

I saw Serena hit it
The tennis ball is victim
it gets whacked so hard, it's difficult to believe
that it doesn't end up shredded
through the webbing of the racket.
It smashes into the court with a "WHAP"!
as its trajectory is angled by the concussion with the clay
and the ball speeds like the fierce projectile
of a weapon.
Tennis seems like it would be so sweet
with the cute little mandatory whites
at Wimbledon.
In the collusion between Serena and the racket and the ball,
there is a grand conspiracy of ferocity,
leaving little recourse for the receiver on the other side of that net
No matter how sweet the white skirt
No matter how styled the hair, how feminine the curves, how lovely the smile
This woman is a force.
She takes the meaning of the word PROTOCOL
and turns it into a glorious representation.
African-American Woman from Compton
No one could ignore you.
As Michelle Obama put her arm around "The Queen"
You put your arm into the crucible
and forged a new vision of tennis.
No one could forget you.
You make women's tennis – once the sport of the elite, the white, and the rich
The sport of the free woman, the people, and the warrior.
This is a tribute to tennis and to you,
No one could outdo you.

Hanna Lynn Demerson