



## My 60 Memorable Games

*Bobby Fischer*

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## My 60 Memorable Games Bobby Fischer

In this book, published by Simon and Schuster in 1969, Bobby Fischer analyzes his most important and representative games. He shows the strategic considerations, the tactics, and sometimes the blunders, that occur during the pressure of tournament play. He assesses his opponents' thinking as well. Each game has, in addition to Fischer's own annotations, an analytical introduction by International Grandmaster Larry Evans.

## My 60 Memorable Games Details

Date : Published May 1st 1972 by Simon & Schuster (first published 1969)

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Author : Bobby Fischer

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## From Reader Review My 60 Memorable Games for online ebook

### Will Once says

Fischer is an enigma. He was probably one of the two strongest chess players of all time. For a spell in the 1960s and 1970s there was no-one to touch him. He introduced a strength of self-belief and focused concentration that was frankly scary. Playing through his games you still get an incredible sense of anger and fire. This was someone who absolutely had to win. The Mike Tyson of the chessboard. That's Mike Tyson at his imperious best, not the ear-chewer of later declining times.

But...

You have to admit that he is not an easy person to love. That same monomania that made him a fearsome opponent also made him an uncomfortable person to live with. His demands for the 1972 World Championship match with Spassky seem more than a little childish. The jury is still out on whether this was a deliberate attempt to unnerve Spassky, a legitimate desire to improve playing conditions or a symptom of Fischer's inner demons. For what it's worth, my money is on the latter, but that's a story for another time.

And the less said about his outspoken views on women and religion the better.

There is another problem for those of us who don't stand up when the marching band starts "oh say can you see...". Fischer is absolutely idolised by some of his countrymen. In their eyes he can do no wrong. And that can make it feel like a club that the rest of the world is not invited to join.

Put all of that to one side. "My 60 memorable games" is rightly a classic. This is Fischer at his best. A chess book that you simply have to own, whether you are a Fischer fan or not.

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### Bart Breen says

Brilliant!

Bobby Fischer is without question a chess genius.

As a person, Fischer is an enigma. He is a very high genius who as a young man exploded on the chess scene like a supernova. He won the US Chess Championships at the age of 14, an amazing feat by itself but only the beginning.

He is best known for his winning the World Championship from Boris Spassky in the 1970's. While many know this they do not know how amazing that feat really was.

International Chess is not the easiest forum to play in. In the 1970's and before it was dominated by the Russians. That is still true to some extent today, but not like it was back in the 1970's. Winning Chess tournaments where there were so many Russians involved was difficult especially because to put it nicely, the Russians would work as a team to help their designated leaders win. To put it not so nicely, they would help each other so that they would create the result that they wanted. Agreed upon draws after only a few moves were common. Collaboration on adjourned games was common.

Bobby Fischer's accomplishment in winning the world championship in this setting is a testament to his brilliance and his perseverance. Bobby played to win .... always! A planned draw just wasn't in his nature.

As an individual, Bobby Fischer beat them on his own, and he has never really been given the credit he deserved.

That having been said, Bobby Fischer has always been something of a recluse and for that reason the world has been robbed of his genius as he has dropped from the scene and arisen only occasionally to world notice.

He replayed Spassky and ran afoul of US immigration and has had legal problems since then. Recently he turned up in Japan and last I heard was granted citizenship and asylum in Iceland, where ironically he originally played Spassky back in the 70's.

All this is to say that this book represents Fischer's brilliance and unfortunately there are few other sources in which to find it in terms of his analysis and commentary.

Other reviews refer to the reprints which have altered the original and so the discerning buyer should make sure he is getting an original. Unfortunately, they usually are not cheap.

It is truly a gem and valuable for it's insight into chess as well as the rarity of its existence and being hard to find.

Say what you will about Fischer's social qualities, there has never been his match in Chess, and when you understand what he accomplished, how passionate he was (and is) about Chess and how difficult his accomplishments were, you have to just give him a tremendous amount of credit.

