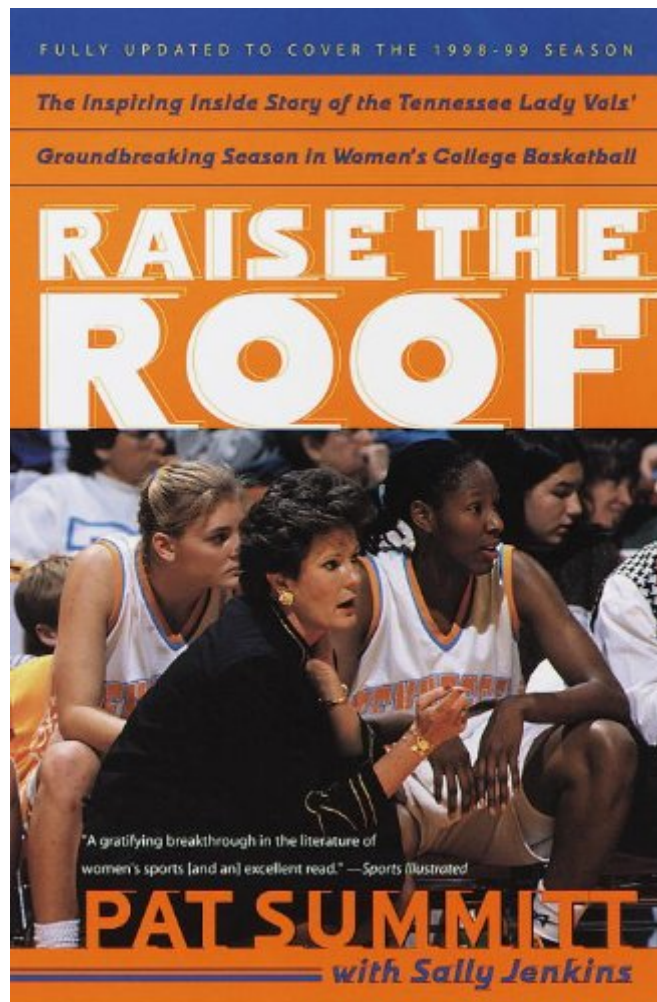


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Raise The Roof



Synopsis

"It wasn't a team. It was a tent revival." So says Pat Summitt, the legendary coach whose Tennessee Lady Vols entered the 1997-98 season aiming for an almost unprecedented "three-peat" of NCAA championships. Raise the Roof takes you right inside the locker room of her amazing team, whose inspired mixture of gifted freshmen and seasoned stars produced a standard of play that would change the game of women's basketball forever. The 1997-98 season started innocently enough. One Saturday in August, four young freshmen--Semeka Randall, Tamika Catchings, Ace Clement and Teresa Geter--arrived on the Tennessee campus to begin their college careers. Welcoming them were a number of players from the previous year, including Chamique Holdsclaw and Kellie Jolly. But that night, in a sign of things to come, a simple pickup game turned into an amazing display of basketball brilliance--freshmen against established players, and with barely a shot missed by either side. Suddenly Pat Summitt glimpsed the future: fast, aggressive and hugely talented. This might be the team she'd worked her whole career to coach. As the season got under way, other dramas unfolded. After one emotional team meeting, Summitt realized that many on the team were playing for something more than just the glory of the game: all four freshmen, for example, came from single-parent homes, and the tough circumstances of the majority of the other players seemed to add an extra edge to their desire to win it all. Further, Chamique Holdsclaw, widely regarded as the greatest female player ever, was being dogged by questions about turning pro--and she seemed reluctant to rule it out. Meanwhile, another member of the team began to notice the unwelcome attentions of a fan, who soon turned out to be a full-fledged stalker. All this was behind the scenes; out on the court, the win column was swelling with every game: 8-0, 15-0, 21-0. As 1997 turned into 1998, Pat Summitt began privately to admit that this team had changed her: these kids were so lovable, funny and eager to please that she simply had to let them into her heart. Along the way, the Lady Vols were redefining what women were capable of, trading in old definitions of femininity for new ones--in short, they were keeping score. And by the time they entered the NCAA Final Four tournament in Kansas City, Summitt found herself believing the impossible: despite all the distractions, the 1997-98 Lady Vols could go undefeated, and, in doing so, raise the roof off the sport of women's basketball. Packed with the excitement of a season on the brink of perfection and filled with the comedy and tragedy of one year in the life of a basketball team, Raise the Roof will have readers cheering from the bench for a team of all-conquering players and their astonishing coach.

