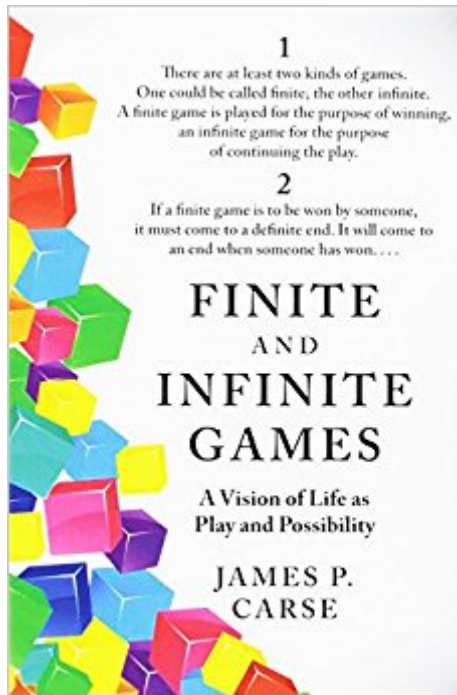


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Finite And Infinite Games



Synopsis

“There are at least two kinds of games,” states James P. Carse as he begins this extraordinary book. “One could be called finite; the other infinite.” Finite games are the familiar contests of everyday life; they are played in order to be won, which is when they end. But infinite games are more mysterious. Their object is not winning, but ensuring the continuation of play. The rules may change, the boundaries may change, even the participants may change “as long as the game is never allowed to come to an end. What are infinite games? How do they affect the ways we play our finite games? What are we doing when we play “finitely or infinitely? And how can infinite games affect the ways in which we live our lives? Carse explores these questions with stunning elegance, teasing out of his distinctions a universe of observation and insight, noting where and why and how we play, finitely and infinitely. He surveys our world “from the finite games of the playing field and playing board to the infinite games found in culture and religion” leaving all we think we know illuminated and transformed. Along the way, Carse finds new ways of understanding everything, from how an actress portrays a role to how we engage in sex, from the nature of evil to the nature of science. Finite games, he shows, may offer wealth and status, power and glory, but infinite games offer something far more subtle and far grander. Carse has written a book rich in insight and aphorism. Already an international literary event, *Finite and Infinite Games* is certain to be argued about and celebrated for years to come. Reading it is the first step in learning to play the infinite game.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

James P. Carse is Professor Emeritus of history and literature of religion at New York University. A winner of the University's Great Teacher Award, he is author of *The Religious Case Against Belief* (2008) and *Breakfast at the Victory: The Mysticism of Ordinary Experience* (1994). Carse lives in New York City and Massachusetts.

There's nothing ground breaking or new in this book, but I found it to be profound. It made a lasting impact on my perspective; life is infinite play.

This book has had a deep effect on me. I cannot stop thinking about so many of its ideas, such as: the differences between playing 'within' or 'with' boundaries; of meeting someone 'with their limitations' not 'within their limitations'; how sexual lovers can either meet a body or meet the person within the body. This book makes me look towards the horizon.

Must read! It change my point of view on everything. I see the world in New eyes.

Its a slog. Lot of dry words for a moderately interesting concept. Needs to be edited to be more concise and pointed.

Excellent read if you TRULY like brain puzzles with a deep meaning! I love it..... but do take time to PAUSE, REWIND, and the re-read from time to time..it will be worth it. You will figure out pretty early on which game YOU prefer..... if you don't then you may need to start with a lighter entry into self awareness reading. If you read the sample and think "silly stuff".... you are definitely not ready for this level of exploration or maybe SELF TRUTH??Patrice O'Shea

I owned this book once before, lost it, and now I'm happy to own it once again! This is not a quick read, so be prepared to think, but if you give this short book the attention it deserves it will change your view of the world. Highly recommended.

I didn't study philosophy - I got this book on a recommendation. It gives an interesting way of thinking about yourself and your pursuits and the relationship between a person and a people and society. I recommend it to people. But you have to read pretty slowly to let it all sink in.

Unusually thought-provoking.

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