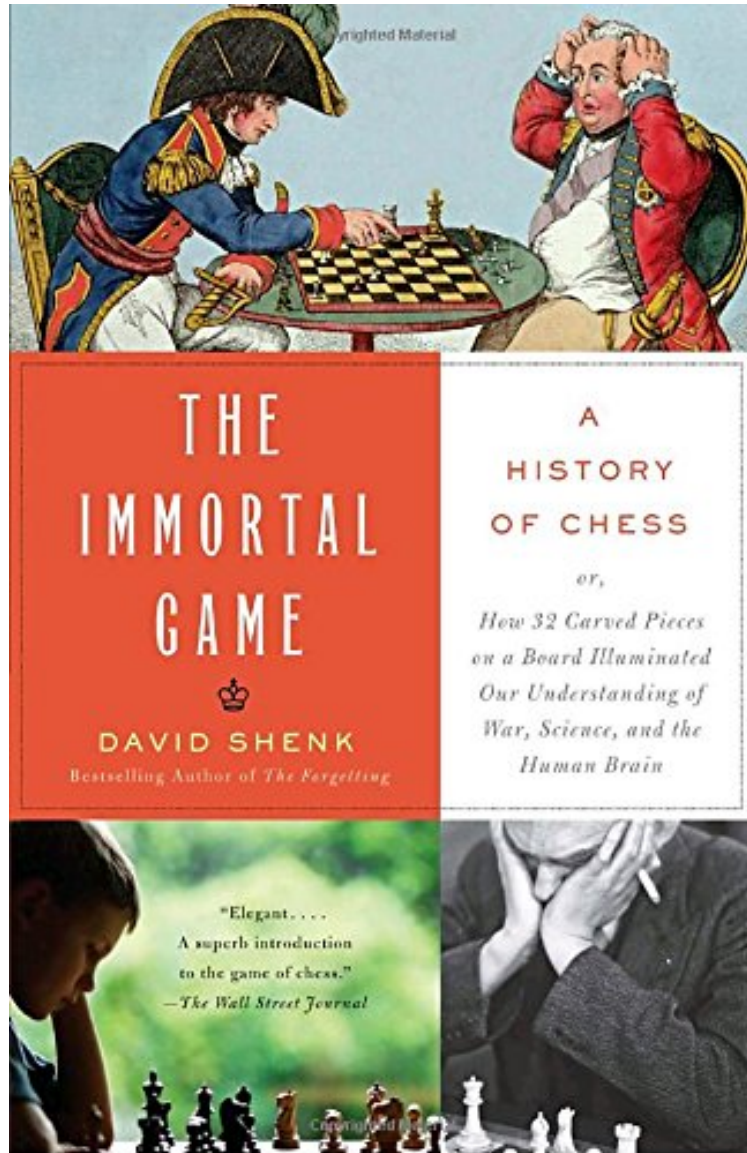


[FREE] The Immortal Game: A History of Chess

The Immortal Game: A History of Chess

David Shenk

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#284499 in Books David Shenk 2007-10-02 2007-10-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.99 x .71 x 5.171, .73 #File Name: 1400034086352 pages The Immortal Game A History of Chess | File size: 66.Mb

David Shenk : The Immortal Game: A History of Chess before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Immortal Game: A History of Chess:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Readable and Entertaining By Kindle Customer Does a good job of wrapping entertaining trivia about chess around a well annotated move by move play out of the well known immortal game of Andersen. The majority of early chess - history is from Murray's History of chess. This is not a book about the history of chess play or technique, or about famous chess players per say. There are some interesting background

stories about computer chess, chess and psychology and Soviet chess. It was fun to read but I learned less than expected. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excecellent read By christy You do not necessarily need to know how to play. The book is so well written that you can get caught up in the history and stories around this ancient game in spite of yourself! It is woven into world history which is brilliant! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Better understanding now By Pseudobliss Some parts of this book are hilarious. The history is more detailed than I ever knew. Sometimes it's like reading a telephone book. Doesn't really bother me. We are chess players anyway right?

A fresh, engaging look at how 32 carved pieces on a board forever changed our understanding of war, art, science, and the human brain. Chess is the most enduring and universal game in history. Here, bestselling author David Shenk chronicles its intriguing saga, from ancient Persia to medieval Europe to the dens of Benjamin Franklin and Norman Schwarzkopf. Along the way, he examines a single legendary game that took place in London in 1851 between two masters of the time, and relays his own attempts to become as skilled as his Polish ancestor Samuel Rosenthal, a nineteenth-century champion. With its blend of cultural history and Shenk's lively personal narrative, *The Immortal Game* is a compelling guide for novices and aficionados alike.

From Publishers Weekly Those curious about chess and wishing to learn more about the game (but not too much more) will welcome this accessible, nontechnical introduction. Shenk (*The Forgetting*) succinctly surveys the game's history from its origins in fifth- or sixth-century Persia up to the present, touching along the way on such subjects as his own amateurish pursuit of the game, erratic geniuses like Paul Morphy and Bobby Fischer, chess in schools today, computer chess and his great-great-grandfather Samuel Rosenthal, who was an eminent player in late 19th-century Europe. To heighten the drama, Shenk intersperses the text with the moves of the so-called "immortal game," a brilliant example of "romantic" chess played between Adolf Anderssen and Lionel Kieseritzky in London in 1851. Appendixes include transcripts of five other great games, along with Benjamin Franklin's brief essay "The Morals of Chess." Readers will come away from this entertaining book with a strong sense of why chess has remained so popular over the ages and why its study still has much to tell us about the workings of the human mind. 50 bw illus. (Sept.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine David Shenk is the author of four previous books, including *The Forgetting*, an acclaimed study of Alzheimer's, and *Data Smog*, about information overload in the Internet age. The greatest asset of *The Immortal Game* is its accessibility. Through an educated layperson's knowledge of chess, Shenk focuses on his subject's more intriguing points and leaves arcane rehashes of famous games for more technical texts. (An appendix obliges those who revel in such details.) At its most engaging, the book meditates on the ways that chess can enrich lives. Given its brevity, Shenk's overview sometimes sacrifices depth to coverage, though such an approach barely decreases the pleasure even an interested "wood-pusher" chess slang for a weak player might take away from this passionate and well-researched history. Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. From Booklist Versatile author Shenk has conceived a bright idea for marching through the history of chess. His title a double entendre, Shenk alternates narrative passages on the ancient lineage of chess with move-by-move analysis of a spectacular 1851 contest that lore has dubbed "the immortal game." Shenk is also an Everyman-guide, and his attitude is one that many readers will share--he is attracted to the game's infinite possibilities but also intimidated by its difficult body of analytic knowledge. Trying to master chess has deranged more than a few, such as artist Marcel Duchamp and former champion Bobby Fischer, but it has also given great pleasure to others, such as Benjamin Franklin. Seeking a reason for the popularity of chess from its Persian and Indian origins 1,500 years ago to the present, Shenk decides it lies in chess' fluidity as metaphor. It was plainly conceived as a war game, but feudal European society found deeper meanings within it, as cognitive psychologists and logicians do today. Rangy, anecdotal, and nontechnical, Shenk's is popular chess history at its most readable. Gilbert Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved