

# AMERA M. ANDERSEN

## *Battlefield of Life*

“I make this pledge to you alone,  
that I shall serve your royal throne.

My silver sword, I gladly wield.

Squares eight times eight the battlefield.

With knights upon their mighty steed  
the front line pawns have vowed to bleed  
and neither Queen shall ever yield.

Squares eight times eight the battlefield.

The castle walls protect our back  
and Bishops plan for their attack;  
a master plan that is concealed.

Squares eight times eight the battlefield.

For chess is but a game of life  
and I your Queen, a loving wife  
shall guard my liege and raise my shield  
Squares eight time eight the battlefield.”

# Apathy

## *Checkmate*

I set my moves up strategically, enemy kings are taken easily  
Knights move four spaces, in place of bishops east of me  
Communicate with pawns on a telepathic frequency  
Smash knights with mics in militant mental fights, it seems to be  
An everlasting battle on the 64-block geometric metal battlefield  
The sword of my rook, will shatter your feeble battle shield  
I witness a bishop that'll wield his mystic sword  
And slaughter every player who inhabits my chessboard  
Knight to Queen's three, I slice through MCs  
Seize the rook's towers and the bishop's ministries

# VISWANATHAN ANAND

“Confidence is very important—even pretending to be confident.  
If you make a mistake but do not let your opponent see what  
you are thinking, then he may overlook the mistake.”

Public Enemy  
*Rebel Without A Pause*

No matter what the name  
we're all the same  
Pieces in one big chess game

# GERALD ABRAHAMS

“One way of looking at chess development is to regard it as a fight for freedom. You want to have at least as much action for your pieces as your opponent has for his.”

Vinnie Paz

*No Spiritual Surrender*

I can ascend without any physical death,  
I can repent without any physical breath  
To me, it's not a discussion—it's invisible chess

# JACOB AAGAARD

*“There is an important rule to attacking chess: If your opponent succeeds in preventing your primary attacking idea, this is often at the cost of something else. So do not abandon the attack, but rather investigate the arising position (in advance of course), and see if new possibilities have arisen.”*

# Fugees

## *Ready Or Not*

I play my enemies like a game of chess, where I rest, no stress!



# ALEXANDER ALEKHINE

“During a chess tournament a master must envisage himself as a cross between an ascetic monk and a beast of prey.”

GZA  
*Pencil*

Throw your raps in the sleephold, quick to smother you  
Dart heat your breastplate, meet ya death date  
Rook down a e4, look, it's checkmate  
No other way to describe a catastrophe

# VISWANATHAN ANAND

“For me, chess is not a profession. It is a way of life, a passion.”

GZA  
*Gold*

A kingpin just castled with his rook and lost a pawn

# **ADOLF ANDERSSSEN**

*“Attack! Always attack!”*

# Jay-Z

## *Decoded*

“My pop taught me chess, but more than that, he taught me that life was like a giant chessboard where you had to be completely aware in the moment, but also thinking a few moves ahead. By the time he left, he’d already given me a lot of what I needed to survive.”

# YURI AVERBAKH

“The main advantage of a sacrifice is that it occurs suddenly and at least the opponent is usually caught by surprise. This is due mainly to the fact that we tend to think in terms of more or less fixed values of the pieces and to forget that such values are relative.

In the heat of the battle, we often fail to bear in mind that the values of pieces are variable.”

Mobb Deep  
*Must Go Hard*

Hard is the definition,  
Searching for recognition,  
Now I'm tough, no barber shops...  
With guns that will change your move  
Chess game, make a move...  
they want you as toy,



# ADOLF ANDERSSSEN

“Chess is the gymnasium of the mind.”

Viktor Vaughn AKA MF DOOM  
*Let Me Watch*

He talked, I listened, he listened I spoke  
We walked arm in arm and split a Cherry Coke  
Spit religion and politics, Sega and chess  
Roots of culture, hip-hop, skunk and sess

# LEVON ARONIAN

“If you played a certain position many times, or analyzed it well, you feel confident in similar positions... One who plays a single opening their entire life, probably knows fewer typical positions than someone with a wider repertoire.”

Papoose  
*Nacirema Dream*

He jumpin over me to be the king, not clever  
You knew this cuz life is a game of chess, not checkers

# PAL BENKO

“When you defend, try not to worry or become upset.  
Keep your cool and trust your position—it’s all you’ve got.”

