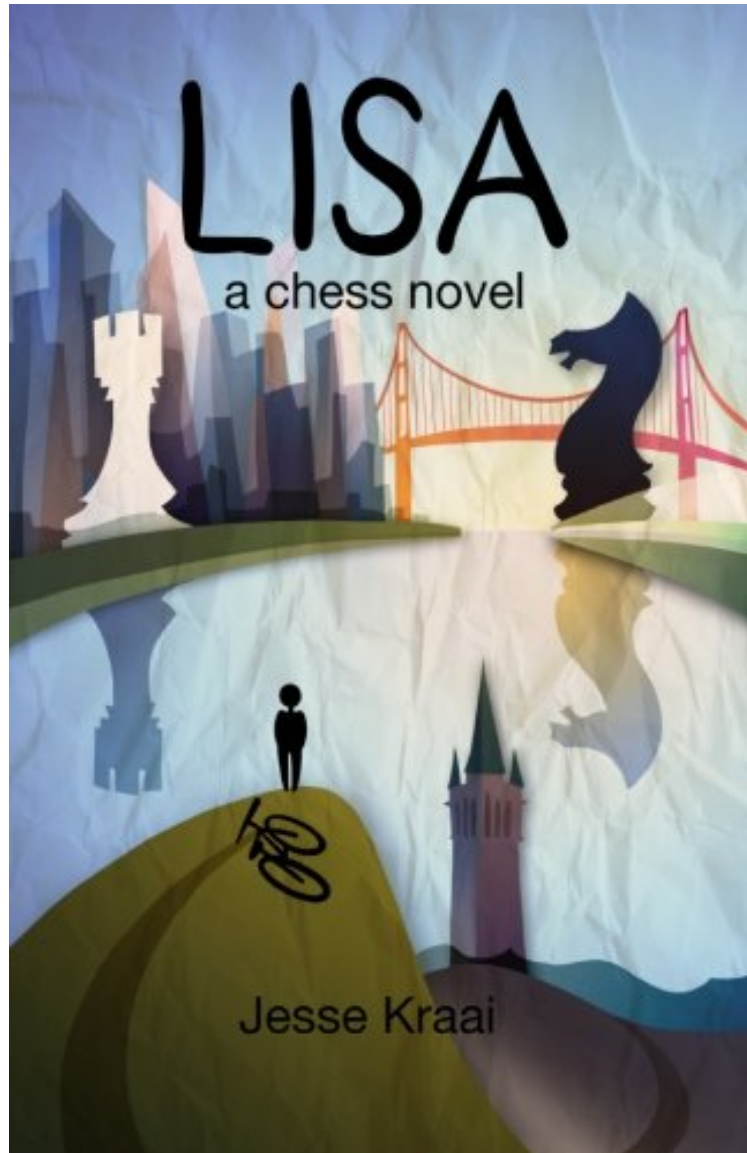


[Download pdf ebook] Lisa: A Chess Novel

Lisa: A Chess Novel

Jesse Kraai

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#1072127 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2013-10-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .59 x 5.50l, .66 #File Name: 0976848902234 pagesAuthor: Jesse KraaiPages: 231Publication Years: 2013 | File size: 47.Mb

Jesse Kraai : Lisa: A Chess Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lisa: A Chess Novel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A disappointmentBy HouyhnhnmI thought this novel pretty much failed both as a young adult novel and as a book about chess.I used to be an advanced beginner so I understood the

point of the one diagrammed position and the minimal analysis provided. But I learned nothing about chess because the author promotes a mystical model of playing by feeling how the pieces want to move and support each other. I don't know if the grandmaster author is writing about a fantasy of his or putting us on, but everything else I've read about high-level chess stresses extreme study and practice. I've read that expert players develop intuition for the game, but it's based on practice and deep knowledge, not some mystical process of communing with the pieces. Lisa's teacher uses difficult chess puzzles to develop her chess logic. We are told very little about the puzzles except they are incredibly hard and frustrating but our hero is so motivated to learn that she struggles through them. I didn't care for the teacher playing to a stereotype of a grandmaster: An eccentric Russian with poor English pronunciation. As a young adult novel, I thought the portrait of an alienated girl was reasonably well done. A bunch of positive reviews claim this is a deep examination of genius, but it seemed to me to be standard-issue angst that could have been focused on any number of issues besides being a genius. I was bothered by details that don't make sense. The most glaring is that she takes up running and seems to magically lose her excess weight. She becomes a long-distance runner seemingly in weeks or a few months, which is totally unrealistic. I got bored with her maniacal pursuit of chess excellence. I know it takes maniacal dedication to get to the top in chess, but reading about it so much gets tiresome. Also, I thought the ending was unbelievably tidy.

15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. exploring the darker side of genius

By Bubba Tough

The exploits and adventures of highly talented youths are a popular theme in fiction. Whether its Ender Wiggin or Dougie Howser, M.D., we seem captivated with following fictional youth of exceptional talent as they struggle to fit in to a world where their abilities set them apart. Sometimes, such as in *Revenge of the Nerds* or *The Big Bang Theory*, groups of like minded geniuses congregate and collectively find themselves. In others situations, such as a young Tony Stark turned Iron Man, genius is presented as a regular guy who just happens to be super smart and talented, and the tough choice is deciding what to do with all the benefits derived from being so gifted.

Lisa is a story about another, more realistic type of child prodigy. In chess immense talent is often identified early, but rarely does it translate into fame and fortune. Lisa explores the concept that the blindingly brilliant don't just think better, they think different. Sometimes very different. It is a popular theme in literature, but rarely realistically portrayed in part because rarely do authors have significant personal experience in what it is like to be such a child. One gets the impression reading Lisa that the author has more insight than most into this issue, and it shows in his exploration of the darker side of having a radically different thought process than those around you. The fact is that people who dedicate themselves to chess in the United States, people who, one would assume, possess strategic and tactical insight that could be used to craft a comfortable life, instead choose a life where it can be a struggle to stay above the poverty line. Why do people, whose innate brilliance shines so bright, so early, choose lifestyles of hardship and uncertainty? Lisa provides at least one answer...for some there is no choice.

I rate Lisa 5 stars, based on my personal enjoyment of this book and its topic...which is an extremely rare rating for me. I have extreme confidence that it will be enjoyed and savored by those who discovered at an early age that they think differently, whether or not that discovery was made through chess. It is less clear whether it will be enjoyed as deeply by a broader audience...but I hope so.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Recommended for chess fans

By Angel segarra Gonzalez

This book is the author first novel and as such has some faults. Personally I found it interesting and if you are a fellow chess player you might like it too.

The chess pieces knew how they moved. They knew what they wanted too. It wasn't like school, where kids pretended they were masters of the teachers game. The adults didn't know anything anyway. The real world was a big push to nothing. But Lisa escaped from all that. She found Igor Ivanov. He taught her how to play.

"If you're a fan of good chess and good prose, you should pick up Jesse's new book"