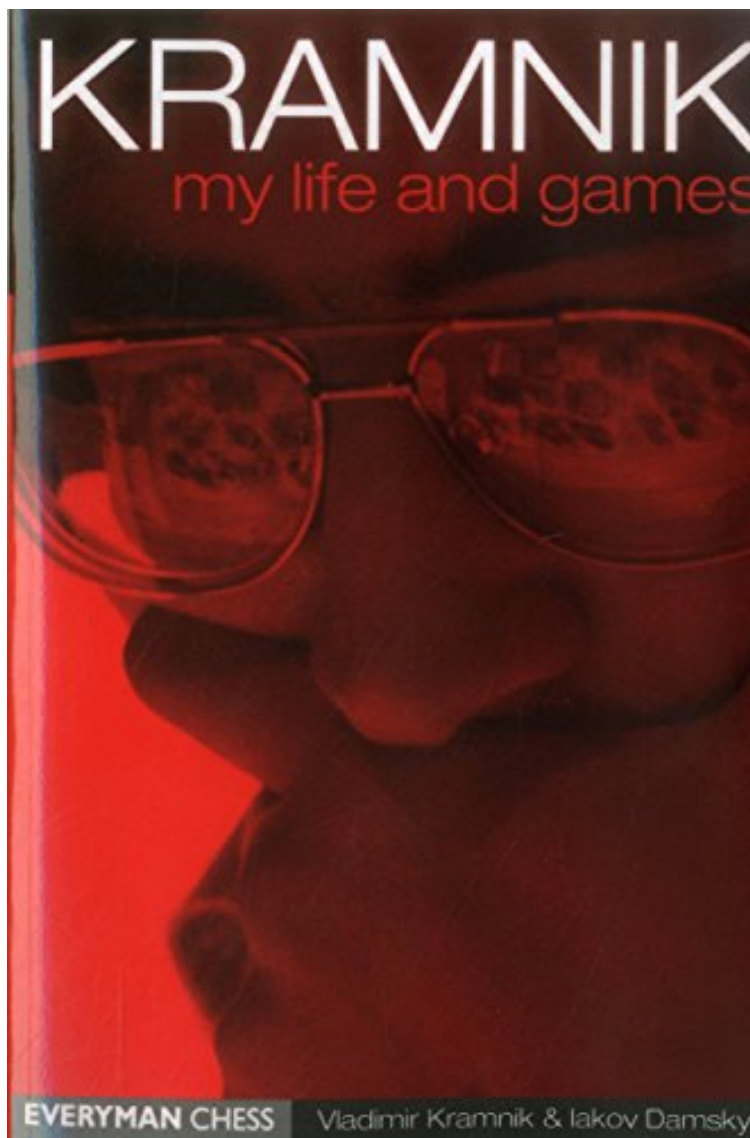


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## Kramnik: My Life games

*Vladimir Kramnik, Iakov Damsky*  
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**Vladimir Kramnik, Iakov Damsky : Kramnik: My Life games** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kramnik: My Life games:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very Special Best Games CollectionBy R. TobiasHere is a book that I would consider a 'modern classic', a book of well annotated games of one of the most powerful strategic/positional players in chess history. There is an extensive bibliography, written by Damsky, and a long selection of rapid and blind games, called 'The Spirit of the Times'. It is rather fascinating (and humbling) to see how strongly a super GM

can play under these conditions. The main 'Selected Games' section is only 40 or so games, annotated carefully by Kramnik himself. But the strength of the play and the fine annotations by Kramnik are rather special, and are not to be missed by serious players. I have to admit that much of the play is above me, a very definite club level player, but stronger players, and all lovers of well-annotated games will find rich material for study, enjoyment and appreciation here. One can only wish that the main games section was 2 or 3 times as long, so good is the material! Don't miss this one!  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By Jose F. Carranzabueno  
15 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Totally dissatisfied with this book  
By I. Knezovic  
I have a lot of game-collections/biography chess books in my library, considering the best ones Life Games of Mikhail Tal and I Play Against Pieces by Svetozar Gligoric but, believe it or not, this Kramnik one is the worst I have encountered with. Every game is typically annotated as quick fix for some second rate chess magazine, without any wish for explaining itself or its background to the reader. And authors own biography is just short of nonexistent, although it is known that he had a rich life chesswise, before going on top (working in famous Botvinnik chess school, playing junior games against famous opponents of today etc.) Its a shame, and I hope that updated version would be much friendlier and filled with important games played in last five years, and with extended biography.

Since he first burst onto the world chess scene in 1992, displaying a maturity of play far beyond his sixteen years, Vladimir Kramnik has been tipped as a future World Champion. Still only in his mid-twenties he has won numerous tournaments in many countries, and is one of the very few players regularly to hold his own with Kasparov. This book, Kramnik's first, describes his life and chess career, beginning with his unusual childhood. It features more than 50 of his best games, deeply annotated, plus numerous additional games and game extracts, including some from quickplay and blindfold events.

.com Vladimir Kramnik is something of an anomaly in the chess world, a top-seeded grandmaster who has refused to devote all his energy to the game. "By nature, I am not ambitious," he says. Nevertheless, the Russian-born prodigy has managed to float to the top of the chess world, ranked just behind champion Garry Kasparov at the turn of the millennium. The subtitle to Kramnik's book is "My Life and Games," but there is, in fact, little distinction between the two; the game has dominated Kramnik's life from the age of 5. By age 16, he was playing on the world chess scene, and at age 25, in 2000, he is one of the few players who can regularly hold his own against Kasparov. Kramnik reads less like a traditional autobiography than a transcript of 50-plus games from his career. They include key matches with Kasparov, Karpov, Anand, Topalov, Ivanchuk, Shirov, and other greats, stretching back to 1984. Colorful biographical tidbits appear between games, offering glimpses of Kramnik's life outside chess--we learn he's a lousy cook, suffers insomnia from the pressure of the game, and tries to stay philosophical about winning and losing. But most revealing are the interior dialogues that accompany his matches; they are deeply annotated. Kramnik explains exactly what was running through his head as he pushed a pawn or sacrificed a queen at key points, and it's a marvel to watch his mind at work. His comments are never boastful and even betray a self-effacing wit--a refreshing change in a profession known for its outsize egos. Chess enthusiasts should find plenty to occupy them in Kramnik and would do well to take a page from his playbook. --Demian McLean  
From the Back Cover  
Since he first burst onto the world chess scene in 1992, displaying a maturity of play far beyond his sixteen years, Vladimir Kramnik has been tipped as a future World Champion. Still only in his mid-twenties, he is now firmly consolidated in the world's top three. He has won numerous tournaments in many countries, and is one of the very few players regularly to hold his own with Kasparov. This book, Kramnik's first, describes his life and chess career, beginning with his unusual childhood. It features more than 50 of his best games, deeply annotated, plus numerous additional games and game extracts, including some from quickplay and blindfold events. (7 x 9 3/4, 240 pages, illustrations)