

# CHILDREN'S FIRST BOOK OF CHESS



NATALIE SHEVANDO

MATTHEW McMILLION



# CHILDREN'S FIRST BOOK OF CHESS



# CHILDREN'S FIRST BOOK OF CHESS

by Natalie Shevando and Matthew McMillion

Illustrations by Andrii Dankovych

Interior book design by Max Mendor

© 2021, Natalie Shevando

Illustrations © 2021, Natalie Shevando

Publishers Maxim Hodak & Max Mendor

© 2021, Glagoslav Publications

[www.glagoslav.com](http://www.glagoslav.com)

ISBN: 978-1-914337-24-6

First published by Glagoslav Publications in September 2021

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

This book is in copyright. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior permission in writing of the publisher, nor be otherwise circulated in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published without a similar condition, including this condition, being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

NATALIE SHEVANDO

MATTHEW McMILLION

# CHILDREN'S FIRST BOOK OF CHESS



G L A G O S L A V P U B L I C A T I O N S

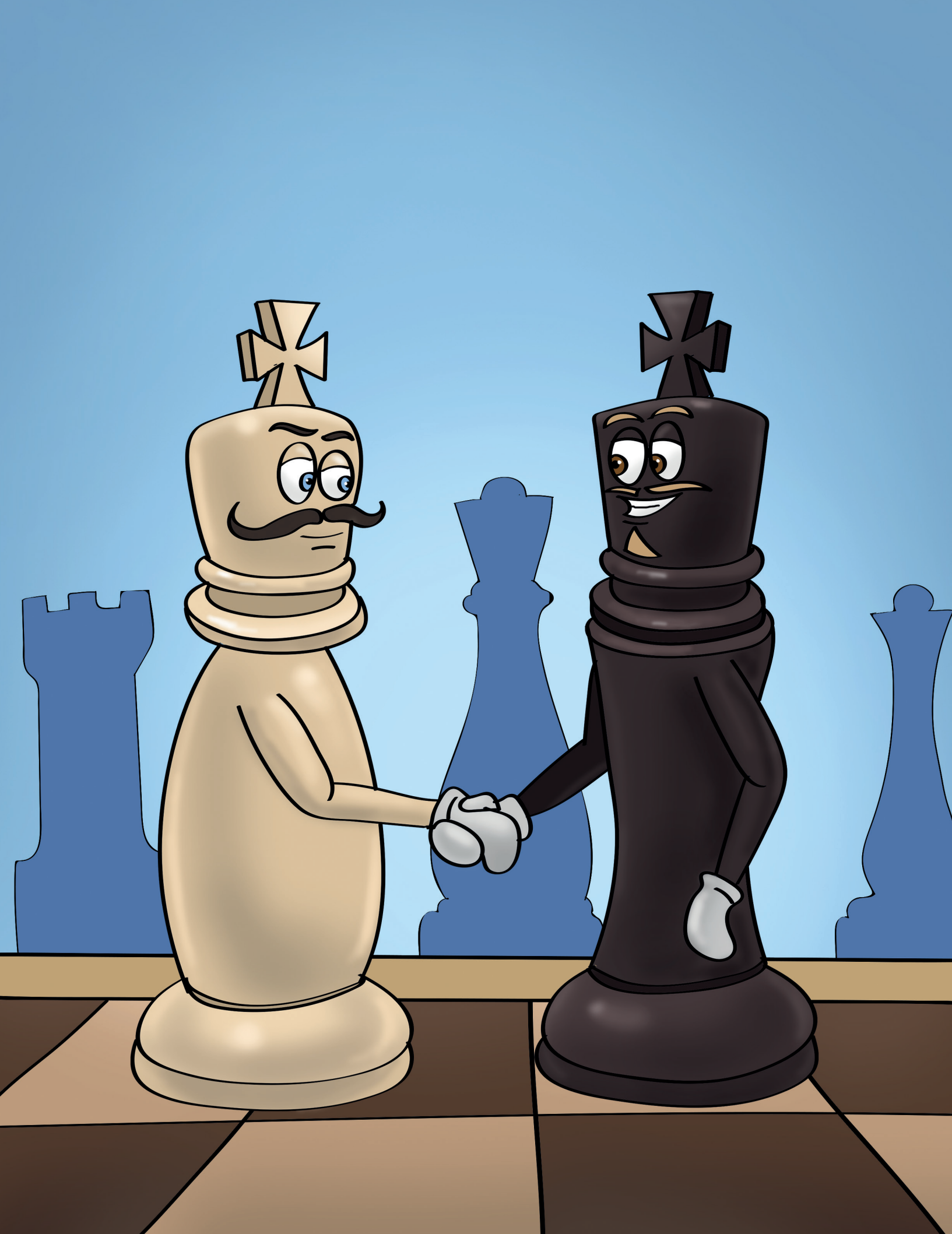
Dear Children,  
Please enjoy this delightful book with beautiful illustrations! I do hope that through this book, you'll fall in love with chess and it will bring you many wonderful moments in your life. Enjoy!

- Boris Gelfand,  
Vice World Chess Champion.



