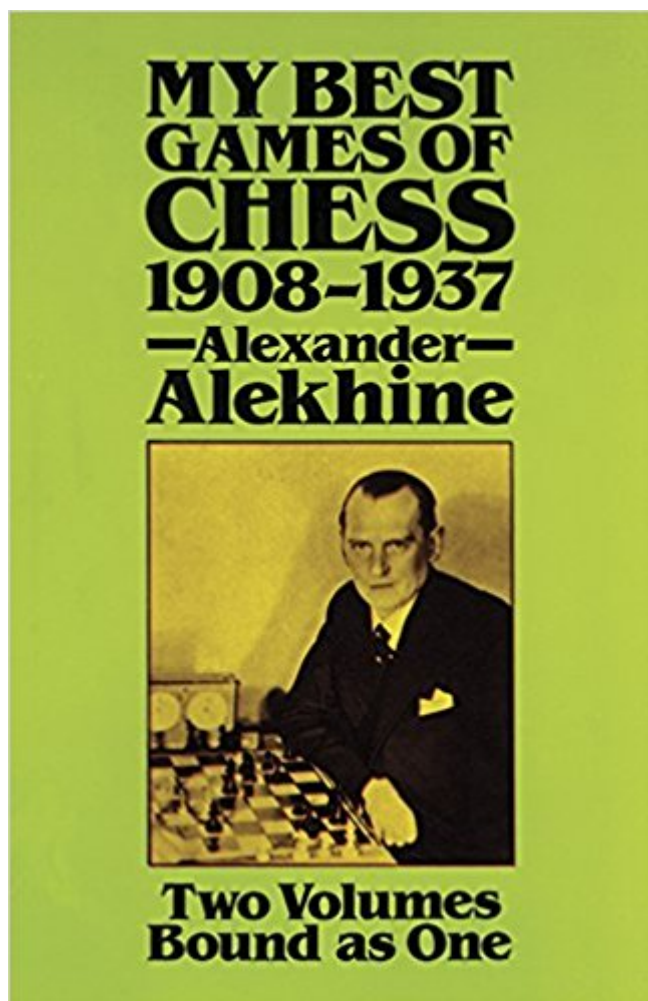


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My Best Games Of Chess, 1908 - 1937



Synopsis

World Champion from 1927-35 and again from 1937-46, Alexander Alekhine ranks as one of the four or five greatest players in chess history. Edward Lasker rates him the game's supreme inventive genius; Euwe considers him the all-time greatest attacking player. A master of all phases of chess, his games were richly conceived and immensely complex. As Bobby Fischer observes in his writings, "He played gigantic conceptions, full of outrageous and unprecedented ideas." This unequalled collection reproduces Alekhine's 220 best games, his own personal accounts of the dazzling victories that made him a legend. Spanning almost thirty years of tournament play, it includes historic matches against Capablanca, Euwe, and Bogoljubov, and chronicles his brilliant ascent to world mastery, his surprising defeat in 1935, and his dramatic return two years later as the first deposed champion to regain his crown. Between 1927 and 1936 his successes in tournaments were unsurpassed by any master at any time in the history of chess. At San Remo 1930 and Bled 1931, in competitions that featured many of the world's greatest players, Alekhine so outdistanced the field that he was indisputably in a class by himself. In a career including some seventy tournaments, he won first prize forty-one times, tying for first on nine occasions. He won or shared second prize fourteen times. Chess was Alekhine's life; he lived for it alone. And although the final chapter of his career and his life were tragic, his achievements at the chessboard rank him as one of the game's true artists. Filled with Alekhine's own penetrating commentary on strategy and tactics, and enhanced by a revealing memoir, *My Best Games* is grandmaster chess at its most sublime. This volume belongs in the library of every serious student of the game.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book (originally published in two volumes, covering 1908-1923 and 1924-1937) has some great faults. Yes, Alekhine's analysis is sometimes unobjective. Yes, he sometimes (though rarely) presented as the actual gamescore a faster win than, in fact, he had only found in a post-mortem analysis. And, yes, of course, his opening ideas and opinions are outdated. That said, this book (these books?) are still, justifiably, considered a classic. The real reason has nothing to do with Alekhine's outdated opening analysis or his creation of a quicker win in the endgame after the fact. It is Alekhine's analysis of the MIDDLEGAME, of attack, defense, and counterattack--the very meat of the game--that makes this book great. As a master of the complicated attack, of turning nebulous strategic advantages into concrete winning variations, Alekhine had seldom, if ever, been equalled. Choosing a game at random (Game 62, Tarrasch-Alekhin, Pstyan 1922) and skipping over the opening variations, Alekhine notes, inter alia: 1. Move 14: White is already strategically lost because he "ceded the center to his opponent in exchange for a pawn of little value". 2. Moves 18-24: After launching an attack to take advantage of this, Alekhine notes in detail the only correct tactical way to carry on the attack, praising White for defending very well (incidentally, praise for his opponent's moves--and criticism of his own--are quite common in Alekhine's analysis, contrary to the usual claim that he despised his rivals.) 3. Move 28: How he prepared a bishop sacrifice to break down white's final defense and mate.

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