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Customer Reviews

An undefeated season, a national championship, an astoundingly talented freshman class combined with the experience and ability of the veterans -- Tennessee's '98 season is one to remember. In this book, Summitt tells us what it was like to live the season. I saw the Lady Vols play in the NCAA Tournament at Vanderbilt University, as an Illinois fan. I thought that if I heard "Rocky Top" one more time I would scream. By the end of the game, I was singing along. The "Meeks," Kellie Jolly, Ace Clement, Geter -- they bring such excitement to the women's basketball game --- it's contagious! I am a high school girl's coach and have encouraged my team to read this book, and "Reach for The Summitt". Whether you are already a fan of collegiate women's basketball, or are simply looking for a motivational and inspiring book, you will be a fan after reading this book. Women's basketball has needed the Tennessee Lady Vols to elevate the game and bring it the attention it deserves. Of course, I'm still an Illini at heart.

I am a big fan of the Lady Vols. Being from Tennessee, I can truly say that I am very proud of this team and Pat Summitt. I think that she was the best coach that ever coached a team. This just proves that point, she truly cared about winning but she cared more about her players.. She will truly be

missed. They did a great tribute to her. It will be hard for other coaches to measure up to her achievement. Thanks Pat.

Coach Summitt has done it again - another best seller - this time taking us inside the locker room with her perfect team! Pat writes like she coaches - from her heart and with great passion! She pays tribute to her staff, her players, the Lady Vol fans, the support of the University of Tennessee and her family - all are important factors in Lady Vol success, but none more important than Coach Summitt. With over 700 wins and 6 national titles, she is in a class of her own. I wish I'd had a Pat Summitt in my college life, but I am learning from her now, and I am enjoying her success with her every step of the way. Way to go Coach Summitt - I wish you continued success!

I have never liked Pat Summitt. I thought she was hard & mean & often cruel to her players. I just could never relate to her tactics. That is why I read this book. In my heart I knew there was another side to this woman otherwise why would any player put herself in her path? The 1997/98 basketball season was miraculous & marvelous & the story captured the excitement & tension & thrills. The descriptions of those determined, talented & yet vulnerable young athletes provided another dimension. It also showed a side of Pat Summitt that the public never gets to witness. I was wrong about her.

While not at the highest level of writing, I found this book well written, compelling, and a great story. It was recommended by a book club member, which is how I came to read this book very much NOT what I would have selected. Very much enjoyed this inspirational story.

As a hopeful future Lady Vols star, I loved reading this book. I could see what the Lady Vols went through during their season, which I might add was awesome and what I need to do to play for them! Chamique Holdsclaw has been my role model for four years and I look up to their entire team. As Chamique says: Don't Dream It-- BE IT!

When reading the book, you really had a sense of being a part of the team. I loved how they broke down the incoming freshman and talked about their history before they reached Knoxville Tennessee. Pat Summitt did a wonderful job explaining the struggles and passion that made this team so great. By the end of the book, you were excited for them and their accomplishments, but at the same time you felt disappointed that it ended. It was one of those books that you could keep

reading on forever because of how well written and powerful it was. This is the only book I have read more than once.

Even better than Pat Summitt's first book! It's thoughtful and well-written. And even though you already know how it ends, it's wonderful from start to finish. I couldn't put it down!

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