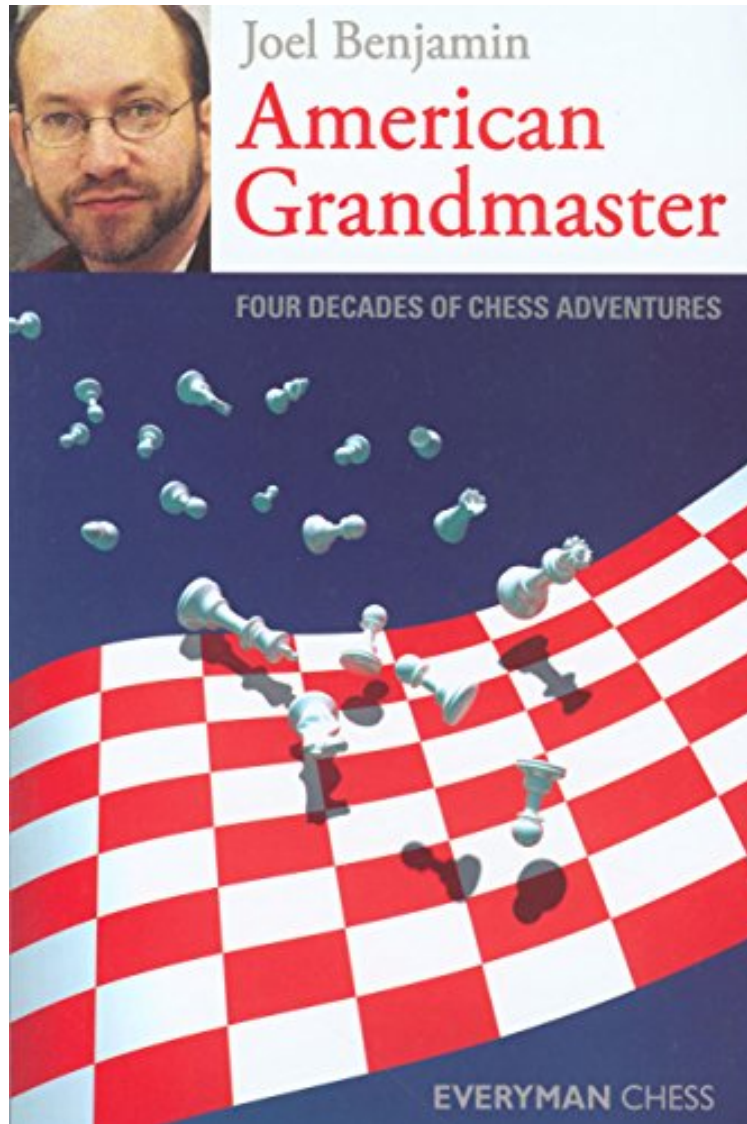


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American Grandmaster: Four Decades Of Chess Adventures (Everyman Chess)

Joel Benjamin

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Joel Benjamin : American Grandmaster: Four Decades Of Chess Adventures (Everyman Chess) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Grandmaster: Four Decades Of Chess Adventures (Everyman Chess):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy bobsie67Enjoyed reading about GM Benjamin, who is my contemporary. Sorry to read that he seems so embittered.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Enjoyable biography By Phyllis Benjamin Beautifully written. Very informative about the author's life and the chess world. not necessary to be a chess player to enjoy it. 15 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining and Witty Memoir By Schach the Monkey I had intended to buy Joel Benjamin's autobiography when it came out, but it fell off my radar screen. Seeing the two widely disparate reviews on , however (2-star and 5-star) prompted me to finally get the book so I could see for myself which reviewer was more accurate. After reading the book, I side squarely with the reviewer who gave it five stars. I have read many chess bios and autobios, and Benjamin's book falls safely in the very top level of this genre. For me, the most appealing aspects of "American Grandmaster" are Benjamin's humorous turns of phrase and his anecdotes that place you right at the scene of a long-completed tournament (for example, he describes a loss to future GM Grivas of Greece, then unknown to Benjamin, from the white side of the King's Indian. Grivas begins the post-mortem by announcing to Benjamin, "I am an expert in the King's Indian Defense.") Such minor braggadoccio will be well-understood by anyone who's played in chess tournaments. Also appealing in a general way is the maturation of Benjamin from the semi-smartass twentysomething grandmaster who published the funny but often sophomoric (in a charming way) magazine "Chess Chow" to the more philosophical fortysomething grandmaster who forgives past slights (even giving Gata Kamsky his due) and mixes in his regrets and failures, often quite painful, in with his triumphs. It's disarming and fascinating (noting an early speculative knight sac, Benjamin comments: "I can only marvel at the optimism of my past self"). I have probably read forty chess biographies and I'm not sure any of them have been written in as charming a style as "American Grandmaster." Highly recommended.

In American Grandmaster, Joel Benjamin takes the reader on a journey through chess adventures spanning more than thirty years. Tracing through his own career, from being a prodigy in the Fischer boom' era thorough to an experienced Grandmaster with many

From the Back Cover Joel Benjamin is one of the most prominent faces in the history of US chess. At thirteen years of age he broke Bobby Fischers record as the youngest ever national master, and this was followed by countless tournament successes. Perhaps most famously, in 1997 he hit the headlines when he became the chess consultant for IBMs Deep Blue computer, which made history by beating World Champion Garry Kasparov in an epic encounter.