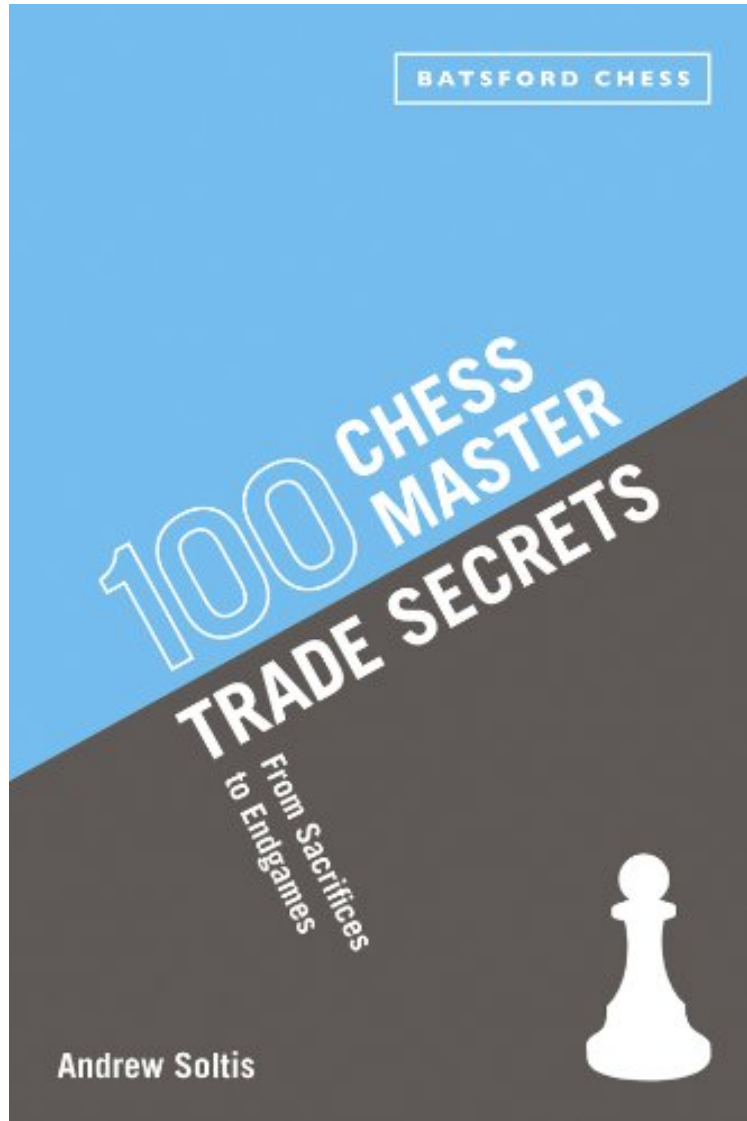


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100 Chess Master Trade Secrets: From Sacrifices to Endgames

Andrew Soltis

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Andrew Soltis : 100 Chess Master Trade Secrets: From Sacrifices to Endgames before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 100 Chess Master Trade Secrets: From Sacrifices to Endgames:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Soltis DeliversBy Danny WoodallThis is a good how to play chess book for intermediate players. Work the secrets into your play over time and you will see your chess improve. Soltis' book are usually in two groups, okay or really good. This is a really good book that you have to study. He starts

getting down to the nitty-gritty of chess. Grandmasters will yawn, masters will shrug, an experts might toss it to the side, but as for us class players we will improve.47 of 49 people found the following review helpful. THE BEST CHESS BOOK EVER WRITTEN FOR THE ASPIRING MASTER!By David DatheAs a professional educator in higher-education, I've spent a lifetime teaching students to become expert practitioners of a discipline. To become competent, students must learn a certain amount of "essential knowledge". The required body of knowledge is well known in various science and math disciplines. However, until now, no one has ever summarized what a chess master absolutely must know. GM Andrew Soltis has filled the need with a very understandable and readable text.Soltis wrote Trade Secrets to address readers' complaints from two previous books. In "Studying Chess Made Easy," Soltis said there were only a few "exact endings" (endings in which the outcome is certain if played correctly) that masters knew. He didn't say what these endings were. In "What It Takes to Become a Chess Master," Sotlis said there were certain plans (called priyomes, a Russian term) in various pawn structures that every master knew. He didn't say what these plans were. Readers of both books complained. What are the exact endings? What are the important priyomes (plans)? Soltis summarizes the aim of the book in the introduction: "The first step to becoming a master is to separate the things you COULD know from what you SHOUD know -- and from what you MUST know." He tells us what we MUST know.The book has four chapters that can be divided into two broad categories: 1) Middlegame priyomes (mini-plans that are used in various pawn structures)--25 Key Priyomes and 25 Sacrifices. 2) Endgame knowledge--25 Endgame Techniques and 25 Exact Endgames. Soltis explains a given priyome or sacrifice or technique or exact ending with relevant examples that span a century of chess play. Game examples range from Pillsbury's games from the 1890s to modern GM games from 2012. Each priyome is clearly explained by showing examples of when the priyome can be played and when the priyome is a mistake. Studying these plans is a much more useful way of approaching opening study than simply memorizing a few variations. My opening play was certainly enhanced by looking at the various plans that occur in the openings I play. One example: I play the Sicilian Najdorf (GM Walter) Browne system of ...h6 after White plays Bg5. White has two options: retreating the Bishop or playing h4 leaving the Bishop open to capture. I never understood the "Passive Bishop Sacrifice" (Soltis' term) until I read about the priyome. Now it makes sense to me. Especially important are the endgame techniques--techniques that are relevant, useful and practical. Mastering the various techniques will definitely raise any player's endgame skill. In my opinion, the book is the best introduction to the endgame that I've seen.Any player expert strength and below who wants to achieve master strength has to first master the material in the text. You can save literally 100s of hours of wasted study time by using Trade Secrets as your starting point for mastering chess. There is an old saying in education that is true: "Study smarter, not harder". Trade Secrets allows you to study smarter. Much smarter.28 of 31 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book, but buy the printed version, not the Kindle oneBy CustomerIt's too bad the Kindle version is flawed. I had to return it for a refund. The figurine notation for the moves is unreadable (just download a sample copy and see for yourself). The symbols are too small and do not adjust when you change the font size, so you end up with a tiny bishop or knight next to large text. Why not use all letters like Bg5 or Nc3 and have everything adjust when you zoom in or out? The printed version, on the other hand, is excellent.

Any would-be chess master has to know certain essential tips and techniques in order to achieve greatnessand this one volume has them all! From openings to endgames, renowned grandmaster Andrew Soltis provides the top 20 skills and strategies in every category: sacrifices, crucial middlegame decisions, exact endgames, and more. Written in Soltis's eternally engaging and accessible style, this book is invaluable for any serious player.

About the Author