. Through the lens of that era's final tournament, the 1981 U.S. Open, "High Strung" chronicles the lives and careers of the men who made those Wild West days of tennis so memorable. The Swede known as Ice Borg, who secretly harbored an inner madman. It was McEnroe, the tortured, bratty genius who was destined to slay his idol. It was Connors, the blue-collar kid who tore the cover off the ball-and the game itself-becoming a beloved antihero. It was Ilie Nastase, the Romanian clown who tested the outer limits of acceptable behavior and...



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