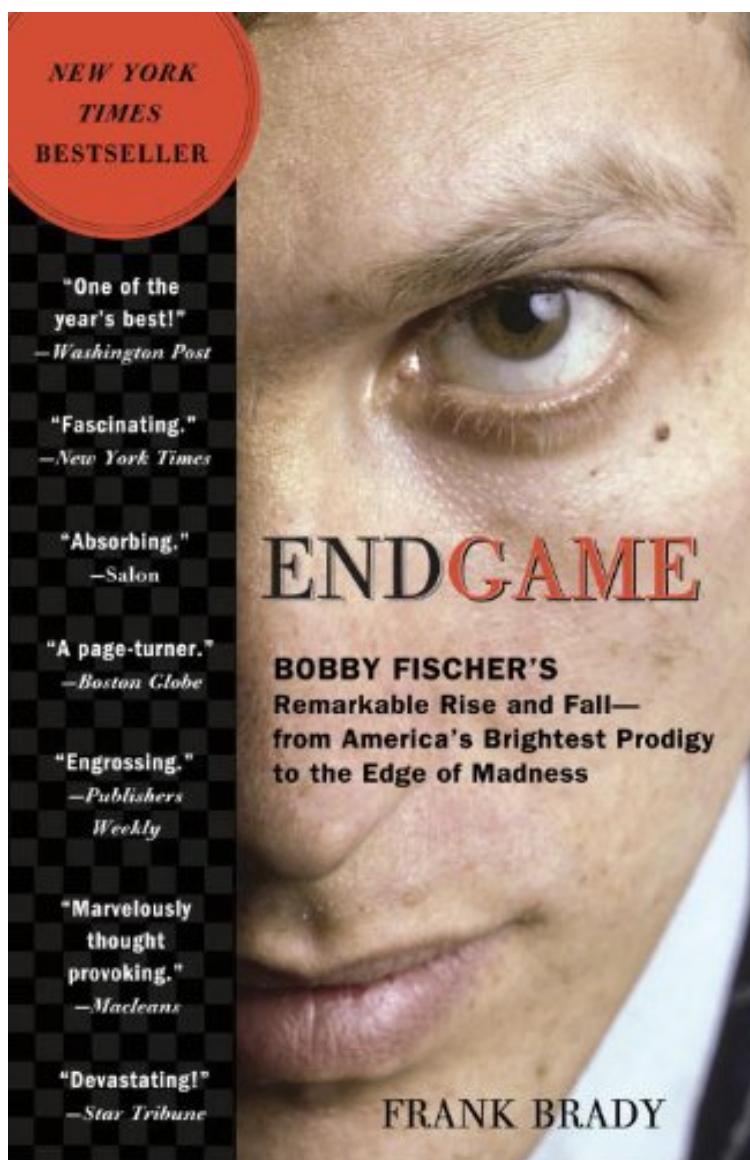


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Endgame: Bobby Fischer's Remarkable Rise and Fall - from America's Brightest Prodigy to the Edge of Madness



Par Frank Brady

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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurEndgame is acclaimed biographer Frank Bradys decades-in-the-making tracing of the meteoric ascentand confounding descentof enigmatic genius Bobby Fischer. Only Brady, who met Fischer when the prodigy was only 10 and shared with him some of his most dramatic triumphs, could have written this book, which has much to say about the nature of American celebrity and the distorting effects of fame.

