



FRED REINFELD CHESS CLASSICS Bruce Alberston, General Editor

1001

**BRILLIANT WAYS
TO
CHECKMATE**

Fred Reinfeld

21st Century Edition

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by
Fred Reinfeld

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Fred Reinfeld Chess Classics
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2014
Russell Enterprises, Inc.
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Don Reinfeld, Judith Reinfeld and Bruce Alberston

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Preface

Many of today's players, now the grandparents of chessplaying teenagers, fondly recall growing up with the Reinfeld books, which covered all aspects of chess, from the openings to the endgame, and included generous helpings of chess lore and the lives of the greatest chess masters.

Reprinting chess books by our father, Fred Reinfeld (1910-1964), ended in the 1980s as descriptive notation was phased out in favor of the more popular algebraic notation. We are extremely grateful to Bruce Alberston, who has taken up the task of converting Reinfeld's notations to algebraic.

Thanks also to Russell Enterprises for publishing a 21st-century version of this, and, hopefully more, Reinfeld chess classics, thereby introducing Fred Reinfeld's teaching genius to new generations of chess enthusiasts, especially to beginners and mid-level players eager to sharpen their skills at the chessboard.

Don and Judith Reinfeld

Editor's Introduction

This is the all-time great checkmate collection. Anything that has come out post-1955 automatically gets compared with Reinfeld's masterful compilation, and usually unfavorably.

These are all forced checkmate positions, culled mainly from actual play, thus the positions look game-like. Plus, Reinfeld's selection is simply marvelous; he seems to have captured every conceivable theme. In fact, he's organized the chapters by theme, such as Queen Sacrifices, Double Check, Pawn Promotion, but after that no more hints. There's no one tapping you on the shoulder telling you this one is easy, the next one is hard. You have to figure that out for yourself.

The sheer number of examples, 1001, is both catchy and daunting, and you may well ask, "Does anyone go through all the positions?" The answer is yes, your editor for one.

Back in the fall of 1978, my chess was slipping, so I took drastic measures. I quit my job (naturally I'm not recommending this to everyone) and went over to a chess training program which included physical exercise, opening study, tactical exercises and tournament play.

The tactical exercise book was the one you have in your hand, *1001 Ways to Checkmate* (*Brilliant* was added in later editions). Approaching the matter seriously, I set a chess timer for a group of ten, recorded my answers on a sheet of paper, and then checked the solutions in the back of the book. Overly scrupulous, recording all variations I could think of, I even considered a problem wrong if I made a notational mistake.

Results were not instantaneous but the training program eventually paid off. I became a much sharper tactician and in about nine months I was playing at master level. For whatever reason, the U.S. Chess Federation was way behind on their rating results, so the actual master rating took another year to reflect itself.

So we have personal testimony: the Reinfeld *Checkmate* book works. And so does the companion volume *1001 Chess Sacrifices and Combinations*.

For the present edition, all the diagrams have been set again using Linares fonts. These are clear and easy to read. Since I threw out my thirty-year old notebooks a few years back, I had to solve each position anew. This is just as well, since I had to convert to modern algebraic notation anyway.

Just so the reader understands, the solutions reflect my solving the positions in the spring of 2012 and then reconciling with Reinfeld's 1955 originals. There are a few corrections along the way and an additional side line here and there. But for the most part I was guided by Reinfeld's formula, which was to let the main lines speak for themselves. It's not that he didn't show sidelines, it just that he didn't believe in getting tangled up in them.

As for the corrections mentioned, you can certainly find more by turning your computer loose on the positions. Of course this defeats the purpose of working things out for yourself, but it's always fun to catch the masters in a mistake. Hey, I was an amateur once; I still remember the feeling. In any case, I'll defer to Reinfeld for any mistakes the reader may find. Blaming your predecessor is tried a true method of getting off the hook.

Of course the way to tackle this book is to pick a chapter and solve the problems, one at a time. And don't think of it as drudgery. You'll have a lot more fun if you approach the positions as mini-challenges. Also don't feel like you have to solve every single problem the first time around. You can do what I did, put the missed problems on a "wrong list," come back, and do them later.

