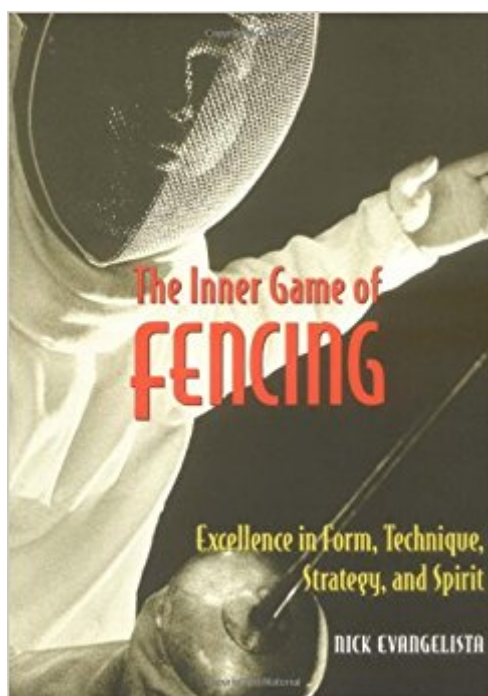




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The Inner Game Of Fencing: Excellence In Form, Technique, Strategy And Spirit.



Synopsis

An illustrated study of the mental aspects of the sport of fencing, written by the author of ART AND SCIENCE OF FENCING.

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Customer Reviews

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This book is cute. That's why it suffers in terms of teaching fencing. It approaches fencing from a highly romantic point of view, looking into some of the history of fencing times gone by, but it isn't a thorough review of those times. It's the kind of stuff you tell beginning fencers during a first introduction to the sport. The title "The Inner Game of Fencing" suggests that it teaches you sound tactical and mental fundamentals that this book doesn't teach.

The author's opinions are obsolete in regards to modern Olympic style fencing. He is embittered and angry at how fencing has evolved in the last 30 years. The book is poorly organized and rambling. This book will not make you a better fencer. It will provide some perspective on the recent (last 50 years) of fencing as a sport, and will raise interesting questions. These questions may be thought provoking for a veteran fencer, but they are damaging and misleading to a novice. This book is a series of collected articles opining on various aspects and dimensions of fencing. Generally, these articles are unrelated meditations of the author's own philosophy regarding the sport of

fencing (as it existed in the 1950's and '60's). This book does present some interesting (and polarizing) perspectives. As a coach, I feel this book is damaging to a fencing novice looking for a curriculum, or study guide for modern Olympic style fencing. Sadly, the author's vitriolic rants against many of the changes which occurred in the sport in the last two decades of the twentieth century obscure some thought provoking questions. The book is poorly organized, and wandering and uncomfortable to read. It may provide advise on "Classical fencing", but I'm not sure the style advocated even goes back far enough to really help SKA participants. At any rate this is a philosophical treatise and not a "how -to" guide. If you are looking for a good novice guide, go look at Paul Sise's "A Basic Foil Companion."

"The Inner Game of Fencing," is a unique and masterful text. As with most aspects of life, much of what you find in this book will be dependent on what you bring to it. If you are cynic who has lost the zest, flavor and honor that comes with a life that is worth living you probably won't appreciate this text, regardless if you compete with a sword or really fence. In contrast if you measure life more by what you can bring to it then what others will, then this is a text you will find challenging, uplifting and enticing. Regardless of your fencing prowess this book, more specifically Nick Evangelista, says some things that not only should be read, but also applied. I was a beginning fencer when I first read it, and although I worked to comprehend certain terms and experiences that were still very new, I gained and valued the insights. In truth, it did help me, firmed some thoughts I was having and clarified some questions. If having standards, high standards at that, are passe, then you will find this book dated. If you value and recognize these as both timeless and necessary to impact life as a whole, this book will excite you. I said initially that I read this as a brand new fencer, I also have gone back and re-read it several times as time has gone by. I still find it fresh, I still gain insight and yes learn and improve my fencing skills from the text. I highly recommend Nick Evangelista's other books as well. They are well written and applicable to a serious fencer, novice or experienced. His writing style is such that you feel more as though he is there with you sharing both his belief, passion and life experiences. Like few other writers, when you finish reading his books you feel like you have spent time with a friend. Were I to have the honor of meeting him, I would feel like I knew him already. A wise mentor of mine has often told me that when the student is ready, the teacher will be there. I must have been ready when this book came out, he is a teacher and I have grown as a result of his work. My sincere encouragement to anyone who is thinking about buying this book, and my sincere appreciation to Mr. Evangelista for putting the labor of love into writing it!

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