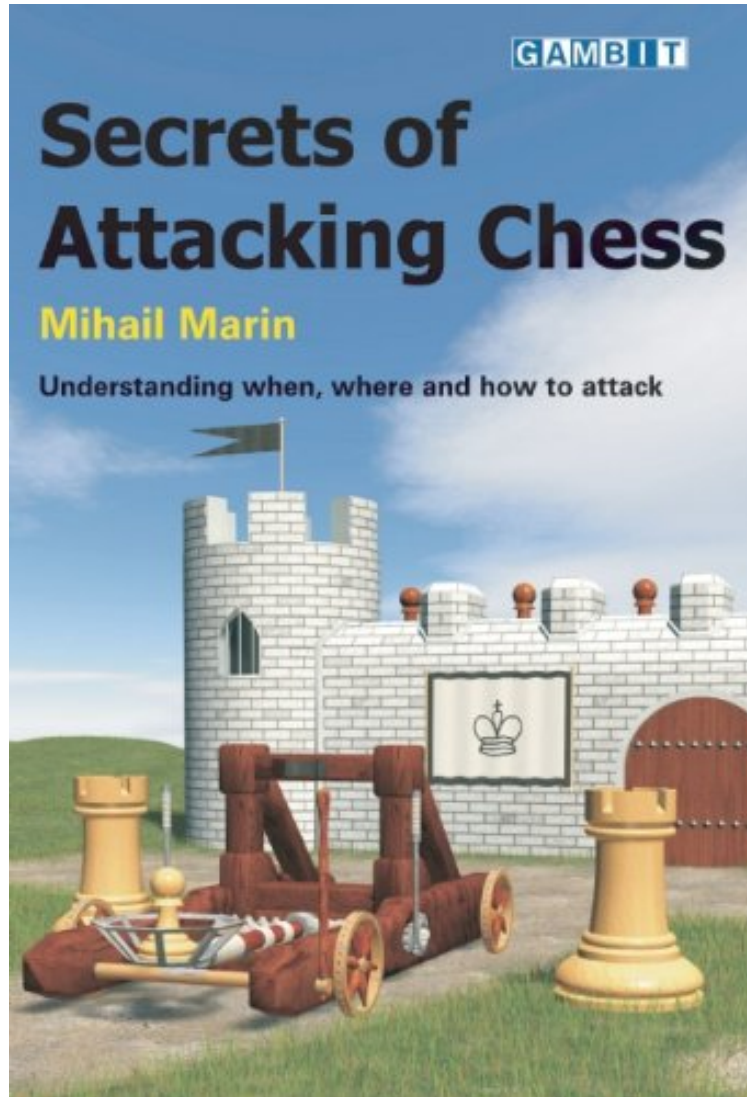


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Secrets of Attacking Chess

Mihail Marin

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Mihail Marin : Secrets of Attacking Chess before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Secrets of Attacking Chess:

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy pearl jam dudeExcellent Transaction...Recommended!27 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Not your ordinary book on attacking ... much betterBy IgelfeldFirst off, who is the target audience for this book. This book is really not for beginners and marginally for intermediate chess players. The book is best suited for advanced players who want to understand the subtle points of where their attack started to fall apart. With that said, if you're a correspondence player, this book

might help you at almost any level because it gives you a notion of the thoroughness necessary to effectively analyze. Okay, so why 5 stars? Marin does what most authors don't do, he answers the questions to a level of depth that doesn't leave vague assessments. Generally, he looks at ALL candidate moves and provides analysis to show either why the move is good, bad or just plain mechanical. This is particularly important because many annotators just don't consider all the legitimate moves. Often I look at an annotated game and wonder why certain moves aren't even considered. Marin seems to have a sixth sense and provides the answers to those questions. Another really big feature of the book is Marin's analysis of when the game starts falling apart. He goes through other assessments and points out where the original annotation failed to find a move that would have given the other side a fighting chance. Marin goes out of his way to let you know exactly when the game goes down the tubes, thus reinforcing that even at the highest levels, players make several mistakes before a game is really lost. Finally, Marin's narrative is simply excellent. His assessments often include the ideas behind all the variations and not simply a string of variations and a vague positional assessment at the end. In reading the book, I feel personally coached by Marin. Truly a sign of a well written, well produced book. Like most books, there are some nits, but none to mark the book down from five stars. Buy it with confidence, read it with pleasure. 42 of 51 people found the following review helpful. Great vaulted cathedrals of variations! By Chess Clubplayer This book is about "the very special moment of the game when, as if by magic, an attack becomes possible." I have this vision of Marin as an elderly Klingon, waving his flask of blood wine and regaling you with the most fantastic stories! It's like he's sitting in front of you with a chess board, showing you everything, pausing for effect, slamming down a devastating move then demonstrating why there is no good reply to it. He's with you, he's involved, he's enthusiastic, passionate. The text is alive. It's more like reading a novel than a chess book! These must be his own words; no translator is mentioned. He tells you what he thinks are the psychological processes in the minds of top players - then backs it up by demonstrating exactly the same human foibles in his own games - not something he could do if he were not a strong GM! This is a benefit of having a strong GM as an author - not only do you get absolutely accurate analysis, but also the insight into how much of it was seen at the board. Frighteningly large amounts! Great vaulted cathedrals of variations, stained glass and all. OK there's lots of analysis, but don't be scared by the look of the pages. Imagine the guy in front of you, and it's like he's telling you stories of dragon-slaying, and the sequences of moves are the lurid details of how he chased it behind a rock and was nearly eaten when it sprang out over the top. The lines of analysis are as necessary and as amazing as the moves that actually happened in the games. This is a book to take your time over and savour.

In his previous work, *Secrets of Chess Defence*, Mihail Marin examined the task facing the defender. Now he considers the other side of the coin. In this wide-ranging treatise, he discusses many topics including: the balance between attack and defence; the premises for starting a successful attack; advantage in development; intuitive sacrifices; typical scenarios. The book features many practical examples from top-level play.

About the Author Mihail Marin is a strong grandmaster from Romania. He achieved his first major success in international chess by qualifying for the interzonals in 1987. He has won the Romanian Championship on two occasions and has played in seven Olympiads. For several years he was editor of the magazine *Chess Extrapress*.