There's a group of Two-Move Composed Problems beginning with #931 and running to the end of the book. I have to admit I did not work through these back in 1978-1979. I waited some twenty years before I eventually went through them all. You might want to do something similar, but you don't have to wait twenty years.

Summing up, this is an outstanding book to hone your tactical abilities: recognizing mating patterns, developing visualization skills, enhancing imagination, and improving tactical sharpness. You can probably think of other good things as well.

Bruce Alberston
Astoria NY
January 2014

White Moves First

193

W _ _ _ _ _ W
[w d k 4 w d w 4]
[O p d w g p O p]
[w d p d b 1 w d]
[d w d w d w d w]
[w d w d Q G w d]
[d w) B d w d w]
[P) P d w) P)]
[d w d R \$ w l w]
W - - - - - W

194

W _ _ _ _ _ W
[r h w 1 w 4 w i]
[O w d p H p O p]
[b O w ! w d w d]
[d w O w) N d w]
[w d B d w d w d]
[) w \$ w d w d w]
[w d w d w) P)]
[d w d w d R l w]
W - - - - - W

195

W _ _ _ _ _ W
[w d k d w g w d]
[O w O w O w d w]
[P d P O w H w d]
[d w d w d w d p]
[w d Q d w d w d]
[d w d w d p) q]
[w d w d p) w d]
[d R d w d n l w]
W - - - - - W

196

W _ _ _ _ _ W
[r d w 1 k g w 4]
[O p O b d w O p]
[w d n O w h w d]
[d w d w d p H w]
[w d B ! P d w d]
[d w H w d w d w]
[P) P d w) P)]
[\$ w G w l w d R]
W - - - - - W

197

W _ _ _ _ _ W
[r d w d n 4 k d]
[d w O w ! w O p]
[p d b d P O w d]
[h p d w d w G w]
[w d w d w d q d]
[d B d w d N d w]
[P) w d w) P)]
[\$ w d w \$ w l w]
W - - - - - W

198

W _ _ _ _ _ W
[r d w d w d k h]
[d w 1 w 4 w O w]
[b O p d p d w O]
[h w d w) w d N]
[p d w d w) w d]
[d w d Q l w \$ P]
[P) w d w d P d]
[\$ N d B d w d w]
W - - - - - W

Black Moves First

199

W _ _ _ _ _ W
[w d k d w d w 4]
[O p 4 w d p d w]
[w d w d p d w 1]
[d w h w d w d w]
[w d w d w d p d]
[! w d w d w H w]
[w d w d R) P d]
[d w d R d w l w]
W - - - - - W

200

W _ _ _ _ _ W
[r d w d w 4 k d]
[O p \$ n d p d w]
[w d w d w d p g]
[d P d w O q d p]
[w d w H w d w d]
[) w ! P h w) b]
[w G w H P) w)]
[d w d w \$ w l B]
W - - - - - W

201

W _ _ _ _ _ W
[r d w d w d w d]
[O p d w d w O k]
[w d p d w 4 w d]
[d w d p H w d p]
[w d w d w d w d]
[! w d P d w d b]
[P) w d R d w)]
[d w d w d q \$ K]
W - - - - - W

202

W _ _ _ _ _ W
[w d w d r d k d]
[d p d b d p O p]
[w g w) w d w d]
[O w d w d w d w]
[P d Q d q d w d]
[d P d w d N d w]
[w d w G w d P)]
[d w d w d K d R]
W - - - - - W

203

W _ _ _ _ _ W
[r d b d w 4 w i]
[O p O p d w O p]
[w d w d w d w d]
[d w d w H w d w]
[w) B h w d w 1]
[d w ! w d w d w]
[P d w H w h P)]
[\$ w G w l R d w]
W - - - - - W

204

W _ _ _ _ _ W
[w d k d w d w d]
[O p O w d w O p]
[w d w d w d w d]
[H Q d w h w d q]
[w d P O w h w d]
[\$ w d w d b) w]
[w) w d w) w)]
[d w d w \$ w l w]
W - - - - - W