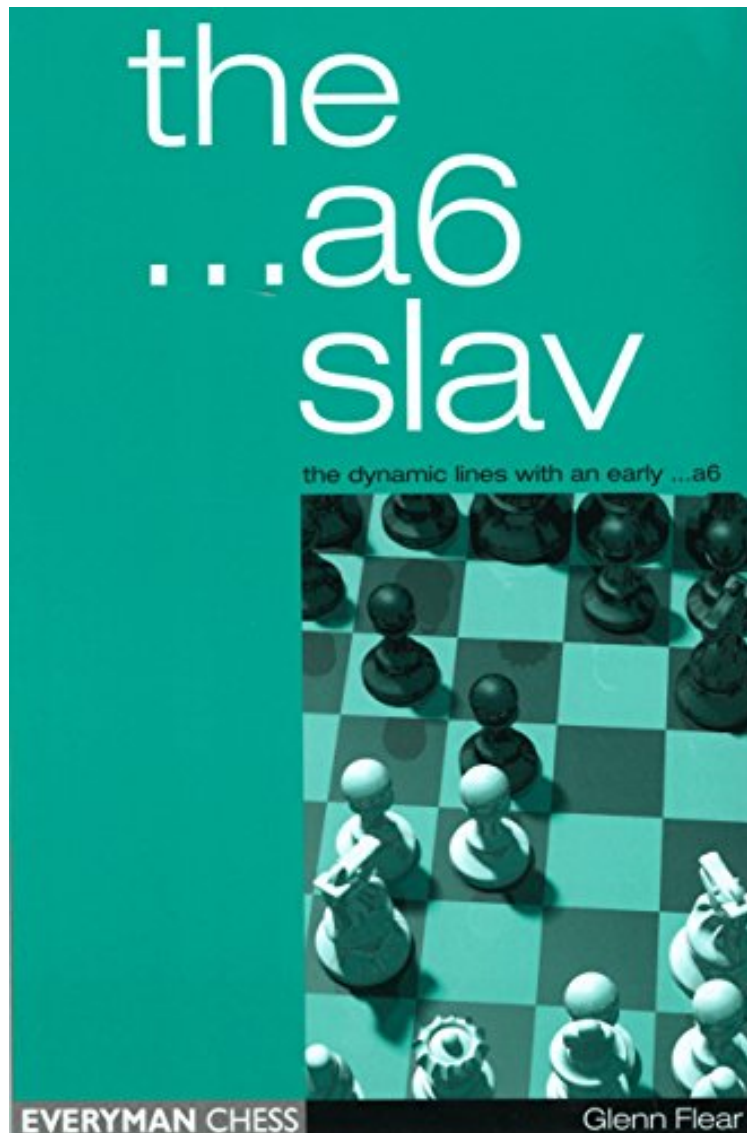


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## The ...a6 Slav: The Tricky and Dynamic Lines with...a6

Glenn Flear

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**Glenn Flear : The ...a6 Slav: The Tricky and Dynamic Lines with...a6** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The ...a6 Slav: The Tricky and Dynamic Lines with...a6:

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Brad AshlockSolid book - good opening.12 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Dovetail This One With Your Other Books on the SlavBy BitbythebugHere is a blurb from IM J. Donaaldson's book on the Semi-Slav (which I think leads to the reason for buying Flear's book). "One interesting idea favored by Larsen and Portisch is the move order 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3" Of course, he is making an argument for playing the Semi-Slav. He starts by saying, Black should not play

4...Bf5 because it leads to trouble after 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3. This leads Black to choose 4...e6 (Semi-Slav), 4...g6 (Schlechter Slav). Donaldson's book is older so 4...a6 was not given as an option. My assumption is that you don't intend to play the Semi-Slav and Slav together unless you are IM to GM strength (or plan to be) because this is an incredible amount of work. There is nothing written on the move 4...g6 (as far as I know unless there are Grunfeld transpositions or something like that). If you would like to travel the uncharted territory and dig up the games of Carl Schlechter and revive this so-called passive line you could go buy Carl Schlechter books by Crain or Goldman and forge ahead on your own. The last option would be to play 4...a6. It appears that Flear's 170+ page book assumes you know something about the Defense from the beginning. I think this is fair. Though the presentation format is similar, Flear's book does not hold your hand as well as Sadler's book on the Slav. Be aware that Sadler's book is more general in content. Burgess devotes 23 pages to the main line (4...a6). With the Burgess book you see how this line fits in with the rest of what can be played against you as Black. If you intend to play the Slav as Black, my thought is that you should have all three if you can afford it. If you can't then buy the Burgess book. If you are playing this as White maybe buy Burgess, and then Flear, if you face a lot of 4...a6 as White. The Burgess book, unlike the Sadler book, gives White a lot of early divergences. If you play the Slav as Black and have only the Sadler book, the early divergences will take you quickly "out of book". The strength of the Sadler book is that it gives you some idea of what is going on in the middlegames of various Slav lines. That approach was not the mandate of the Burgess book. Sadler does do a nice job of discussing the pros and cons of ...a6 with the idea of defending ...b7 via ...Ra7. The move 4...a6 is a very useful waiting move to see what White will play on move five.

The a...6 Slav is a relatively new phenomenon in a very popular opening, and over the last few years it has attracted the attention of some top class players: Alexei Shirov, Sergei Movsesian, England's Julian Hodgson, and more recently, world number one Garry Kasparov. In this first ever book solely devoted to the a...6 Slav, Grandmaster and openings expert Glenn Flear delves into the secrets of this complex line. He explains the tactics and positional ideas for both White and Black and presents a comprehensive coverage of the theory, concentrating on all the new wrinkles and discoveries.\* Written by a prominent openings theoretician\* All major lines are covered\* Ideal for club and tournament players

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