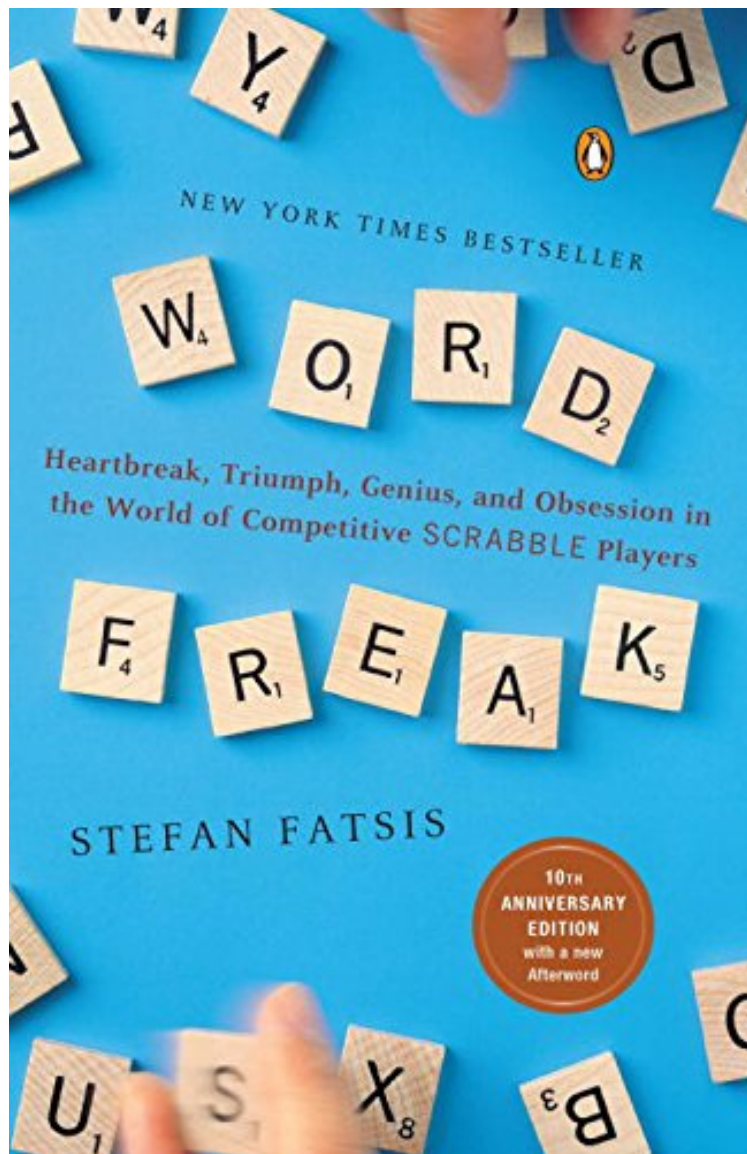


[Ebook pdf] Word Freak: Heartbreak, Triumph, Genius, and Obsession in the World of Competitive Scrabble Players

## Word Freak: Heartbreak, Triumph, Genius, and Obsession in the World of Competitive Scrabble Players

Stefan Fatsis

*\*Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#101707 in Books Stefan Fatsis 2002-07-30 2002-07-30 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.43 x .86 x 5.531, .82 #File Name: 0142002267416 pages Word Freak | File size: 75.Mb

**Stefan Fatsis : Word Freak: Heartbreak, Triumph, Genius, and Obsession in the World of Competitive Scrabble Players** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Word Freak: Heartbreak, Triumph, Genius, and Obsession in the World of Competitive Scrabble Players:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book gave me motivation to play competitive Scrabble back ...By Timothy FishThis book gave me motivation to play competitive Scrabble back in 2008. I now gift it to any senior student who graduates from my Scrabble Club at a local high school. It really portrays the world and personalities of competitive and club Scrabble, but don't get the idea that everyone who plays this game is as strange as the characters in this book! (no offense to those characters, just I will never be able to dedicate that much of my life to Scrabble!)0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. so I really liked this fascinating glimpse into the world of competitive ScrabbleBy Sarah A. SaltusI'm a word freak,so I really liked this fascinating glimpse into the world of competitive Scrabble. I haven't dipped my toe into those particular waters, but understand the irresistible siren song of games and the obsession of those who play them.It has good information for those considering playing Scrabble competitively. It can be enjoyed at many levels, but the very top players put in many hours memorizing every possible admissible word--more than the average person is willing or able to do.I thought the author was a little dismissive of the "blue-hairs". I'm sure some middle aged middle class women are exceptional players. All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed the descriptions of the characters at the top that pinnacle.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I wonder if it was worth the effort to send it or the postageBy CustomerSince I paid just \$1 for the only dilapidated copy, I suppose I can't complain. It came in record time. The price was probably a lot for this nearlydestroyed but readable copy. I think you should admit that it is a dilapidated discard from a library and in readable but very poor condition. I am still considering giving it as a gift to a fellow Scrabble enthusiast but with the note that she might find a better copy at the library nearest her. That's where I found the copy I read and enjoyed.

