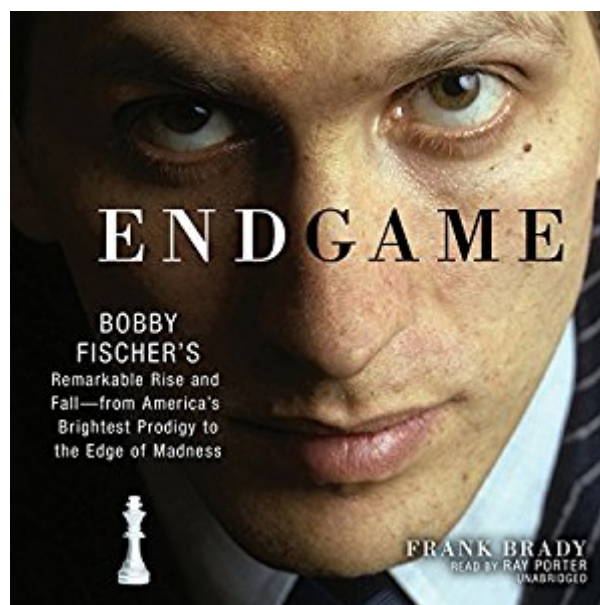


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# Endgame: Bobby Fischer's Remarkable Rise And Fall—From America's Brightest Prodigy To The Edge Of Madness



## Synopsis

From Frank Brady, who wrote one of the best-selling books on Bobby Fischer of all time and who was himself a friend of Fischer's, comes an impressively researched biography that for the first time completely captures the remarkable arc of Bobby Fischer's life. When Bobby Fischer passed away in January 2008, he left behind a confounding legacy. Everyone knew the basics of his life—he began as a brilliant youngster, then became the pride of American chess, then took a sharp turn, struggling with paranoia and mental illness. But nobody truly understood him. What motivated Fischer from such a young age, and what was the source of his remarkable intellect? How could a man so ambivalent about money and fame be so driven to succeed? What drew this man of Jewish descent to fulminate against Jews, and how was it that a mind so famously disciplined could unravel so completely? From Fischer's meteoric rise, to an utterly dominant prime unequaled by any American chess player, to his eventual descent into madness, the book draws upon hundreds of newly discovered documents and recordings and numerous firsthand interviews conducted with those who knew Fischer best. It paints, for the very first time, a complete picture of one of America's most enigmatic icons. This is the definitive account of a fascinating man and an extraordinary life, one that at last reconciles Fischer's deeply contradictory legacy and answers the question, who was Bobby Fischer?

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 13 hours 29 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Blackstone Audio, Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: February 1, 2011

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B004LQ5E8C

Best Sellers Rank: #19 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Chess #22 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Games #138 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Entertainers & Celebrities

## Customer Reviews

Absolutely, positively, the best book on the life of Bobby Fischer I've ever read! Nothing else comes

close! The details Mr. Brady goes into about Bobby Fischer's life, both personal and his chess career, left me very satisfied and content that there is nothing more to learn about Bobby Fischer. This book is so well written that when I put it down, I couldn't wait to pick it up again. An easy read; there are no actual games in this book so you don't have to know how to play chess to enjoy learning about one of the best chess players of all time! I started playing chess in 1972, before I ever heard of Bobby Fischer. When I did learn of him I went out and purchased my first chess book, Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess. Despite the current criticism of this book it was helpful to me at the time and made me want to learn more. Then came the 1972 World Chess Championship against Boris Spassky. The excitement of his win, not showing up to defend his title, his disappearance, derogatory remarks, problems with the U.S. government, his rematch against Spassky in 1992, and finally his death - I knew these things but I didn't know the stories surrounding them and was never satisfied with any of the other books I've read until I came across this one. Thank you Mr. Brady for a wonderful, well written story of Bobby Fischer's life! It answered a lot of questions and I learned many things I didn't know. I can't explain why I didn't come across your book earlier but I'm glad I did. Very highly recommended if you want to know more about Bobby Fischer!

I just finished the book. It was interesting to read from start to finish. It describes Bobby Fischer from childhood to the end of his life and provides a deep look into his personality and character. The author describes Fischer's good traits as well as the bad. Aside from psychosocial and biographical information about Bobby Fischer, the book also goes over a number of details of the world at the time of any given time period in Bobby's life. I really cannot think anything to criticize about this book. Some have complained that Brady doesn't list or discuss the actual chess games themselves move by move. I think it is a good decision to avoid that and focus on Fischer's biography only. Chances are that you're looking at this book because you've heard about or watched the recent film about Fischer, "Pawn Sacrifice". This is a much better source of information about Fischer and a much better and more accurate look into his life.

