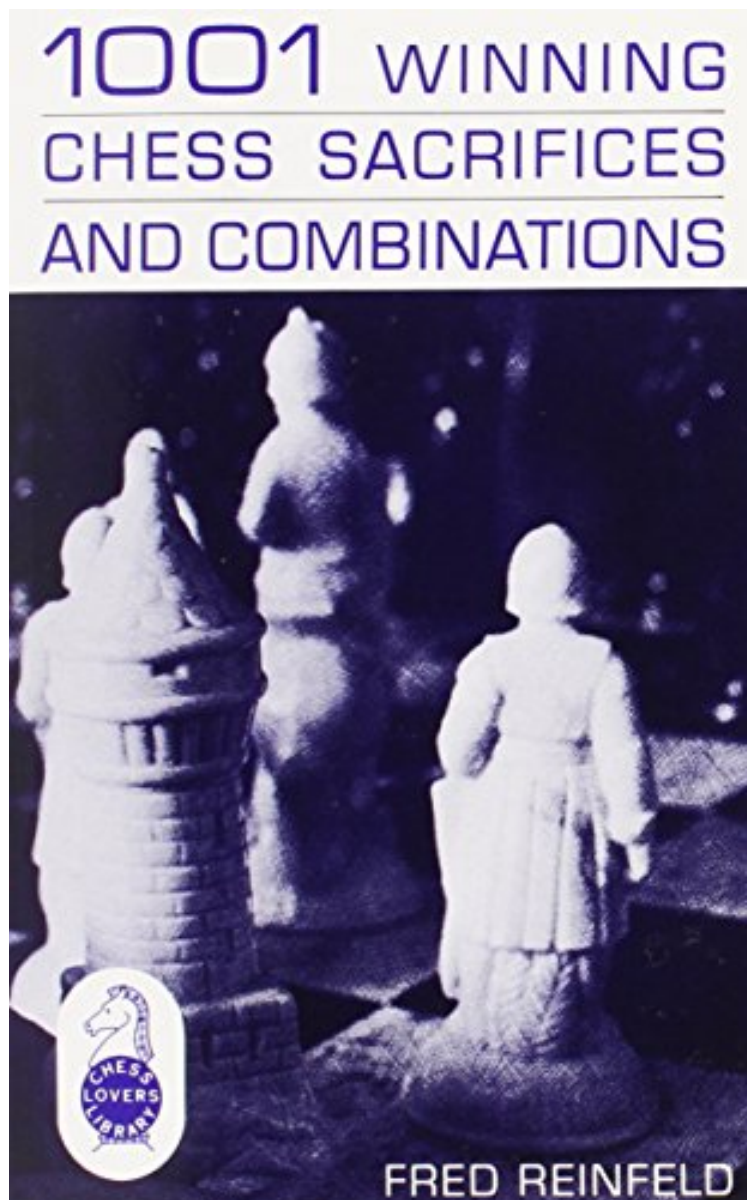


1001 Winning Chess Sacrifices and Combinations

Fred Reinfeld

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Fred Reinfeld : 1001 Winning Chess Sacrifices and Combinations before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 1001 Winning Chess Sacrifices and Combinations:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic second tactics book for reinforcing the basics.By Mark Twain9I'm rated about 1410 on chess.com blitz. I hold the class C status because of my checkmating/king attack skills,