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### **Paul Bryant says**

D'Angelo: Now look, check it, it's simple, it's simple. See this? This the kingpin, aright? And he the man. You get the other dude's king, you got the game. But he trying to get your king too, so you gotta protect it. Now, the king, he move one space any direction he damn choose, 'cause he's the king. Like this, this, this, aright? But he ain't got no hustle. But the rest of these motherfuckers on the team, they got his back. And they run so deep, he really ain't gotta do shit.

Bodie: Like your uncle.

D'Angelo: Yeah, like my uncle. You see this? This the queen. She smart, she fast. She move any way she want, as far as she want. And she is the go-get-shit-done piece.

Wallace: Remind me of Stringer.

D'Angelo: And this over here is the castle. Like the stash. It can move like this, and like this.

Wallace: Dog, stash don't move, man.

D'Angelo: C'mon, yo, think. How many time we move the stash house this week? Right? And every time we move the stash, we gotta move a little muscle with it, right? To protect it.

Bodie: True, true, you right. Aright, what about them little baldheaded bitches right there?

D'Angelo: These right here, these are the pawns. They like the soldiers. They move like this, one space forward only. Except when they fight, then it's like this. And they like the front lines, they be out in the field.

Wallace: So how do you get to be the king?

D'Angelo: It ain't like that. See, the king stay the king, aright? Everything stay who he is. Except for the pawns. Now, if the pawn make it all the way down to the other dude's side, he get to be queen. And like I said, the queen ain't no bitch. She got all the moves.

Bodie: Aright, so if I make it to the other end, I win.

D'Angelo: If you catch the other dude's king and trap it, then you win.

Bodie: Aright, but if I make it to the end, I'm top dog.

D'Angelo: Nah, yo, it ain't like that. Look, the pawns, man, in the game, they get capped quick. They be out the game early.

Bodie: Unless they some smart-ass pawns.

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Not the way Fischer would have explained it - a whole lot more patient and polite!

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### **Shine Sebastian says**

A great book with 60 great chess games and insights/annotations , from one of the greatest, or probably, the greatest chess player of all time! Not only was Bobby Fischer a phenomenal chess genius, he is the most interesting, eccentric and enigmatic of all the great chess players.

In this book Fischer shares with us 60 favourite games of his, with detailed analysis and annotation with great comments on all the critical and interesting parts of the games. The writing style is simple , honest and highly enjoyable. He doesn't refrain from criticising his errors, or from praising and giving credits to excellent moves and play from his opponents.

I know that I don't and will never have a 100th of his playing strength and understanding of the game, but that doesn't stop me from appreciating great chess games!! :) . A must have for any chess lover!!

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### **Manny says**

If you're a chess player and you haven't read this book... I'm struggling to complete the sentence. It's sort of like you claim to be a Christian, but haven't read the Bible. You'd better do something about it!

The short-list for "greatest chess player of all time" only has two names: Fischer and Kasparov. Kasparov had the unquestionable advantage of being sane, so he lasted much longer. But when Fischer was in the zone, he was so ferociously unstoppable that no real comparison is available. No one else has ever won a Candidates match (World Championship quarter-final and subsequent) with a clean sweep. Fischer did it twice. *My 60 Memorable Games* is his only book. He wasn't really a writer, and apparently he had to get help from Larry Evans to do the parts that weren't just game annotations. It matters about as much as the fact that Mozart didn't also write the libretto to *The Magic Flute*.

Before Fischer, people only ever put wins in their game collections, and entitled them "So-and-So's Best Games". Fischer knew he was the best, so he prioritized *interesting* games, even if there were a few he didn't win. He includes his horribly painful loss to Spassky, where Spassky surprised him by playing the King's Gambit, at that time a completely unfashionable choice. Fischer was so angry that he went off, and a few months later published his famous article containing what he claimed to be a refutation of this opening. He also has the equally unpleasant loss to Geller, where they got into a complicated middle-game position with competing attacks, and Fischer missed a forced win. Most people would just have tried to forget these games, not wanted to tell the whole world about them.