If you've ever wanted to separate fact from fiction when it comes to the life of Bobby Fischer this book will do it for you, and in the process providing an intimate insight and behind the scenes look into America's Chess Champion. Fascinating reading, good insight into human nature, and the revelation that Fischer might not have been quite the child prodigy we assume. His brilliance seems to have come in spurts and spells, and he suffered many defeats both as a child and as an adult. And then there's the lengthy and revealing look at his descent from Chess stardom into the years of

his decline and rabid antisemitic viewpoint. A thoroughly engaging read from one of the people who knew him best.

This is not really about chess but a very complicated man with many faults to go with his incredible chess skills and also the people he was familiar with. The thing I found most incredible in this book is the way people will bend over backwards to accommodate someone who is mentally ill if they can gain from it. If he had never played chess I think he would have had much simpler and happy life. I really won't go into the details as there are many reviews that do. Having known very little of Bobby Fischers background I found this a very informative read.

In the history of chess, few names are as big as Bobby Fischer. Regardless of what you think of Fischer the man, he is always seen as one of the most excellent chess players in history. Fischer grew up in New York City where he learned to play chess at the age of six. He quickly became obsessed with it. He read as many chess books as he could get his hands on and studied the game sometimes for several hours a day. He became very adept at it and joined local chess clubs. This would culminate in what would later be called "The Game of the Century" when Fischer, then only 13 years-old, beat chess master Donald Byrne. Fischer's success in chess only continued. He entered tournaments and won many titles which was quite an accomplishment at his rather young age. He started to become a celebrity not only in the chess community, but to the general American public. He continued his way up through the 1960s and became a candidate for the World Championship. The World Championship he would eventually compete in happened in 1972. His opponent was Boris Spassky. Spassky, from the Soviet Union, and Fischer, from the United States, gave the match a Cold War overtone. Despite his numerous demands on how the match was to be played, people back in the United States wanted Fischer to play as an attempt to wrest the title from Soviet players. He even received a phone call from Henry Kissinger encouraging him to go through and play with the interests of the United States in mind. He would go on and beat Spassky thus becoming the World Chess Champion. The 1972 match against Spassky was probably the greatest point in his life. He returned from the match a hero and a celebrity. The popularity of chess skyrocketed in the United States, all thanks to Bobby Fischer. However, it seemed that Fischer almost fell off the face of the Earth after 1972. He stopped playing chess publicly. In 1975, a match was to be held between Fischer and Anatoly Karpov to defend his Champion title. Fischer had numerous, and often outrageous, objections as to how the match was to be played and the rules governing it. FIDE refused to comply with all of Fischer's demands. As such, Fischer refused to play

and Karpov became World Champion by default. And thus began Fischer's long decline. He stayed out of the limelight for many years. During this period, he likely began to form his outrageous views that would lead to statements that he would become infamous of. He stopped paying his taxes. He developed a very deep hatred of Jews and anything related to Judaism. His last true public game of chess came in 1992. Boris Spassky, the man who Fischer defeated in 1972, agreed to a rematch to be held in Yugoslavia. At that time, due to the war occurring there, Yugoslavia was under international and United States sanctions and the match against Spassky, with a large monetary prize, was considered illegal by the U.S. government. Despite being warned, Fischer went ahead and played against Spassky, won, and collected his money. U.S. officials took notice and he became a fugitive afraid of being arrested. He never returned to the United States again. He lived incognito for the next several years, mostly in Hungary. After the 9/11 attacks, Fischer made remarks that spread around the world praising the attacks and condemning the United States and Jews. It would seal his fate with the chess community, Jews around the world, Americans, and the U.S. government. He was once again on the move before being arrested in Japan for using a revoked passport. The Icelandic government took notice and made him a citizen of their country in recognition of what he did for Iceland because the 1972 match was held in Reykjavik. He lived there the rest of his life and died at the age of sixty-four, no doubt helped by his refusal to accept medical treatment. Bobby Fischer was a man who had a complex personality. He was a genius in some respects and is still considered by some to be the greatest chess player in history. But his obstinate attitude towards things seemed to more often hinder than help him. In conclusion, I found this to be a very well written book and a fascinating look at Bobby Fischer. The author has managed to write the book so brilliantly, that one would not even have to know how to play chess in order to enjoy this book. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn more about Bobby Fischer and his sometimes strange life.

A great book on a very difficult subject - a chess genius whose inner demons got the better of him . Very objectively yet sympathetically written , Brady uncovers many dark corners of Fischer's mind without being too technical for non chess playing readers . Highly recommended !

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