Slick Rick (ft. Canibus)  
*King Piece In the Chess Game*

Ready and willin' to face you, death awaits you  
The king piece in the chess game, to checkmate you

# JOSÉ RAÚL CAPABLANCA

“People who want to improve should take their defeats as lessons, and endeavor to learn what to avoid in the future. You must also have the courage of your convictions. If you think your move is good, make it.”

Eminem

*Bezerk*

So if love is a chess game, checkmate



# JOSÉ RAÚL CAPABLANCA

“You must have the courage of your convictions, If you think your move is good, make it. Experience is the best teacher. Most people during a game have an idea that a certain move is good, but they are afraid to make it. That is wrong; you must go on and play what you think is good without hesitation.”

Tupac Shakur  
*Keep Goin'*

It's like a chess game let's play with real pieces

# JOSÉ RAÚL CAPABLANCA

*“When you have the advantage and your opponent has a passive piece set-up, one should not hurry matters. With each move the likelihood of an error from the defending side increases.”*

E-40

*Earl That's Yo' Life*

We don't play checkers no more, we play chess

# JOSÉ RAÚL CAPABLANCA

“In order to improve your game, you must study the endgame before anything else, for whereas the endings can be studied and mastered by themselves, the middlegame and the opening must be studied in relation to the endgame.”

E-40

*Sell Everything*

Boss moves man, Chess moves man

# MAGNUS CARLSEN

“Some people think that if their opponent plays a beautiful game, it’s OK to lose. I don’t. You have to be merciless.”

Beanie Sigel (ft. Freeway)  
*Got Nowhere*

And everyday like a test, you know life got rules  
And its sorta like checkers and chess



# MAGNUS CARLSEN

“What I admired most about [Bobby Fischer] was his ability to make what was in fact so difficult look easy to us. I try to emulate him.”

Mac Miller  
*Three Blind Mice*

Got a chessboard ready, but you want to play checkers

# IRVING CHERNEV

“Every Chess master was once a beginner.”

# Wu-Tang Clan

## *The Mystery Of Chessboxin*

The game of chess, is like a swordfight  
You must think first, before you move

# **STEFAN DJURIC, DIMITRI KOMAROV & CLAUDIO PANTALEONI**

*“In order to have a full grasp of what you are doing, you should have a general understanding of openings, even if they are not part of your repertoire. For as much as we study or prepare for a particular type of game, sooner or later we will be confronted with unpredictable and ever-changing situations which require us to think for ourselves.”*

Jus Allah  
*Chessking*

I'm the chess king;  
The difference between boxing and wrestling

# MAX EUWE

“Whoever sees no other aim in the game than that of giving checkmate to one’s opponent will never become a good chess player.”

8Ball and MJG  
*Who Can You Trust*

I feel like one of them pieces up in a chess game,  
On the line, defending yours from mine.



# LARRY EVANS

*“The secret of winning chess lies in accumulating small advantages until they mount to steamroller proportions, when your opponent may see the crusher coming but be unable to get out from under.”*

Pete Rock (ft. Black Thought and Rob-O)

*It's about That Time*

Let my words express move men like chess

# LARRY EVANS

“When you study chess, study the complete game. There is no better way to improve your chess than by studying a complete game. The opening moves with their ideas should be observed as they move into the strategy of the middlegame—which then evolves into the final stage—the endgame.”

# Blue Scholars

*Hussein*

I playin' chess, stayin' 4 steps ahead of the game

# BOBBY FISCHER

“That’s what chess is all about. One day you give your opponent a lesson, the next day he gives you one.”

Brand Nubian  
*Brand Nubian*

Actions manifest with the strategy of chess

# BOBBY FISCHER

“Chess is Life.”

Brother Ali  
*The Magnificent*

Pawns get flipped quick  
On some Fresh game of chess on the park benches



# **BOBBY FISCHER**

“Chess is war over the board. The object is to crush the opponent’s mind.”

Paul Wall (ft. B.G. and Bun B)

*Trill*

I trained for chess moves, I'm five steps ahead

# BOBBY FISCHER

“I like the moment I break a man’s ego.”

Adisa The Bishop  
*One Big Chess Game*

To capture that piece on earth, I know what's going on  
while you're thrown, getting known as a pawn in this code of arms

# BOBBY FISCHER

“My opponents make good moves too.  
Sometimes I don't take these things into consideration.”