Of course, most of the games are wins. It feels a bit silly to recommend specific examples; it's rather like telling people that Shakespeare's Sonnet XVIII is quite good, and *Hamlet* isn't bad either. But, if I had to pick one out, I guess the 1963 game against Robert Byrne. Fischer plays an incredibly complex and well-calculated sacrifice; according to legend (I will be *so* disappointed if I discover this isn't in fact true) the commentator was saying that Fischer had got it wrong and Byrne was winning, when Byrne, having seen more deeply, finally understood the point of Fischer's idea and resigned.

You don't see that kind of thing very often. But then you don't see talent like Fischer's very often either. In any field.

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## Conrad says

What talent, what ego. Coolest things about the games: he included three losses, he won a "magic" game where they still haven't found that his opponent made an error yet still lost, zugzwang is the perilous equilibrium where you're fine right now, but any move you make will lead to disastrous consequences, he often fianchetteoed his bishop, and finally, he put together a broad pawn center so that the pieces could hide behind them and then swing out like real soldiers behind shields.

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## Gabriel Schoenfeld says

The great chess books are great less for their prose style than for their insight into the application of highly controlled violence. "My 60 Memorable Games" was written while Bobby Fischer was still on his steep ascent to the world-champion title -- and long before the slide into madness that ended with his death in

January. He recounts his eviscerations of some of the most brilliant minds of the mid-20th century. But Fischer was never content with victory alone; he aimed to inflict agony on his opponents -- in his own words, "I like the moment when I break a man's ego." Where did such ferocity come from? Fischer, who never knew his own father, once explained that "children who grow up without a parent become wolves."

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### **Steven Peterson says**

If you want to get a sense of Bobby Fischer's view of his 60 greatest games, this is an intriguing volume. Fischer was enigmatic, eccentric. . . His selection of sixty games from 1957 to 1967 includes matches with such great players as Petrosian, Larsen, Gligorich, Tal, Korchnoi, Botvinnik, Najdorf, and Byrne.

Fischer notes of these games that (Page 11) "All of the 60 here contain, for me, something memorable and exciting--even the 3 losses." Fischer also provides a quotation from Emanuel Lasker (Page 12): "On the chessboard lies and hypocrisy do not survive long."

So, if interested in Fischer at his best, in his own judgment, take a look. . . .

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### **Serge Pierro says**

Fischer at his best! An amazing book that is a must read for all chess players! There is a reason why many consider this one of the best chess books ever written. Amazing games and amazing analysis. Lets you get inside the head of a genius.

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### **Benjamin Carsley says**

arrogant boy teaches chess brilliantly lol

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### **Mrs. Europaea says**

Bobby Fischer was brilliant at chess, I don't think many would argue with this statement. My 60 Memorable Games allows the reader peer inside the mind of a genius. Fischer was often able to anticipate 7 moves into the future which is not a feat many mortals can lay claim to. I enjoyed his annotated analysis on his moves and motives in the games, I liked the descriptions, including the graphics, which made it easy to see the game play out without having super human abilities as it sometimes appears Fischer has throughout this fun and captivating read. And who knows, you may even pick up some new strategies along the way.

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### **Norman Styers says**

One of the best annotated game collections.

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**Joey Tayler says**

A bit light on narration/explanation, heavy on alternate lines, which wasn't what I was looking for. One could probably find these games with similar annotation online, but I'm sure I'll end up returning to this.

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**Dave Jones says**

We all know that Bobby Fischer was a great chess player. This book reveals that he was a talented writer as well. His analyses are rock-solid. As far as I know, these have stood the test of time.

His narrative of the games is fascinating as well. Often he describes the setting of the game and gives personal insights into his opponents.

While Mr. Fischer has a well-deserved reputation for arrogance, this book reveals an uncharacteristic humility. There are 3 losses and several draws in this collection. Normally grandmasters only highlight their most brilliant wins.

This is a good book for the chess enthusiast. It is interesting look into a brilliant chess mind.

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**Ahmed Nejm says**

oh my god very nice book

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