

# [Carrie Soto Is Back]

By Taylor Jenkins Reid

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## Genre and Subject

Women tennis players -- Fiction  
Fathers and daughters -- Fiction  
Man-woman relationships -- Fiction

Tennis -- Tournaments -- Fiction  
Sports fiction

## Synopsis

Carrie Soto is fierce, and her determination to win at any cost has not made her popular.

By the time Carrie retires from tennis, she is the best player the world has ever seen. She has shattered every record and claimed twenty Slam titles. And if you ask her, she is entitled to every one. She sacrificed nearly everything to become the best, with her father as her coach.

But six years after her retirement, Carrie finds herself sitting in the stands of the 1994 US Open, watching her record be taken from her by a brutal, stunning, British player named Nicki Chan.

At thirty-seven years old, Carrie makes the monumental decision to come out of retirement and be coached by her father for one last year in an attempt to reclaim her record. Even if the sports media says that they never liked the 'Battle-Axe' anyway. Even if her body doesn't move as fast as it did. And even if it means swallowing her pride to train with a man she once almost opened her heart to: Bowe Huntley. Like her, he has something to prove before he gives up the game forever.

In spite of it all: Carrie Soto is back, for one epic final season. In this riveting and unforgettable novel, Taylor Jenkins Reid tells a story about the cost of greatness and a legendary athlete attempting a comeback.

## Author Biography

Taylor Jenkins Reid is the *New York Times*-bestselling author and screenwriter of books that explore love in all its complexity. She writes and speaks candidly about women's issues, relationships, marriage, and her ambitious writing process.

Her latest #1 New York Times bestselling novel, *Carrie Soto Is Back*, is part of her powerful quartet probing the lives of famous women. In this riveting and unforgettable novel about the cost of greatness, a legendary athlete attempts a comeback when the world considers her past her prime. Inspired by Serena's Grand Slam singles titles record, Taylor Jenkins Reid continues to craft dynamic, exciting story with memorable characters that resonates with audience of all ages.

Taylor Jenkins Reid lives in Los Angeles.

## Discussion Starters

1. Did you read *Malibu Rising*? Why do you think TJR decided to feature Carrie Soto in her own novel?
2. Why did Carrie decide to come out of retirement? What was she trying to prove?
3. We follow Carrie on her journey to return to the sport. Why did she want her father Javier to coach her again? What did her father teach her that no one else can?
4. Carrie is fiercely competitive and does not shy away from boasting that she is the best. When a male athlete exhibits this behaviour, he is praised. But in Carrie's position, she's ridiculed. Why are women athletes treated different than male ones?
5. Carrie never tried to make friends with other tennis athletes. And while there is a competitive nature to it, we also find out she's afraid of getting close to anyone after losing her mother at such a young age. Let's talk about the impact of losing her mother on both Carrie and her father.
6. She eventually starts to train with Bowe Huntley, a bad boy of tennis that she once had a fling with. What did you think about their relationship? Are they a good fit? What did they both learn from each other?
7. For Bowe, not competing would be a disservice to himself. Even if he loses, he at least competed. But for Carrie, she feels that losing is the absolute worst thing in the world. Why does she feel like losing is the ultimate sorrow?
8. What was your impression of all the matches and the behind the scenes look at her thought process as she plays? Do you watch tennis?
9. Let's now talk about her dynamic with Nicki Chan. In what ways were they similar? And how are they different? When did Carrie start to view her differently than other competitors?
10. Javier falls ill and eventually passes away from a heart attack right before Carrie's big run in the US Open. How did losing her father change everything for Carrie?
11. Carrie does play Nicki and she loses. And Carrie completely accepts defeat. Let's discuss this character growth for Carrie.
12. How did Carrie evolve from the beginning of the novel to the end?

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