



***Topspin* by Sonya Spreen Bates**

Orca Book Publishers, 2013

9781459803855, Paperback

\*Age Range: 9-12 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9-12 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

**BOOK SYNOPSIS**

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**Kat is thrilled to be competing in a junior tennis championship at Melbourne Park for the first time.**

But things are off to a horrible start. Kat's doubles partner, Miri, is sneaking around at night and asking Kat to cover for her. She's also playing terribly, almost costing them their match. Miri's boyfriend, Hamish, one of the top competitors, seems unaware of her unusual behavior. When strange things begin happening to throw off Hamish's game, Kat suspects that Miri may be involved. Who is trying to sabotage Hamish? And can Kat put a stop to the plot before it's too late?

This short novel is a high-interest, low-reading level book for middle-grade readers who are building reading skills, want a quick read or say they don't like to read!

**REVIEWS AND PRAISE**

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"Bates doesn't hold back on action, whether athletic or otherwise. Cheating, blackmail, and drugs make for a scandalous romp in the usually squeaky clean world of tennis. Matches are recalled at breathless speed...[Kat] is an enthusiastic narrator and keeps the stakes of each bout high...Tennis fans should find plenty to cheer about in this sporty endeavor."—*Booklist*

"A well-paced, engaging and believable story."—*Resource Links*

"This fast-paced read will surely appeal to reluctant teen [readers] that enjoy a combination of sports and mystery. An easy pick for upper middle school and high school readers."—*Lower Columbia Review Group WLMA*

**AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

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- Junior Library Guild (JLG) Gold Standard Selection | 2013 | Commended
- CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens | 2014 | Commended

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## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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[Topspin Teacher Guide](#)

## AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

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*Offer the author an opportunity to provide a statement about the potential impact of banning their book or a link to an existing author statement.*

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.