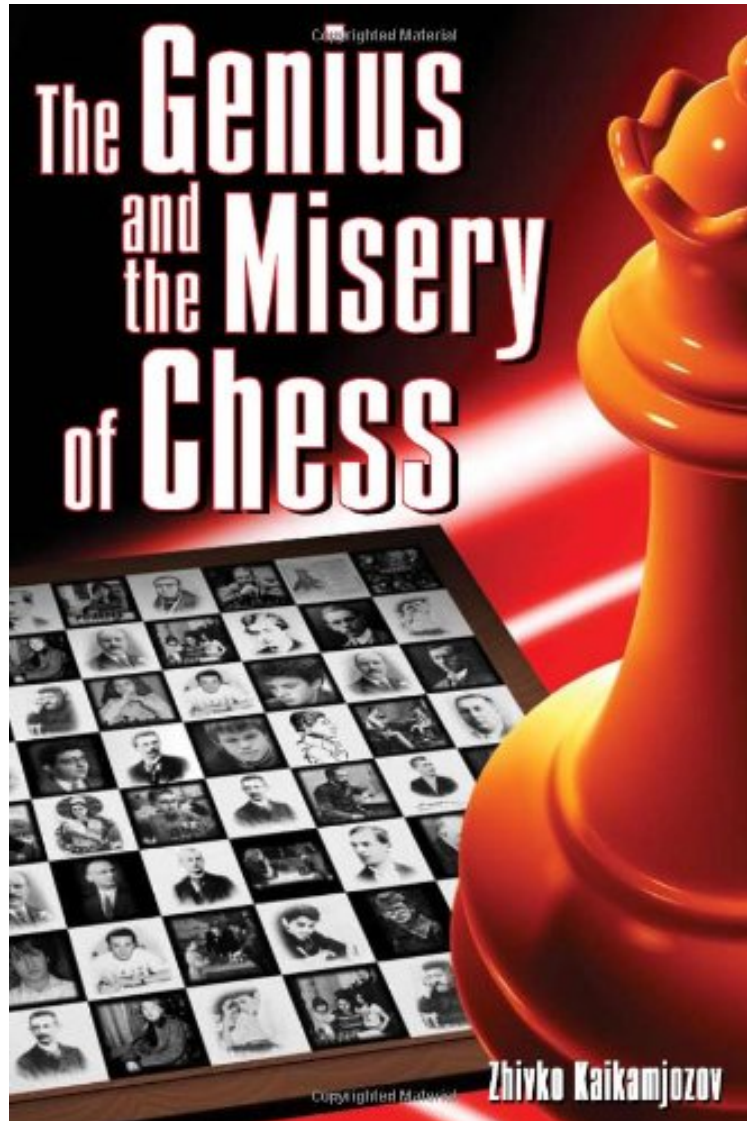


The Genius and the Misery of Chess

Zhivko Kaikamjov

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Zhivko Kaikamjov : The Genius and the Misery of Chess before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Genius and the Misery of Chess:

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A good book on a very interesting subject.By Luiz Gentil JuniorA good book on a very interesting subject for the ones who are curious about the life of the great players of the past. I eventually found out that these masters were greater human figures than I thought: they not just played beautiful chess games; they sacrificed their lives for the sake of their love for chess!! To be a chess professional at those times meant a life of misery, poverty and pain! I was very much impressed by Morphy's and Schlechter's good behavior! They were

real gentleman and they do not deserved their tragic end of life! Schlechter never compromised his principles even in the days of total misery!!! At the Vienna Chess Club a foreigner offered to play a couple of games for a bet of 10 crowns, a considerable sum of money at the time, and he refused saying "I don't think you can win against me" and told his name!!! He NEEDED the money so much and he refused to easily earn it because he thought it was not fair to take advantage of a player who did know or recognize him!http://www..com/Genius-Misery-Chess-Zhivko-Kaikamjzov/dp/0979148235/ref=ntt_at_ep_dpt_113 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Nice idea, weak execution
By Laurentiu Cristofor
There is value to this book, but it could also have been so much better with a bit more work. What we have here is a collection of notes and anecdotes about the lives of chess players. But the notes seem to be put hastily together with no attempt to consolidate them or to present them in some logical order. There are forward references to the lives of chess players that have not been mentioned yet or jumps to the story of a player only to come back to the story of an earlier one in the next chapter. This carelessness at a high level is repeated at a lower level where subsections jump back and forth in a timeline. Sometimes, entire expressions are picked up from one paragraph and repeated in the next. It also feels as no one had proofread this book. Some errors are so bad as to spoil the tragedy of a story. For example, in one chapter we learn about the sad end of life of a master, then the next paragraph continues by telling us how the master continued to win a tournament - wait a second, I thought he died, what is going on there - well, it was just a mistake in which the name of a previous adversary should have been mentioned as winning the tournament. For each master, a game is included; for a few players, two are presented. But most games lack any comments at all. Even when there are comments, they are very short and only apply to one or two moves. I don't remember seeing a single variation included. A diagram is shown for each game, but it is not even shown within the proper place in the list of moves. So, while the intent of this book is nice and some of the content is useful and informative, the presentation and continuity is simply a mess. It can be read, but it is just depressing that the author and editor didn't do a better job putting together this content.

We are used to reading about glorious feats by chess masters from the past, but we often are unaware that chess drove some unfortunate ones to nervous breakdowns, asylums, and poorhouses. In contrast, the lives of child prodigies, the wunderkinds of chess, typically have overflowed with success. These prodigies have achieved unbelievable sports feats at a very young age. Yet, sometimes the promising trajectory of the wunderkind clashes with fate, leaving the youngster to take on the unfortunate plight of a martyr, too. This book recounts all of these stories: the woe of the aged master, the triumph of the prodigy, and the sometime reversal of fortune in the other extreme. From as-Suli of the ninth century to Magnus Carlsen of the twenty first - the triumphs and tragedies that shaped their lives.

About the Author
Zhivko Kaikamjzov is a Bulgarian chess master, organizer, trainer, referee, journalist and author who has dedicated more than a half century to chess. As a FIDE International Arbiter, he has judged numerous chess competitions including the Kasparov-Karpov world title match in 1990. Kaikamjzov was the President of the Eastern European zone of FIDE and an editor of the Bulgarian chess magazine Chess thought.