Cappadonna  
*Cap Is Back*

You play chess with life, end up in the flame

# **BOBBY FISCHER**

“It’s just you and your opponent at the board and you’re trying to prove something.”

Cassidy

*Leanin' On The Lord*

He realized life is like playin' a chess game



# BOBBY FISCHER

“There are tough players and nice guys, and I’m a tough player.”

SZA (ft. Chance The Rapper)  
*Childs Play*

Only I know that a pawn is for a trade and a  
rookie for a castle like tuition for a final

# BOBBY FISCHER

“You can only get good at chess if you love the game.”

Cypress Hill  
*Southland Killers*

It's all real, I bet fame, it's a chess game  
Wrong move and it's checkmate

# **BOBBY FISCHER**

“You have to have the fighting spirit. You have to force moves and take chances.”

Dizzee Rascal  
*I Don't Need a Reason*

Life is a game of chess, and all the girls wanna check me

# BOBBY FISCHER

“Your body has to be in top condition.  
Your chess deteriorates as your body does.  
You can’t separate body from mind.”

Dilated People  
*Night Life*

Kings remained in chess on the board and life in thrones



# BOBBY FISCHER

“Concentrate on material gains. Whatever your opponent gives you take, unless you see a good reason not to.”

EPMD

*You're A Customer*

I make a move like chess, and then I yell, "Checkmate!"

# BOBBY FISCHER

“I don't believe in psychology. I believe in good moves.”

# Immortal Technique

## *One (Remix)*

And wipe the chess board clean, of my enemies' pawns

# BOBBY FISCHER

“Psychologically, you have to have confidence in yourself  
and this confidence should be based on fact.”

Ja Rule  
*Last Of The Mohicans*

The game we play is chess—them is pawns, you the first pieces we  
take off the board because, I'ma king that's from Queens

# BOBBY FISCHER

“That’s what chess is all about. One day you give your opponent a lesson, the next day he gives you one.”

Rakaa Iriscience  
*64 Squares in the Cypher*

I don't play either side or the king, I play God  
Heavenly wars played out on hand carved boards



# BOBBY FISCHER

“Chess is a matter of delicate judgement, knowing when to punch and how to duck.”

# Jurassic 5

## *Coming War*

Are you a soldier who fights against fraud  
Or pawns in this game on this government's chess board?

# **BEN FRANKLIN**

## *The Morals of Chess*

“[L]ife is a kind of chess, in which we have often points to gain, and competitors or adversaries to contend with, and in which there is a vast variety of good and ill events, that are, in some degree, the effects of prudence or the want of it.”

Jay Rock  
*Checkmate*

Life is like chess one move at a time

**BEN FRANKLIN**

*The Morals of Chess*

“Chess teaches foresight, circumspection, and caution.”

GZA  
*Queens Gambit*

I be liking chess  
Cuz chess is crazy, right there, that's the ultimate  
It's like a great hobby right there, playing chess  
The board, the pieces, the squares, the movement  
You know, war, capturing, thinking, strategy  
Planning, music, it's hip-hop, and sports  
It's life, it's reality

# BEN FRANKLIN

## *The Morals of Chess*

In relation to war:

“[I]f you have incautiously put yourself into a bad and dangerous position, you cannot obtain your enemy’s leave to withdraw your troops, and place them more securely; but you must abide all the consequences of your rashness.”

# Wu-Tang Clan

## *Impossible*

(Second verse U-God)

Kings on your pawn, checkmate, no fakes



**BEN FRANKLIN**

*The Morals of Chess*

“[W]e learn by chess the habit of not being discouraged by present bad appearances in the state of our affairs, the habit of hoping for a favorable change, and that of persevering in the search of resources.”

Wu-Tang Clan  
*Duck Season*

Listen kid yo, you was born to be a pawn, but I'm a bishop

# DAVID HOOPER & BERNARD CAFFERTY

“There are clues to every combination: lack of development, an unguarded long diagonal, a piece out of place, out of play, or unguarded, a king hemmed in or in a corner, a disarray of pawns, open files upon the king, an advanced pawn, and many others.”

DJ Muggs  
*Move Ahead*

Chess-to-chess, lyrical confrontation is dope

# I.A. HOROWITZ & GEOFFREY MOTT-SMITH

“All other things being equal, confidence wins games.”