# CONTENTS

Introduction . . . . .	7
1. How chess came to life . . . . .	9
2. When chess brought peace to the land . . . . .	11
3. How chess spread around the world, and even to Harry Potter! . . . . .	13
4. Chess in action: the gameplay and more . . . . .	16
5. A few words about how chess is played today . . . . .	19
6. And what about the chessboard? . . . . .	21
7. From humble pawn to mighty king: all the pieces, one by one . . . . .	24
8. Your queen is highly valuable, but your king is priceless . . . . .	38
9. The three stages of every chess game . . . . .	41
10. Don't forget these simple rules . . . . .	44
11. Want to be a chess grandmaster? Start playing when you're a kid! . . . . .	46
12. Chess even has a few relatives around the world . . . . .	48
13. Playing chess in outer space? That's right! . . . . .	52
14. What about playing chess underwater? . . . . .	54
15. Welcome to Chess Village, where kids can be game pieces! . . . . .	56
16. Making chess part of your life: for fun, family, and a sharper mind . . . . .	59
17. World Chess Champions . . . . .	61
18. About the Authors . . . . .	62



# INTRODUCTION

Chess is truly an extraordinary game.

Today more than 600 million people around the world regularly play chess, and that number gets bigger every year! Why is it so well loved?

The book you have in front of you will answer this question, and you will also learn many fascinating facts about chess and its long history.

Read on and find out how chess first appeared, and how it changed over time. You will get to know each chess piece, one by one, and understand the idea behind the game, what it's really all about. You will learn about the chessboard, chess rules and tournaments, as well as other games related to chess. We will also share with you some interesting facts about chess life.

Chess is certainly a brilliant and beneficial game. It gradually sharpens your mind while fine-tuning your character.



# I. HOW CHESS CAME TO LIFE

Ancient legends tell us that Chaturanga, a game played by two or four people, is the game that started it all. It is the earliest version of our modern game of chess. But this is only one of several legends. In fact, there are a few different stories about how chess came to be.

Here's the most famous of them all: once upon a time, 2000 years ago, India was ruled by the mighty King Bagram. He had a massive army of one hundred thousand foot soldiers, plus thirty thousand battle horses and elephants. The king crushed all his enemies, until finally there was no one left to fight. So, the bored king commanded his people to come up with a new kind of entertainment.

One wise man brought him a board and a set of wooden pieces. When the king gazed upon them, he saw his entire army right in front of him: all the horses, the foot soldiers, the generals, and even himself. On one side of the board, the wise man set up the white king's army, and on the opposite side, he placed the black king's forces.

The king loved the game so much that he decided to reward the old man with gold. But the wise man said he would rather

have wheat than gold. He asked the king to place one grain of wheat on the first square of the chessboard, and then double the number of grains for each additional square, one after the other, all the way up to the 64<sup>th</sup> square. This seemed like a bargain for the king, at first.

But before long, the king understood that this would be more wheat than you could find in the entire world! In fact, if you could somehow gather up all this wheat, the pile would be taller than Mount Everest itself! So, that day, the wise man showed the king some of the mystery and power of chess.



# 17. WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONS

Wilhelm Steinitz - Austria-Hungary, USA  
Emanuel Lasker - Germany  
Jose Raul Capablanca - Cuba, Spain  
Alexander Alekhine - Russian Empire, RSFSR, France  
Max Euwe - Netherlands  
Mikhail Botvinnik - USSR  
Vasily Smyslov - USSR, Russian Federation  
Mikhail Tal - USSR, Latvia  
Tigran Petrosian - USSR  
Boris Spassky - USSR, France, Russian Federation  
Bobby Fisher - USA, Iceland  
Anatoly Karpov - USSR, Russian Federation  
Garry Kasparov - USSR, Russian Federation, Croatia  
Vladimir Kramnik - USSR, Russian Federation  
Viswanathan Anand - India  
Magnus Carlsen - Norway

## 18. ABOUT THE AUTHORS

The wisest, kindest, and smartest books in my life are those written for children. Since I have been helping my husband for many years to organize and manage one of the most famous chess tournaments, the Zurich Chess Challenge, the idea of writing a chess book for children is no accident.

My book with Matthew is the BEGINNING OF THE STORY. For little (and not so little) people, this book opens the door to an unforgettable story full of secrets, legends, and enigmas, a story spanning millennia, the story of a game that has quietly and ingeniously conquered the world.

- Natalie Shevando

Matthew McMillion was born in California, just a short walk from the sparkling blue Pacific Ocean. He grew up close to Silicon Valley, in the Santa Cruz Mountains. As a boy, when he wasn't out curiously exploring the forests with his loyal golden retriever, he was often reading books and learning to play games of all kinds. Today, Matthew is a writer and editor in Luxembourg - a land of ancient castles and mysterious legends.



“If you want to introduce chess to your child, this colorful book is capable of solving the first and most important task: to captivate him or her with this royal game. Once done, the rest will follow.”

– Vladimir Kramnik,  
14<sup>th</sup> World Chess Champion.

“A really nice book about chess for children. It introduces you to the game with fun stories that make it easy to understand what the game is about. I hope many kids will be introduced to the royal game in this enjoyable way.”

– Viswanathan Anand,  
15<sup>th</sup> World Chess Champion.

