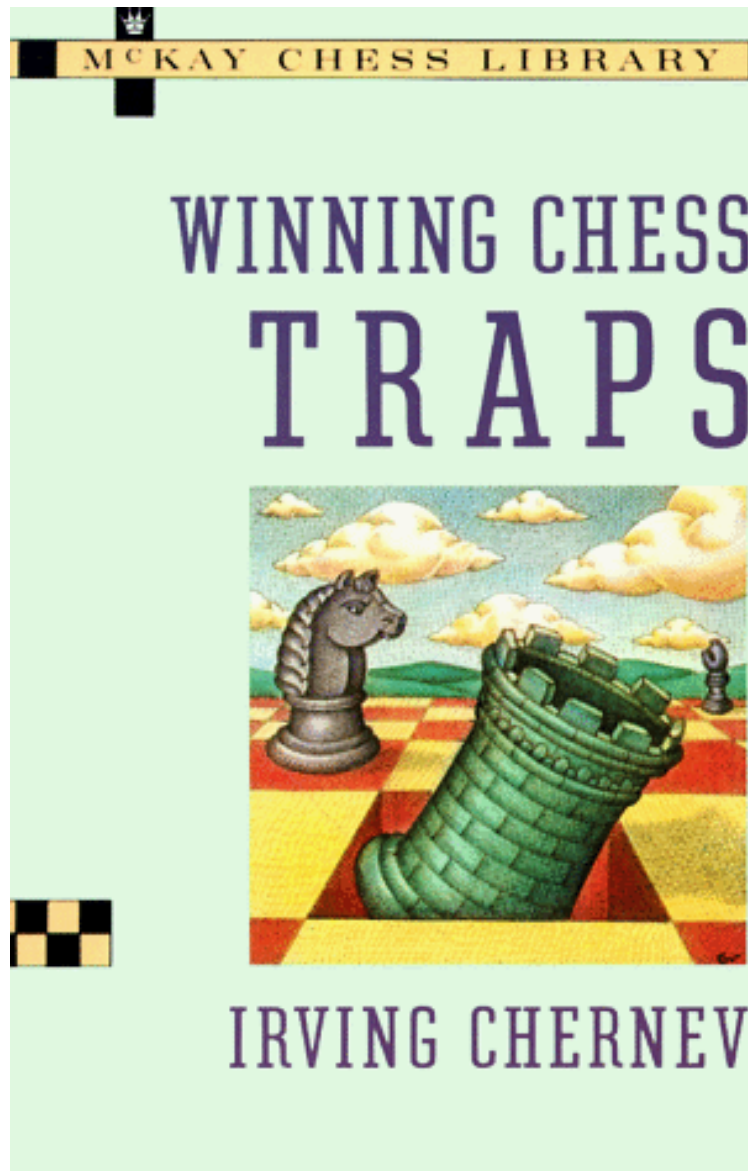


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Winning Chess Traps

Irving Chernev

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Irving Chernev : Winning Chess Traps before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Winning Chess Traps:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Books are what they are.By Christopher "B Class"
This is a truly fun book. The mistake a lot of people make with books is expecting to much. Look at the publication date. The latest computer aided analysis of your favorite opening will NOT be in here. What you will find is:1. Typical opening

mistakes, pawn chasing, premature attacks, greed etc., punished.2. Some older forgotten lines of play that you can enjoy, and maybe punish an opponent with.3. Basic tactics in openings you do not currently play but, may be inspired to take up.4. Mating patterns in the early stage of a game.5. A whole lotta fun!!Now if you have a problem with the good old descriptive notation well, get over it!You are missing a goldmine of information out there because you are too lazy to learn it. Your loss.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Lilys Momgood book0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable older book still offers practical advice on opening trapsBy Jason KirkfieldEven if you prefer not to play trappy openings yourself, you still need to keep an eye out for opponents who do.As Josh Waitzkin recounted in *Attacking Chess: Aggressive Strategies and Inside Moves from the U.S. Junior Chess Champion* (Fireside Chess Library), after losing the final game at Nationals (to the infamous Blackburne Shilling Gambit): "This is a reason to be familiar with traps! Imagine losing such an important game without even being able to put up a proper fight."Personally, I think the best method for recognizing traps may simply (yet sadly) be the experience of being the victim of one! In my experience, the memory of over-the-board play is much more lasting than what can be gained from a book. So I remain unconvinced that newer books would necessarily do a better job of teaching this subject. In any case I think a book about traps has to retain an entertaining character. The *Greatest Ever Chess Tricks and Traps* looks pretty good and I would try that if given the chance.Being a reprint of a 1946 edition, the content in *Winning Chess Traps* is dated, but really, is there anything new in chess? The answer is, aside from beta openings from GMs: less than you might think. Certainly the Pirc Defence, popularized in the 1960s, is not included here. I would have liked for well-known openings to be sub-classified as such, for example:p.14: Morphy Defense/Bogolyubov Variation (Ruy Lopez)p.42: Old Steinitz Defense (Ruy Lopez)p.182: Pin Variation (Sicilian Defence)p.186: Koch Variation (Sicilian Defence)People often carp that older books have not been updated into algebraic notation, but a book like this is actually an excellent opportunity to get familiar with the older descriptive notation. Each of the 300 traps is contained on a single page, with one diagram. Moreover, many games are a dozen moves or less. Playing through moves (i.e., P-Q4 N-KB3 instead of d4 Nf6) in small segments is a good way to teach yourself a new (old?) chess language. You can also regard this as a puzzle book of sorts, since as you know every example will end painfully, you can try to find the blunder yourself, as long as you can refrain from cheating = peeking at the annotations.(Random House, 1989)

All classes of players, weak or strong, need the vital information in this book to avoid pitfalls or to catch the unwary napping. Each of the 300 traps discussed in this collection -- introductory explanation, opening moves, diagram of position when trap is sprung, concluding moves to checkmate or win material -- is complete in itself. *Winning Chess Traps* is a thorough and practical book, a classic that belongs in any basic chess library.

From the Inside FlapAll classes of players, weak or strong, need the vital information in this book to avoid pitfalls or to catch the unwary napping. Each of the 300 traps discussed in this collection -- introductory explanation, opening moves, diagram of position when trap is sprung, concluding moves to checkmate or win material -- is complete in itself. *Winning Chess Traps* is a thorough and practical book, a classic that belongs in any basic chess library.