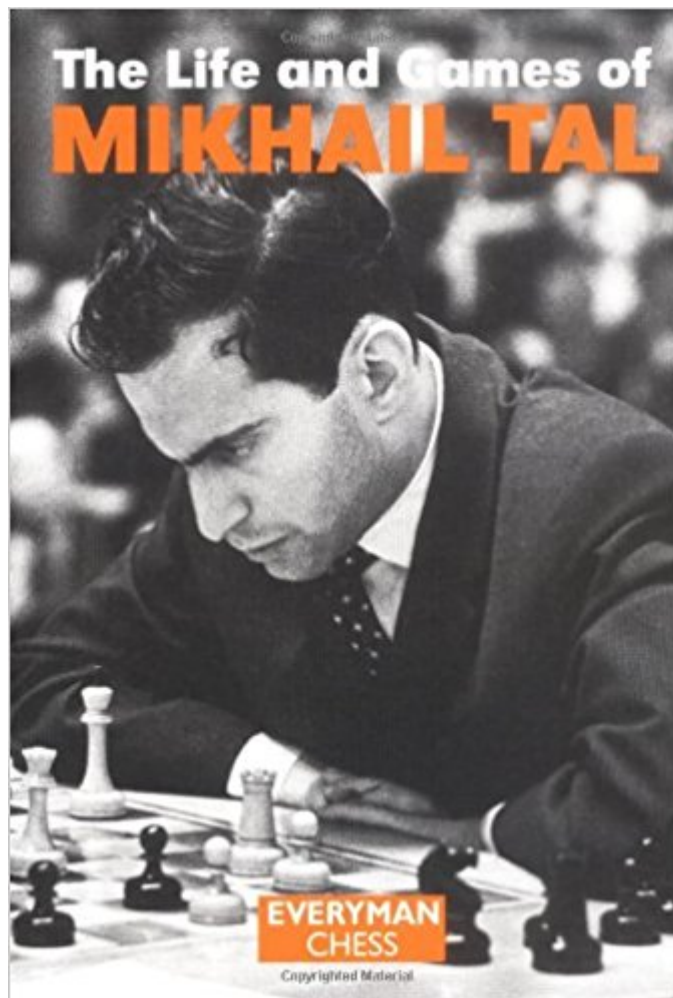


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Life & Games Of Mikhail Tal



Synopsis

Mikhail Tal, the 'magician from Riga,' was the greatest attacking World Champion of them all, and this enchanting autobiography chronicles his extraordinary career with charm and humor.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mikhail Tal, the 'magician from Riga,' was the greatest attacking World Champion of them all, and this enchanting autobiography chronicles his extraordinary career with charm and humor. Dazzling games are interspersed throughout with anecdotes and witty self-interviews, and in typically objective fashion he related both the downs and ups of his encounters. An inveterate smoker and drinker, Tal's life on the circuit was punctuated by bouts in the hospital with kidney problems, but nothing could dull his love for chess and his sheer genius on the chessboard. His illustrious tournament record, up to his death in 1992, is included here in full, along with 100 complete games and nearly as many positions. Tal's annotations in this book are a world apart from ordinary games collections. No reader could fail to be swept along by his passion and vitality as he sets the scene for an encounter and then recounts every psychological twist and turn.

The legendary Mikhail Tal was the finest ever exponent of attacking chess. His all-out sacrificial style took him all the way to the World Championship title. Dogged by ill-health, Tal's reign was a short one, and he was never able to regain his crown, but Tal remained an outstanding player right up to his death in 1992. His departure has taken away one of the chess world's most charismatic figures; a player who excited chess passions wherever he went

This is a great book that everyone should own that cares about Chess. Tal was one of the most exciting players to ever play the game of Chess. He came at a time when matches were just home preparation and memorization. This was not the way to play the game and he shattered Botvinnik. At a time when he was thought almost impossible to even consider beating. Also it was the ultimate challenge of Science vs. Humanity. Would the almost machine like logician be the victor over the Magician... The book is very well written and a real joy to read. I actually bought an original copy from 1976 of this book as well. I still have it wrapped up and kept very well. I bought it after getting the newer version just to have. The cover on that book is different than one used for this version. What makes this so great is that Tal has a style to his writing unlike anyone else. Also he seems to be a bit nuts and that always helps the enjoyment. He actually takes the role of a journalist asking himself questions. So that is a bit of an odd thing if you consider it. Still he tries to explain situations and even what he is thinking sometimes. He comes off as being a really human person which is important. He makes it clear that he is not a machine he is mortal. He does not try to elevate himself and disrespect anyone etc. Some of the stories are very interesting also. He talks about a game vs. Fischer that most likely he was gonna lose. He explains how Bobby wrote down the move in almost Russian notation and showed him. Hoping to get some sort of reaction I suspect. Tal knowing this was the move that just about beat him explains his thought process. The way he reacts causes Fischer to actually change his move and ends up losing or drawing to Tal. This is rather interesting esp since I think Tal had a + score over Fischer. He talks about another game where his opponent planned to wear dark glasses. He hears of this and decides to don his own sunglasses. What happens next you will have to get the book to read :). The popular Hippo story is also a favorite of many of his fans. He talks about other not so happy topics as well. I had wrote a really long review for this book some time ago. Yet for some reason it got deleted so hope this one works out better. I have some other books from Tal I have yet to review as well. Reason it takes so long to review them is there is so much to the books. Makes it very difficult to explain just how good the book is. Maybe I am biased cuz Tal is one of my favorite players. Yet I really do not use any of his openings or anything. Just from this book and other things I guess it helped create a strong liking. I am not sure I can really explain it. Yet I know there was and still is something very special about Tal. I regret that I never got to meet him in person etc. Still if your just into the pure chess side of things the book is also good. He did play lots of great players and his career spanned a long time. So consider with great care picking up this book. I enjoy just reading this book, him talking about the games though is priceless.

Well worth reading if you are a chess fan. Tal was a very interesting man with a positive, engaging personality. I appreciate him more and more as I learn about him and his career. I am sorry he is gone; he was a brilliant and good guy who seems to have enjoyed chess more than anyone I've ever read about. In the book he explains his games, and the people and events around them, with candid enthusiasm and humor.

This book is phenomenal. I've never read a treatise on the Theory and thought process of certain games that felt so charming and inspired! It truly conveys the personality of "Misha" as well as offers his own insights regarding some very notable games. A must have for any aspiring attacking player that values the creative and sacrificial style of "The wizard of Riga".

This book is a classic. Tal was a prolific and talented writer as well as a virtuoso at the chessboard. His annotations and comment regarding his games are clear and as relevant today as they were at the time this book was written. I most heartily recommend it for the serious chess player.

One of the things that make for a great biographical chess book is the honesty that author imbues in his life narrative. Although there have been a number of outstanding chess books of this type, Tal's book did break ground in the quality of his views. Outside of the great honesty and candor in the text is some great notes that help put you into the shoes of the late great Tal. Like the other reviewer, I have to report that the diagrams leave much to be desired.

Beautifully written book by a chess legend Mikhail Tal. You can feel how much Misha loved the game how much of a class act he was. Makes you nostalgic about the fact such a person is no longer among us... This is a true classic, recommended to all fans of chess.

If you are serious about chess, there is no way you won't enjoy this book. To put it simply, this book is highly educational and interesting from an historical point of view. Tal somehow manages to make extremely complicated tactical ideas feel natural. There are few things more motivating that to look at the game through the eyes of a natural talent. Also, every now and then, this book is hilarious.

Thank you!

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