not because of my tactics, which are weaker. Some of the diagrams have the black squares so dark that it is hard to see the black pieces on them, but they are still readable. Most diagrams are good. For the price, I'm not complaining. I almost give it 4 stars though since the chapter name is printed at the bottom of each page. If a beginner needs that hint, they should look at the table of contents. But a stronger player has to open to a random page and cover the bottom of it in order to make the problems harder. Some people bad mouth this book because it is divided into sections that tell you the type of tactic, making the problem easier. Well, weak players have to start somewhere. This is a great book to follow Chess Tactics by Paul Littlewood, or Tactics of the Tournament Player by Lev Alburt or another beginner tactics book. This is not an instruction book, but is where you can practice the different types. Each chapter is introduced by about 2/3 page of explanation of what each tactic is, but not in the detail of a true primer. It even talks about a few of the problems, giving beginners hints if they read it. Stronger players can skip the introduction. There are 20 types of tactics, and the positions are beautifully instructive. The difficulty range actually is such that a less strong player can get better with this book. The chapter hint is not as useful as you'd think in some problems, and it is easy to forget what chapter you are in, so even some stronger players can still get something out of this. The difficulty level does vary from problem to problem, as seen by the number of moves in the answer section. 4 moves is most common, 8+ make up 10%, and 3 or less seem to be 30%. Despite the variability, the first page of so of each chapter seemed easy for me to solve, partially because I saw those problems in a primer book I'm currently working through. Once this book is mastered I'll go through the 1115 puzzles book (forgot the title, still in the mail), since it is a mix of themes that go from easy to hard. After I finish with that or get right to the last 100 which are super hard, I'll jump to The Complete Chess Workout with 1200 mixed problems of variable strength. I'll finish the 100 hardest problems after that. Tactics involves calculations, but humans don't consider every move like computers do. We know which moves are good candidates via pattern recognition. So memorize as many patterns as you can as fast as you can. Do some calculation drills too, but don't let slow calculation speed keep you from memorizing a thousand patterns in a timely manner. You are not a computer and you never will be able to analyze 200,000,000 positions per move like they do when they look 5 moves deep.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. wonderful tactics practice, flaws are actually very minor

By bearieq To play chess with any sort of competency, you must be able to spot the tactics on the board. To get good at spotting tactics, you must practice with lots and lots of tactics puzzles. Hence this book. This book has three flaws, which are not anywhere near as serious as some of the reviewers would have you believe. First, the solutions assume that the defender plays the obvious responses, but in many of the more complex problems there are other, often very nonobvious, responses that are superior and that defeat the attack. However, for the intended reader of this book this flaw is actually not a flaw at all, because the reader with the intended level of skill will have a hard enough time finding the *obvious* responses; he or she will not care in the least that a nonobvious, deeply hidden, better response was available. Second, the book provides hints by grouping problems into categories, whereas real games don't provide hints. Readers who don't want the hints can simply ignore the chapter headings and choose a random problem from the book. The bigger overarching hint that cannot be ignored is the fact that the mere *presence* of a board in this book indicates that it contains a combination. In a real game determining whether a combination is available is hard. Third, the book is written in descriptive notation. For some reason, many chess reviewers love to whine about descriptive notation. The fact is that descriptive and algebraic notations are equally easy to read. The only real drawback of descriptive notation occurs when you are reading a game and want to back up to an earlier position; for that, only algebraic notation provides the necessary information about where pieces came from. For a book like this one, however, descriptive notation is perfectly fine. Learn to read it. It's fun.

In short: If you want to get better at chess tactics, study this book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Take the book for what it is

By William J. Mertens You've got to accept this book for what it is -- a very large set of chess puzzles to solve. No, it's not a comprehensive manual of the game. No, it doesn't teach openings. No, it's got nothing on strategic conceptions of middle-game play. There could be a whole long list of what it is not. But take it for what it is. One, it's fun to try to solve these puzzles. If you like that kind of thing, you can throw this inexpensive book in a briefcase, purse, or pocket. (Or keep it in the john.) The puzzles are nice diversion. Two, I believe it can really help play to go over and over the puzzles. Doing that will, I think, imprint the repeating patterns that allow these kinds of combinations. It will become easier feel when a position offers combinational opportunities - for you or your opponent - and smoke the combinations out.

A word about the descriptive notation. The publishers have kept this book in print by some photoprocess from the original of it, which is now a half century old. A half century ago, descriptive notation was the standard in the English-speaking world. It's now all but died out. The publisher could find a wider audience by having someone translate the notations to algebraic. I assume they've thought of it but decided it's not a profitable move. I don't know; maybe they're right. Hate them for that decision if you will, but anyone still can enjoy and profit from this book as is. Descriptive notation is very easy to master, even if you think it stinks, and the the book includes a clear explanation of how it works.

Book by Reinfeld, Fred