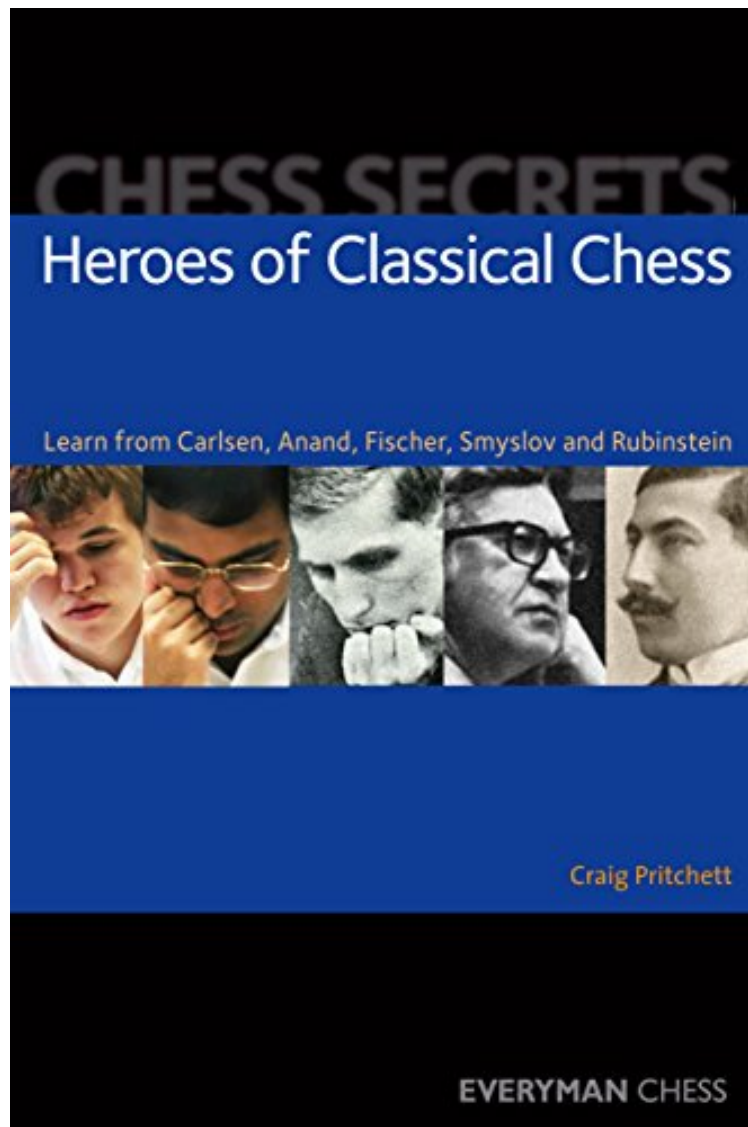


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Chess Secrets: Heroes of Classical Chess: Learn From Carlsen, Anand, Fischer, Smyslov And Rubinstein

Craig Pritchett

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Craig Pritchett : Chess Secrets: Heroes of Classical Chess: Learn From Carlsen, Anand, Fischer, Smyslov And Rubinstein before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chess Secrets: Heroes of Classical Chess: Learn From Carlsen, Anand, Fischer, Smyslov And Rubinstein:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Stong Series, Weak EntryBy R. TobiasThis is the fourth entry in a

series that has been overall very good. I have enjoyed Craig Pritchett as an author in the past: his book on the Sicilian Scheveningen was a solid, workman like effort that I found very helpful. This book, unfortunately, does not live up to the overall excellence of this series, or to Pritchett's previous work. The good choices are in the players and games chosen. There is little to complain about here, other than some would prefer other choices for the (somewhat nebulous) category of 'classical' chess player. The main problem seems to be with the amount of original effort that has gone into this production. A quite significant portion of this book is taken up with unannotated game fragments, that do little for the caliber of player that this book is aimed at. There are numerous pages where over half of the text includes these unannotated (or extremely lightly annotated) strings of moves. This is really inexcusable in a book that should be focused on explaining ideas, strategies, concepts, etc. to developing players. So a rather large percentage of this book is just wasted on its intended audience. The other issue is that Pritchett leans very heavily on previously published analysis, and contributes little of his own original ideas. So there is little or no real unifying thread running through the book to explain just what 'classical' chess is at the detail level. See Derek Grimmell's detailed review, and esp. his review on chesscafe dot com for a more in depth look at the problems of this book. If you are just starting your chess library, there is much in this book to recommend it, based upon the strength of the games chosen, and that of the notes referenced. So it gets a weak recommendation for that situation only. As an original work from an author, or for those with well established libraries, it cannot be recommended. Two and one half stars.

0 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Chess at its best
By Victor Sawan
necessary for anyone wanting to the modern game. The game has developed so rapidly since the days of Fischer that an update is essential.
37 of 40 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing
phoned-in collection
By Derek Grimmell
Although the games in this book are of course excellent games, they are available in many other sources, such as Smyslov's 125 games, Fischer's 60 memorable games, and so on. Furthermore, the author appears to have exerted remarkably little effort to analyze these games or give insightful annotations. Most of the games contain at least one other complete game, with no annotations (just a string of moves followed by 1-0) as a note. Many contain three to five complete games as notes. One contains seven complete games in the notes. These are un-annotated games, mind you: just filling space and teaching almost nothing. And the annotations that are present appear to be cribbed from other authors about half the time -- possibly more, if one searches in books I do not own. The upshot is that, if you have a relatively small library of chess books and want to get a sampling of these great players, this would probably be a three-star book. You'd be better off getting a games collection from any one of these players, especially the self-annotated collections by Smyslov, Fischer, or Anand, but if you bought this book and studied it you probably wouldn't hate yourself. By contrast, if you have a fairly well-developed library already, this is a one-star book; it adds almost nothing you don't already know. Average: two stars.

Craig Pritchett studies five legends who have excelled in the art of classical chess. A study of this book will enhance your skills and help you to play in a formidable classical style.

Improvers (the level above beginners) upwards.