Drawing from Fischer family archives, recently released FBI files, and Bobbys own emails, this account is unique in that it limns Fischers entire lifean odyssey that took the Brooklyn-raised chess champion from an impoverished childhood to the covers of Time, Life and Newsweek to recognition as the most famous man in the world to notorious recluse. At first all one noticed was how gifted Fischer was. Possessing a 181 I.Q. and remarkable powers of concentration, Bobby memorized hundreds of chess books in several languages, and he was only 13 when he became the youngest chess master in U.S. history. But his strange behavior started early. In 1972, at the historic Cold War showdown in Reykjavik, Iceland, where he faced Soviet champion Boris Spassky, Fischer made headlines with hundreds of petty demands that nearly ended the competition. It was merely a prelude to what was to come. Arriving back in the United States to a heros welcome, Bobby was mobbed wherever he went a figure as exotic and improbable as any American pop culture had yet produced. No player of a mere board game had ever ascended to such heights. Commercial sponsorship offers poured in, ultimately topping \$10 million but Bobby demurred. Instead, he began tithing his limited money to an apocalyptic religion and devouring anti-Semitic literature. After years of poverty and a stint living on Los Angeles Skid Row, Bobby reemerged in 1992 to play Spassky in a multi-million dollar rematch but the experience only deepened a paranoia that had formed years earlier when he came to believe that the Soviets wanted him dead for taking away their title. When the dust settled, Bobby was a wanted man transformed into an international fugitive because of his decision to play in Montenegro despite U.S. sanctions. Fearing for his life, traveling with bodyguards, and wearing a long leather coat to ward off knife attacks, Bobby lived the life of a celebrity fugitive one drawn increasingly to the bizarre. Mafiosi, Nazis, odd attempts to breed an heir who could perpetuate his chess-genius DNA all are woven into his late-life tapestry. And yet, as Brady shows, the most notable irony of Bobby Fischers strange descent which had reached full plummet by 2005 when he turned down yet another multi-million dollar payday is that despite his incomprehensible behavior, there were many who remained fiercely loyal to him. Why that was so is at least partly the subject of this book one that at last answers the question: Who was Bobby Fischer? *Revue de presse* "Brady masters Endgame." *Vanity Fair* "Insightful Brady is uniquely qualified to write this The book should appeal to a broad audience, from hard-core chess fans to casual players to those who are simply interested in what is a compelling personal story." *Booklist* "Engrossing The Mozart of the chessboard is inseparable from the monster of paranoid egotism in this fascinating biography Brady gives us a tragic narrative of a life that became a chess game. *Publishers Weekly* (Pick of the Week/Starred) The teenage prodigy, the eccentric champion, the irascible anti-Semite, the genius, the pathetic paranoid these and other Bobby Fischers strut and fret their hour upon celebrities stage. Informed, thorough, sympathetic and surpassingly sad. *Kirkus* s "ENDGAME is rich in detail and insight. It is sympathetic and human, but not at all naive. I admire Brady's resolve, and I consider this book essential reading in the effort to understand Bobby Fischer and his place in our world." *David Shenk*, author of *THE GENIUS IN ALL OF US* and *THE IMMORTAL GAME* "The definitive portrait of the greatest and most disturbed chess genius of all time. *Paul Hoffman*, author of *THE MAN WHO LOVED ONLY NUMBERS* and *KINGS GAMBIT* Bobby Fischer began life as a lonely prodigy and ended it as a hate-spewing enigma, and in between became America's greatest chess player, a man renowned both for his unmatched brilliance and social clumsiness. In *ENDGAME*, Frank Brady masterfully chronicles the full breadth of Fischer's life, producing a narrative driven by staggering detail and profound insight into the psyche of a troubled genius. *Wayne Coffey*, *New York Times* bestselling author of *THE BOYS OF WINTER* You dont have to know the game of chess to be mesmerized by the dizzying and ultimately dark journey of the worlds most heralded player. Frank Brady has researched and detailed Bobby Fischers every move on and off the chessboard for an incisive and objective account of a man whose genius was matched by his eccentricities. This is a riveting look at a tarnished American icon. *Pat H. Broeske*, *New York Times* bestselling co-author of *HOWARD HUGHES: THE UNTOLD STORY* "I've wondered about the weird and fascinating life of Bobby Fischer since I was a teen-aged *New York Times* copyboy sent out to the lobby to keep Fischers mother from pestering editors and reporters. Finally, after 50 years, I've finally gotten the weird and fascinating biography I've been waiting for. Bravo, Brady." *Robert Lipsyte*, author of *AN ACCIDENTAL SPORTSWRITER* A definitive and finely detailed chronicle of one of the most fascinating and eccentric Americans of the 20th century, written by one of the few men with the expertise, knowledge and writing ability to pull it off in a manner deserving of the subject. *Michael Weinreb*, author of *THE KINGS OF NEW YORK* Fischer is Americas greatest antihero. This fascinating biography is filled with hope, Cold War intrigue, the fulfillment of genius, and an explosive fall from grace that is both deeply moving and, ultimately, profoundly sad. *Jeremy Silman*,

author of *THE AMATEURS MIND*"I have been following Bobby Fischer my whole life, but I learned something new on nearly every page of this wonderful book. Frank Brady is the perfect biographer for Bobby Fischer, and *ENDGAME* tells the full and fair story of Fischer's astonishing rise and heartbreaking fall." Christopher Chabris, author of *THE INVISIBLE GORILLA* Presentation de l'diteur Endgame is acclaimed biographer Frank Bradys decades-in-the-making tracing of the meteoric ascent and confounding descent of enigmatic genius Bobby Fischer. Only Brady, who met Fischer when the prodigy was only 10 and shared with him some of his most dramatic triumphs, could have written this book, which has much to say about the nature of American celebrity and the distorting effects of fame. Drawing from Fischer family archives, recently released FBI files, and Bobby's own emails, this account is unique in that it limns Fischers entire life an odyssey that took the Brooklyn-raised chess champion from an impoverished childhood to the covers of *Time*, *Life* and *Newsweek* to recognition as the most famous man in the world to notorious recluse. At first all one noticed was how gifted Fischer was. Possessing a 181 I.Q. and remarkable powers of concentration, Bobby memorized hundreds of chess books in several languages, and he was only 13 when he became the youngest chess master in U.S. history. But his strange behavior started early. In 1972, at the historic Cold War showdown in Reykjavik, Iceland, where he faced Soviet champion Boris Spassky, Fischer made headlines with hundreds of petty demands that nearly ended the competition. It was merely a prelude to what was to come. Arriving back in the United States to a heroes welcome, Bobby was mobbed wherever he went a figure as exotic and improbable as any American pop culture had yet produced. No player of a mere board game had ever ascended to such heights. Commercial sponsorship offers poured in, ultimately topping \$10 million but Bobby demurred. Instead, he began tithing his limited money to an apocalyptic religion and devouring anti-Semitic literature. After years of poverty and a stint living on Los Angeles Skid Row, Bobby remerged in 1992 to play Spassky in a multi-million dollar rematch but the experience only deepened a paranoia that had formed years earlier when he came to believe that the Soviets wanted him dead for taking away their title. When the dust settled, Bobby was a wanted man transformed into an international fugitive because of his decision to play in Montenegro despite U.S. sanctions. Fearing for his life, traveling with bodyguards, and wearing a long leather coat to ward off knife attacks, Bobby lived the life of a celebrity fugitive one drawn increasingly to the bizarre. Mafiosi, Nazis, odd attempts to breed an heir who could perpetuate his chess-genius DNA all are woven into his late-life tapestry. And yet, as Brady shows, the most notable irony of Bobby Fischers strange descent which had reached full plummet by 2005 when he turned down yet another multi-million dollar payday is that despite his incomprehensible behavior, there were many who remained fiercely loyal to him. Why that was so is at least partly the subject of this book one that at last answers the question: Who was Bobby Fischer?