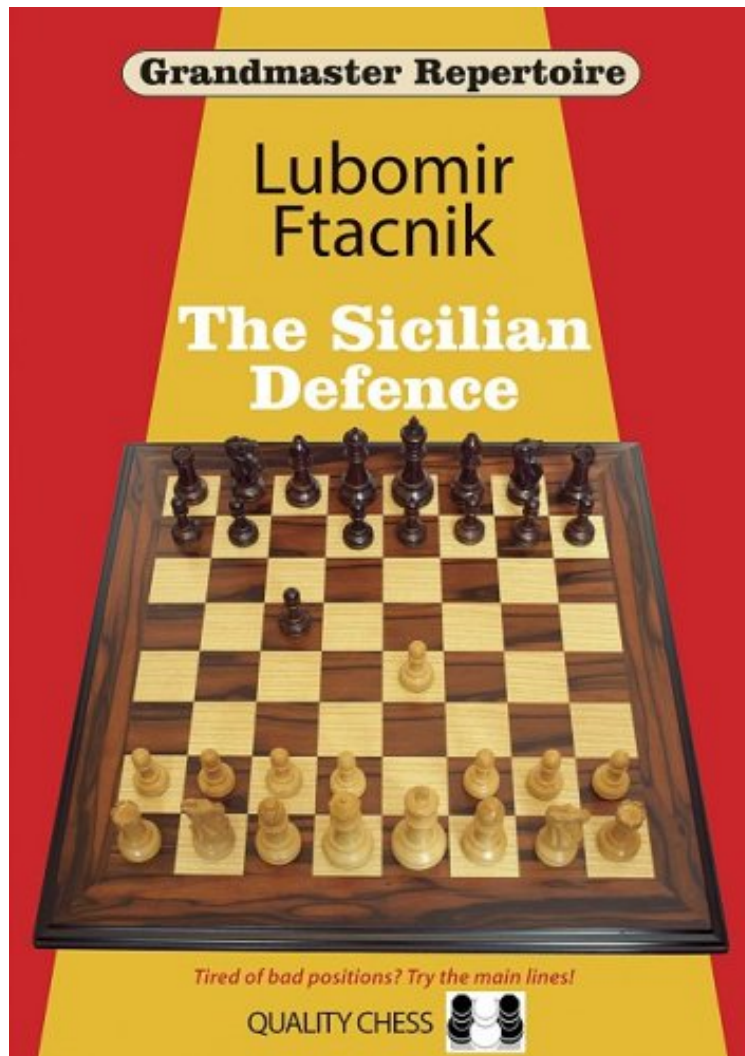


Grandmaster Repertoire 6: The Sicilian Defence

Lubomir Ftacnik

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#1520104 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2010-07-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 .70 x 6.64 x 9.30l, 1.76 #File Name: 1906552088427 pages Author: Lubomir Ftacnik Pages: 432 Pages Publication Years: 2010 | File size: 37.Mb

Lubomir Ftacnik : Grandmaster Repertoire 6: The Sicilian Defence before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Grandmaster Repertoire 6: The Sicilian Defence:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Should not be part of the Grandmaster Repertoire series...By nimzoAm I missing something or did GM Ftacnik forget to write about the Grand Prix attack with an early 2.f4 !?I searched the table of contents only to be confused by the author's cute names for certain variations - "Some Like it Hot" for the Morra Gambit for instance. Next, I moved on to the Variation Index at the back of the book same result, 2.f4 is not to be found.Lastly, I started reading chapter one titled "Pandora's (Chess) Box - Miscellaneous 2nd

