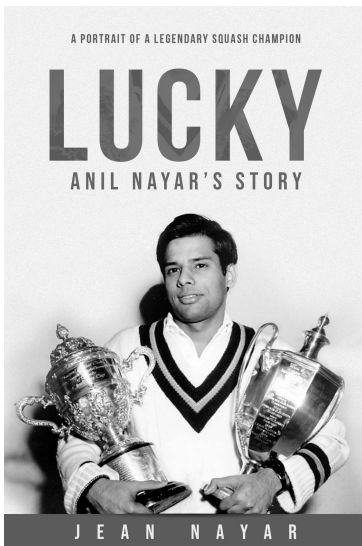


April 27, 2020—Five Rivers Press announces the release of *Lucky—Anil Nayar's Story: A Portrait of a Legendary Squash Champion* by Jean Nayar



An exhilarating look at the pioneering career of Anil Nayar, an Indian squash champion who crossed cultures, broke barriers, rose to the top of the world stage, and blazed a trail in the democratization of an elite sport. The first Indian to captain Harvard's squash team, Nayar is an American legend and widely considered India's greatest player.

List Price:

Soft Cover \$20

E-book \$9.99

Available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com

About the Book

In London in 1965, Anil Nayar made history by becoming the first Indian to gain world champion status in his sport when he captured the Drysdale Cup, the prize awarded to the winner of the event then regarded as the world championship tournament for juniors in squash. Widely recognized as India's greatest squash player, Nayar's breakthrough at this tournament marked a turning point in his illustrious sports career, which spanned almost four decades and brimmed with honors, accolades, and championship titles around the globe.

The story of this unlikely champion unfolds in the environs of Bombay's glittering Queen's Necklace, where his family moved to escape the hostilities near the newly minted border between Pakistan and India in the wake of partition when he was just a baby. As a roly-poly child, few would have guessed that the plump and insecure youngster would emerge as a world-class sportsman. But the proximity of his family's home to the renowned Cricket Club of India all but sealed his fate as he strove to shed his excess weight and adolescent anxieties.

In her candid and intimate portrait of this beloved sportsman, Jean Nayar, the champion player's wife, traces his trailblazing trajectory from its roots in Bombay to to numerous international stages around the world, including the courts of Harvard University, where he served as the first Indian captain of its squash team. Laced with the memories of dozens of top players, coaches, family members, and friends, this engaging tale not only provides a valuable record of the groundbreaking role Nayar played in the history of squash, but also highlights an ongoing intercultural exchange between India and America that was fostered in part by this barrier-breaking pioneer. It illustrates, too, the champion sportsman's continuing commitment to uplift India's poorest children through sport.

Nayar's journey also exemplifies how a person born into a context of hatred and division can choose instead to become a bridge builder through generosity and high-minded sportsmanship, and this inspiring biography on his life and sports career offers a refreshing counterpoint to today's trends towards regressive nationalism and identity-based hostility in our complex global arena. It is sure to be a fascinating read for sports fans and culture buffs alike.

About the Author



Jean Nayar is a journalist and author who writes about architecture, art, real estate, and people. A member of the Author's Guild and the American Society of Journalists and Authors, Nayar regularly contributes to various lifestyle magazines, such as *Departures*, *Galerie*, *Interior Design*, and *Cottages & Gardens*, and has written more than a dozen books, including *Living In Style New York* and *Living In Style Country* (TeNeues). She lives with her husband, Anil Nayar, in New York and Miami Beach.

Product Details

Publisher: Five Rivers Press (May 1, 2020)

Length: 356 pages; 52 black and white photographs

ISBN: 978-1-7347973-0-5 (soft cover); 978-1-7347973-1-2 (e-book)

Raves and Reviews

Engrossing, exhilarating, and a cerebral yet sensitive tour de force on the pioneering life of an exemplary human being and principled sports champion in two countries and across the world, this uplifting and unputdownable rendition of Anil Nayar's sports career is written with tremendous flair, insight, passion, and professional finesse.—**Khalid A. H. Ansari, founder**

and former publisher of the daily Indian newspaper, MidDay, and chairman emeritus of the Squash Racquets Federation of Maharashtra

Anil Nayar's story is urgently necessary in today's fractured world. A legendary national squash champion in India and across North America, he bridged worlds and forged a deep legacy as a sportsman, as a leader, and as a symbol of cross-cultural diversity. *Lucky* is the gripping story of his unlikely and unsurpassed journey.—**James Zug, author of *Squash: A History of the Game***

This portrayal of Anil Nayar's legendary contribution to a narrow slice of global culture offers a vivid example not only of the unifying capacity of sport, but also of the inspiring influence of a stellar sportsman, one who played with integrity, artistry, and grace.—**Sundaram Tagore, gallerist, art historian, filmmaker, and heir to the cultural legacy of India's legendary Tagore family**

Told in a seamless manner with sweetness, insight, and enough objectivity to give it both emotional and intellectual integrity and impact, this engaging memoir on the career of a great sportsman will be of great interest to squash enthusiasts of all countries, folks who follow sports of any kind, people interested in cross-cultural dynamics, those who lived through or have interest in the crucible of the '60s and '70s, and anyone who simply likes a good life story.—**Thomas Webber, author of *Flying Over 96th Street and Deep Like the Rivers***

Contact

For more information or high resolution images, please contact the publisher at info@fiveriverspress.net or the author at jean@jeannayar.com; 917-660-6719.