GZA

*Destruction Of A Guard (Pop, Pop, Pop)*

Word up, holding it down

Holding the fort, n\*\*\*a, youknowwhatisayin?

All we need is a bunch of red coats coming through

Stayin' official on some gangster s\*\*\*

Bloodhounds, thirsty, lurking in the bushes

Yeah... (1. b4 Nf6 2. c4)

# ROBERT HUEBNER

“Those who say they understand chess, understand nothing.”

GZA

*Advanced Pawns*

The queen by far, is the strongest piece  
Should too, should not be prematurely brought  
Into play, during in the opening  
Or she will be attacked by wicked pieces  
And driven back, it is very dangerous  
To make a raid with the queen early on in the game  
It is best, in opening, to make but one move with the queen  
And that, to a square where she is not exposed  
To any direct or indirect attack



# ANATOLY KARPOV

“Chess is everything: art, science, and sport.”

GZA

*All In Together Now*

Now the white doesn't really wanna use up his few remaining pawn moves, so he plays king to e2.

# ANATOLY KARPOV

“Like dogs who sniff each other when meeting, chess players have a ritual at first acquaintance: they sit down to play speed chess.”

GZA

*Illusory Protection*

The procedure is, check with the knight  
Move the knight away to deliver a discovered check from the queen  
Then, sacrifice the queen to force the rook next to the king  
then mate with the knight

# ANATOLY KARPOV

“Pawns not only create the sketch for the whole painting,  
they are also the soil, the foundation, of any position.”

Young Money  
*Pass The Dutch*

Life a game of chess, and I'm headed for your queen

# RUSTAM KASIMDZHANOV

“The aggressive strategy involves also not just controlling and playing on the squares where you are strong but also trying to fight for the squares where your opponent wields pressure. And, if this strategy is successful, at the end you might be controlling the whole board.”

Mario Winans (ft. Black Rob)

*This Is the Thanks I Get*

Like chess, I'm contemplating my next move



# GARRY KASPAROV

“Chess is a unique cognitive nexus, a place where art and science come together in the human mind and are refined and improved by experience.”

Paul Wall  
*Big Ballin'*

I keep my mind on breakin' bread, makin' chess moves, thinkin' ahead

# GARRY KASPAROV

“If you wish to succeed, you must brave the risk of failure.”

Bone Thugs-n-Harmony  
*Nuff Respect*

In chess after Flesh is seconds and you're the checkmate

# GARRY KASPAROV

“Sometimes the hardest thing to do in a pressure situation is to allow the tension to persist. The temptation is to make a decision, any decision, even if it is an inferior choice.”

Trip Lee  
*Young and Unashamed*

You better check yourself like playin' chess alone

# GARRY KASPAROV

“The technical phase can be boring because there is little opportunity for creativity, for art. Boredom leads to complacency and mistakes.”

T.I.

*Why You Wanna*

Life is like a chess move, you need to make yo next move



# GARRY KASPAROV

*“The way to use your advantage in a space, or to use your advantage in time, when you’re ahead in development, is to sacrifice some material, open the position, and then crush your opponent with your army that is well-mobilized and could attack before your opponent, your enemy, is mobilizing his forces to defend.”*

UGK

*Living This Life*

I wake up out of bed, right after the crack of dawn and  
I give myself a — stretch up, a morning yawn and  
See I'm a pawn in this neighborhood chess game

# ALEXANDER KHALIFMAN

*“In case your king by the irony of Fate has found no shelter at the either side of the board and has been compelled to remain in center under the constant control of the opponent’s pieces, you should do the best to leave on board as many pawns of both colors as possible.”*

Kid Cudi  
*To Da Top*

I'm thinking of steps to be king, just like in chess

# DANIEL KING

“Calculation is a skill that can be improved with practice. A tip: It helps to think as systematically as possible. At each move, first consider what options you have—select two or a maximum three—and examine these ‘candidate’ moves one by one before deciding.”

Will Smith  
*Freakin' It*

Yo, everytime I shoot, I score  
So many awards I can start a Grammy chessboard!

