



## Searching for Bobby Fischer: The Father of a Prodigy Observes the World of Chess

By Fred Waitzkin

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The compelling saga of three years in the life of a real American chess prodigy – now a Major Motion Picture!

*Searching for Bobby Fischer* is the story of Fred Waitzkin and his son, from the moment six-year-old Josh first sits down at a chessboard until he competes for the national championship. Drawn into the insular, international network of chess, they must also navigate the difficult waters of their own relationship. All the while, Waitzkin searches for the elusive Bobby Fischer, whose myth still dominates the chess world and profoundly affects Waitzkin's dreams for his son.

“The quest is beautifully resolved... in a contest that knits together all the book's rich themes.” – Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, *The New York Times*

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**Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #546378 in Books
- Brand: Waitzkin, Fred
- Published on: 1993-08-01
- Released on: 1993-08-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.76" h x .60" w x 5.00" l, .43 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

Amazon.com Review

**Searching for Bobby Fischer** is the story of Fred Waitzkin and his son Josh, from the moment six-year-old Josh first sits down at a chessboard until he competes for the national championship. Drawn into the insular, international network of chess, they must also navigate the difficult waters of their own relationship. All the while, Waitzkin wonders about and searches for the elusive Bobby Fischer, whose myth still dominates the chess world and profoundly affects Waitzkin's dreams for his son.

From Publishers Weekly

Ever since he started playing tournament chess at age seven, Josh Waitzkin, an athletic, fun-loving, not overly studious boy, has been among the top-rated players of his age group in the U.S. He is now 11. The troubled relationship between son and father, a talented but amateur chess buff, torn between ambitions for the prodigy and guilt at exploiting him, develops here against a background of chess clubs, seedy game parlors and Washington Square populated by a colorful gallery of Manhattan chess loversmasters, hustlers, Russian emigre teachers and doting parents. In marked contrast, notes the author, is the hero status of chess champions in Russia and the palatial setting of competitions like the Moscow Hall of Columns where he and his son attended the 1984 Karpov-Kasparov matches, which may have been not only state-supported but politically controlled, he contends. What, the author wonders, will become of Fischer's legacy of a promising generation of young American players following their idol's premature retirement from chess and society? First serial to the New York Times Magazine and Sports Illustrated; author tour.

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From Library Journal

As the father of chess prodigy Josh, Waitzkin reveals here the psychological and emotional roller coaster experienced by every parent whose child rides through this world's certainty and doubt, its failures and successes in rapid succession. Waitzkin reveals the American chess scene from speed chess hustlers to formal tournaments, describes a visit to the USSR discussing the importance of chess there both for the game and for political ends and discusses the endless worldwide fascination with Bobby Fischer, the chess player and the person. Expect this book to be popular. Harold D. Shane, Baruch Coll. of CUNY

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