Scrabble may be truly called America's game. But for every group of "living-room players" there is someone who is "at one with the board." In *Word Freak*, Stefan Fatsis introduces readers to those few, exploring the underground world of colorful characters for which the Scrabble game is life-playing competitively in tournaments across the country. It is also the story of how the Scrabble game was invented by an unemployed architect during the Great Depression and how it has grown into the hugely successful, challenging, and beloved game it is today. Along the way, Fatsis chronicles his own obsession with the game and his development as a player from novice to expert. More than a book about hardcore Scrabble players, *Word Freak* is also an examination of notions of brilliance, memory, language, competition, and the mind that celebrates the uncanny creative powers in us all.A Book Sense 76 pick.

.com Like a cross between a linguistic spy and a lexicographic Olympic athlete, journalist Stefan Fatsis gave himself a year to penetrate the highest echelons of international Scrabble competition. *Word Freak* is the account of his journey. It's a wacky grab bag of travelogue, history, party journal, and psychological study of the misfits and goofballs whose lives are measured out in Scrabble tiles. Fatsis gives us all the facts about Scrabble--from the story of the down-on-his-luck architect who invented the game in the 1930s to the intricacies of individual international competitions and the corporate wars to control the world's favorite word game. He keeps the reader turning the pages as we get involved in the lives of the Scrabble obsessives: men and women who have a point to prove against the world and have chosen Scrabble as their playground and their pulpit. As Fatsis goes on his own quest to attain the coveted 1600 rating, we actually get obsessed with him as he lies awake at night pondering moves and memorizing lists of words. For anybody who is interested in words, *Word Freak* provides an entertaining and absorbing read. --Dwight Longenecker,

.co.ukFrom Publishers WeeklyIt takes a special kind of person to be able to rattle off all the words that start with the letter q but don't require a u or to immediately recognize that the same letters used for the word "troutmania" can also spell "maturation" and "natatorium." These talented individuals are the subject of Fatsis's tell-all on the professional Scrabble realm's inner sanctum. The Wall Street Journal sports reporter (and author of *Wild and Outside*) began simply as a curious journalist but was soon obsessed, befriending dozens of experts in his passage from "living room player" to the continent's 180th (or so) best player. The book entertainingly and admiringly portrays the irreverent crowd that lives, eats and breathes Scrabble, interspersing mini-profiles with updates on Fatsis's progress and historical facts about the game. Among the cast of characters familiar with words like "eloiners" and "loxodrome" are "G.I." Joel Sherman, who directs the Manhattan Scrabble Club despite his dental problems, asthma attacks and lactose intolerance; Matt Graham, a stand-up comedian who let Scrabble fill the void when he got fired from his gig at Saturday Night Live; and Steve Williams, a Harvard grad with psychiatric problems, also the winner of the 1977 New York City championship. Fatsis gives an in-depth Scrabble history, too from portraying Alfred Butts, the game's meticulous Depression-era inventor, to explaining how Hasbro manages to sell over one million sets a year with minimal advertising. Journalistic, expressive prose helps transform this potentially dry account of some word-obsessed oddballs into a funny, albeit vertical, glimpse at one of America's quirkiest special-interest groups. (July 10)Forecast: Are there 25,000 hardcore Scrabble fans out there? Hard to say, but Houghton Mifflin is counting on it, and in order to reach them, the house is taking an NPR sponsorship (Fatsis is an NPR contributor) and sending the author on a six-city tour. He is booked on the Today Show. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalIn 1997, when Wall Street Journal reporter Fatsis was casting about for a story, he decided to challenge the head of the National Scrabble Association to a gameAand won. Now he's a top-ranked Scrabble player. Here's the story of how he