# PAUL KERES & ALEXANDER KOTOV

*“When our own pieces hinder the freedom of movement of our pawns, this naturally suggests that we lose time by advancing them. Therefore we must set about preparing the pawn storm much earlier...making a way for the pawns to by-pass the pieces in their advance.”*

# Jay-Z

## *This Life Forever*

I can't lose when I was young I was like Fresh  
Poppa raised me to chess moves  
And though you're gone I'm not bitter you left me prepared  
We got divided by the years, but I got it from here  
Don't sweat that, sounds bump from Marcy to Lefrak  
To that pocket in DC where my man caught his death at  
Over my years I've seen Rooks get taken by the Knight  
Lose they Crown by tryna defend a Queen  
Checkmate, in 4 moves the Bobby Fischer of rap



# IRVING CHERNEV

“Master players must necessarily consider a knowledge of opening traps—how to set them and how to avoid falling into them—a vital element of chess tactics. If knowledge of traps is important for the master, how much more so it is for the average player.”

# Tupac Shakur

## *Don't Stop*

Mr. Makaveli moving pieces like telekinesis  
It's a chess game lets play with real pieces

# GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI

*“Control of the squares in front of your opponent’s pawn means the control of his position! Should such squares be on your 5th or 6th rank, then you opponent will have no way to free his game. Should such control be exercised by rooks and minor pieces...then you opponent will be forced to assume the defensive.”*

50 Cent  
*Piggy Bank*

This is chess not checkers, these warning shots  
After your next move I'll give you all I got

# VICTOR KORCHNOI

“In any game, even the most primitive, there are psychological nuances. And this applies to chess.”

# Papoose *Chess*

I got street knowledge, that's why I outsmart them all  
Gotta play chess in the streets, it's the art of war

# ALEXANDER KOTOV

“Drawing general conclusions about your main weaknesses can provide a great stimulus to further growth.”

J Cole  
*New York Times*

Once kings now we pawns in the game  
Wall street got Black slave blood stains



# ALEXANDER KOTOV

*“It is better to follow out a plan consistently even if it isn’t the best one than to play without a plan at all. The worst thing is to wander about aimlessly.”*

GZA

*Weak Spot*

I stay on the 64 squares, while patrolling the center  
Trading space from material, the time zone, I enter  
It's calculated by movement, from pushed pieces  
Advancements and development, once the pawn reaches  
To 8th ranked, now heavily armed with a tank  
My opponent's base is threatened, soldiers cut with shanks  
Moved all my small pieces, MC's are driven back  
Unable to avoid capture from the attack

# STANLEY KUBRICK

“Chess teaches you to control the initial excitement you feel when you see something that looks good and it trains you to think objectively when in you’re trouble.”

RZA

*Sandman*

A damn I rest, play chess, yes

My thoughts be sneaky like a crook from Brooklyn

When you ain't looking I take the Queen with the Rook then

I get vexed, laying phat tracks on Ampex

# EMANUEL LASKER

“When you see a good move, look for a better one.”

Jay-Z  
*Blow the Whistle*

I don't know what y'all are on  
This is know the difference 'tween a king and a pawn

# JONATHAN LEVITT

“Play over large numbers of grandmaster games at a pace slow enough to absorb the new patterns and ideas. To avoid building an entirely “passive” vocabulary, one must balance this with playing enough chess to put these new ideas into practice.”

Sunspot Jonz  
*64 Squares in a Cypher*

Chess moves what the best do  
Jump kick side flip then I check you



# ANDREW MARTIN

“The biggest barrier that has to be overcome: LAZINESS... I have coached so many talented players...and very few of them went on to reach their full potential. Chess puts a barrier in your path at every stage and in order to get past the obstacle you have to work. A lot of people kid themselves about why they aren't improving...**YOU ARE NOT PUTTING THE WORK IN!**”

Adisa the Bishop  
*One Big Chess Game*

Let these beats play as I slay dragons from Sicily  
My Yugoslav attack broke his back, took Italy  
I like Hannibal breaking a cannibals mandible  
You're confused 'cause you're stuck in the matrix? Understandable

# NEIL MCDONALD

*“As a rule, you should trust in your judgment and analysis and always play the move you think is best if you can see no refutation. It is better to be confident in your powers than be afraid of ghosts.”*

GZA

*When the Fat Lady Sings*

Liquid swords and razor sharp swords leave the tank  
C file 8th rank, ship sank

# EDMAR MEDNIS

“The key to ultimate success is the determination to progress day by day.”