moves" - not even a mention of the possibility of 2.f4. In my opinion this is not acceptable for a book classified as a Grandmaster Repertoire to omit certain well known moves for White on move 2! If I were to compare Ftacnik work on the Sicilian to Marin's on the English (3 vol. set by the way), Ftacnik might be accused of rushing this book out way too early to the publishers. Ftacnik in fact warns the reader in the introduction - "My own modest expertise lies in the domains of the Najdorf and Scheveningen systems, which I have been playing and studying over the past two decades. The Scheveningen system represents a kind of foundational core, from which virtually all knowledge about thematic Sicilian structures and plans can be traced. Although the official subject of this book is the Najdorf variation, the two systems share many common themes and can often transpose to one another." Great but nothing about 2.f4? On the other hand, I found some of the lines provided by the author original and well thought out. I have used the recommended 2.d5 and early g7 line against the 2.c3 setup to good effect in tournament games. I will warn the reader, the ideas of the lines presented are not well explained. Instead the author writes something like - " This leads to sharper play and is often used by players who are looking to win with the black pieces." Ok I get you, you are not an expert in Dragon, Kan, Taimanov or Sveshnikov Sicilians. But not to include a Najdorf/Scheveningen solution to the 2.f4 move played from the days of Phillidor and La Bourdonna (1700s) is a shame. I'm not claiming it is difficult to meet 2.f4, but simply this should have been mentioned in a Grandmaster Repertoire book. Because if it isn't then, this is not a complete repertoire book on the Sicilian. Perhaps Quality Chess needs to hire another Grandmaster to write about the Sicilian. Oh wait, Quality Chess is in fact publishing a new Sicilian book later this year with 440 pages on the Sveshnikov. 12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Great for a Club Player! Highly Recommended. By Night Fork I'm rated USCF 1750 and this book is perfect for me. It contains a great deal of analysis, along with excellent explanations of "what is going on". I find that the explanations are enough at my level, to enhance my understanding and learning of the variations. I feel that the main variations are presented, but the author refrains from giving countless variations that would be more than I could learn from. I also like that in a few lines, he presents the Black player a choice of variations, which was helpful to me as I had already investigated some of those lines. 29 of 32 people found the following review helpful. A weak effort. By Anonymous I'm extremely disappointed with this work by the respected GM Ftacnik. It seems to me that he put in very little effort, and having previously purchased the excellent books by Avrukh on 1.d4 (Vol.1 2) as well as his two-volume coverage of the Grunfeld Defence, I expected better from this "addition" to the 'Grandmaster Repertoire' series. I'm an International Master, who is looking to take up the Najdorf again after a long break from playing it. Unfortunately, Ftacnik mostly just resorts to saying things like: "this move has been played the most, but you could also play this line". In my view, this is simply his way of avoiding the hard work that is needed to give accurate opinions on complex positions, that need to hold up to scrutiny. Avrukh does this in his work, Ftacnik - it seems to me - does not. A far less professional-looking book such as 'The Sharpest Sicilian' by Georgiev Kolev actually does what this doesn't. It delves into positions and explains the key strategic elements. This is what leads to strong play in an opening. Memorization of key lines is critical, of course. And especially in an opening as sharp as the Najdorf. However, everyone knows that you don't remember things well unless you understand them. A work that has rightly received critical praise is the two-volume treatment of the Hedgehog, by GM Shipov. Now there's a book written with the right combination of knowledge and passion, that leaves the reader with not just a knowledge of the right move order, but also with a great understanding of WHY it is so. In my view, this is a complete waste of money for any 2200+ player, and I would not recommend it for u-2200's either.

Grandmaster Repertoire is a new series of high quality chess books based on the main lines, written by strong grandmasters. The aim is to provide the reader with a complete opening repertoire at a level good enough for elite tournaments, and certainly also for the club championship. Lubomir Ftacnik is a renowned opening analyst with great experience and expertise in the Sicilian Defense. In this book he reveals his secrets to provide a complete repertoire for Black against 1.e4 with 1...c5. The meat of the repertoire is the Sicilian Najdorf the perennial favourite of those who want to attack with Black. It is no coincidence that Fischer, Kasparov and Anand have all relied on the Najdorf. Naturally, White's less critical tries are also covered, such as the 2.c3, 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+, and the Closed Sicilian. A sharp yet sound complete repertoire. Critical lines explained by an expert. Hundreds of novelties. Busts many recommended lines.

About the Author Lubomir Ftacnik is a chess grandmaster from Slovakia. Despite his numerous international tournament victories, from European Junior Champion in 1977 to winning the World Open in 2008, he is most famous as an opening analyst.