# Ghostface Killah

## *Mighty Healthy*

Check, checkmate, props like the microchip founder  
Neck to neck stock with Bill Gates now

# EDMAR MEDNIS

“Often enough the choice between having an active or passive king comes down to psychological factors. Even though there seems to be nothing wrong with an active king move, ‘wouldn’t it be better to play it safe?’ As a general principle, the answer is ‘No!—the king can be very powerful in the endgame, therefore, activate and use it!”

# Rakim

## *Hoodlum*

Relax through stress do math and set mad connects  
Cash the check to get assets we blast techs  
Dealing with the mental aspects in chess



# EDMAR MEDNIS

“The general principle is that as the amount of material on the board decreases, the power of the pawns increases. In the ultimate simple case—bishop or knight vs. three pawns—it is obvious that only the pawns’ side has winning chances.”

# Conejo

## *Pawns in a Chess Game*

Pawns in a chess game, is what they say we are  
'Cause we go around the city bustling gats out of cars  
At others like us, or you can see our face  
Tear drops on my face for my boys in the grave

# PAUL MORPHY

“Help your pieces so they can help you”

Dizzee Rascal

*I Don't Need A Reason*

Life is a game of chess, and all the girls wanna check me  
How much do you wanna bet me, that I'll never let these females sweat me

# ARON NIMZOWITSCH

“First restrain, next blockade, lastly destroy.”

Pusha T  
*My God*

Take position on the chessboard and rearrange it  
Face to face with the truth, get acquainted

# LUDEK PACHMAN

“The principles of chess are only a sign-post; they cannot be considered under all conditions to be reliable pointers to correct procedure. Sometimes we have players who, besides their basic command of chess principles, use something more—the intuition of an artist. This helps them discover hidden possibilities, unearth surprising combinations, and create games of lasting aesthetic worth. In this union of scientific and artistic elements lies the true greatness of chess—that wonderful product of the human brain.”

# Method Man

## *Meth vs. Chef*

Attack the board like chess moves, best move



# BRUCE PANDOLFINI

“Fifty percent of all endgames include rooks and a hundred percent include kings! Queen endings and minor-piece endings happen somewhat less often because these pieces are more easily exchanged. So, based on frequency of occurrence, it seems sensible to emphasize endings with just pawns, as well as those with rooks and pawns. But it can't hurt to make endgame analysis a lifetime project.”

Short Dawg  
*Pass the Dutch*

Shoot your lights out, I'm Riddick with the beam  
Life's a chess game and I'm headed for your queen

# CECIL PURDY

“There are positions in chess which are unimprovable, and at the same time tenable—positions in which the best play for both sides is to maintain the status quo, and where if either party assumes the initiative he should suffer for it, although it may happen to be less risky for one than the other.”

T.I.

*Remember Me*

Talk s\*\*\* behind his back, you a hater for that  
I don't expect nothing less in the game of chess

# GEORGE RENKO

“The most dangerous critical squares are those protected by the king only.”

T.I.  
*Bring Em Out*

Work well with Nines, AK's and Tec's  
And quick to check a lame like a game of chess

# MATTHEW SADLER

“I have always thought that if I had my time again, I would try to base my chess understanding much more firmly on pattern recognition.”

Rhapsody  
*Believe Me*

Be someone that these little girls look up to  
Now I see the game for what it is, a big chess move



# GRIGORY SANAKOEV

*“A chess player’s attitude to his own mistakes can serve as a gauge of his strength and his prospects. The weak player tries to forget his mistakes as quickly as possible and is soon committing fresh ones, which may be even cruder. The strong player treats his mistakes with an attentiveness that borders on love. They become the object of prolonged and painstaking analysis; he constantly remembers them, but looks for ways to avoid meeting them again.”*

Lil B

*Ms. Woman*

You got love in your heart, you should get a check  
If you play games, we can play some chess

# ERIC SCHILLER

“Style is a cover word for a group of weaknesses that someone is trying to hide or avoid!”

KA

*Peace Akhi*

I play chess, but my past is checkered  
The mic and I are like staff and shepherd

# YASSER SEIRAWAN

“After winning material, don’t immediately attack your opponent. Instead, quietly consolidate your position by developing all your forces and getting your king to safety. Only when everything is protected and your army is fully mobilized should you start marching up the board.”

# R.A. The Rugged Man

## *No Prints*

As a kid, life was my only teacher, I didn't play video games,  
I played chess with the Grim Reaper

# JEREMY SILMAN

“Almost all combinations are made possible by an undefended or inadequately guarded piece. ...Whenever you see a piece that is “loose,” perk up and look for a trick to take advantage of it.”

# Chamillionaire

## *Voice of Reason*

See life is a game of chess, and I could never be a pawn  
I calculate every step, they gonna kiss the ring of the don



# JEREMY SILMAN

“If you love to attack, you can’t go after the enemy king in any and all situations. Instead, you have to learn to read the board and obey its dictates. If the board wants you to attack the king, then attack it. If the board wants you to play in quiet positional vein, then you must follow that advice to the letter.”

# The Roots

## *Walk Alone*

I'm in a chess match, I'm in a death trap  
I'm trying to find where the eggs in the nest is at

# BORIS SPASSKY

“The best indicator of a chess player’s form is his ability to sense the climax of the game.”

Nipsey Hu\$\$le  
*Run A Lap*

Got enemies tryna kill me for the reap  
Couple of smart n\*\*\*\*s think they playin' chess—

# **BORIS SPASSKY**

“The power of hanging pawns is based precisely in their mobility,  
in their ability to create acute situations instantly.”

Drake  
*Kick Push*

So now it's me in oldschool checkered plaid  
Playing chess looking through some old school record ads

# **SAVIELLY TARTAKOWER**

*“The tactician must know what to do whenever something needs doing;  
the strategist must know what to do when nothing needs doing.”*

Alchemist  
*Bible Papers*

World collision, I talk reckless  
position precious, stones in the necklace  
Little doggy this is chess not tetris



# JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

*“Daring ideas are like chess men moved forward.  
They may be beaten, but they may start a winning game.”*

# Madrox

## *The Deep End*

Some call it sick, deranged, insane-and sometimes I prefer it  
Rather that than just be labeled this plain and play  
Like some disfigured chess piece in life's corrupted game

# RASHID ZIATDINOV

*“You can win without strategy. If you do not apply effective tactics on every move, you will not survive long... Strategy should not be a subject of inquiry for the non-master. No strategy! Absolutely none! Only amusing, paradoxical tactical tricks should be investigated.”*

Indy Mogul  
*Harry Potter vs. Voldemort*

Duels, I win at wizard chess  
I got platinum-coated dubs on my Hogwarts Express

# RASHID ZIATDINOV

“An important part of your chess preparation is memorizing classical games. They will teach you the strategy of chess. To be world champion...you must know cold 1,000 of the most important games of top players. But, even if you know only a few, that will help very much to increase the level of your playing strength.”

Nino Bless  
*Rhyme of the Year*

Chew through the comp I voodoo-hex dudes  
I do what I choose, my rules, chess moves

# JOSH WAITZKIN

“When uncomfortable, my instinct is not to avoid discomfort but to become at peace with it. My instinct is always to seek out challenges as opposed to avoiding them.”

Shad  
*Call Waiting*

With the weight of a girl, give her a break  
And that dating games still checking for a mate



# ITALIAN PROVERB

“At the end of the game, the king and the pawn go back in the same box.”

Sadistik  
*Absolution*

I'll just take a breath and place my bets but never deal  
Till I face my death with a game of chess like *Seventh Seal*

# MATTHEW VIERLING

## *Chaos Theory*

“To succeed at chess, players must understand the nature of pressure. Sheer relentless, unyielding pressure. Pressure that, once imposed, cannot be evaded, and exerted upon one’s opponent without mercy. Players must possess the cognitive ability to envision many moves ahead while manipulating the pieces on the board to impose a constant unrelenting threat upon the opponent. Attacks must be indefensible. Defenses must be impenetrable. Gambits must be inescapable.

Some say chess is a reflection of life.

Others claim that chess mirrors human nature. Few say that chess is the art of war.

They are all wrong. Chess is a game that drives men mad.”

Jack Rock  
*Checkmate*

Pistol on my side, eyes on the prize  
Life is like chess one move at a time

# SUN TZU

“Thus, what is of supreme importance in war is to attack the enemy’s strategy.”

# Childish Gambino

## *True Dudes*

I'm nasty? No. Forward? Yes.  
I'm hip to the game, you're a rook like chess

# SUN TZU

“The general who wins the battle makes many calculations in his temple before the battle is fought. The general who loses makes but few calculations beforehand.”