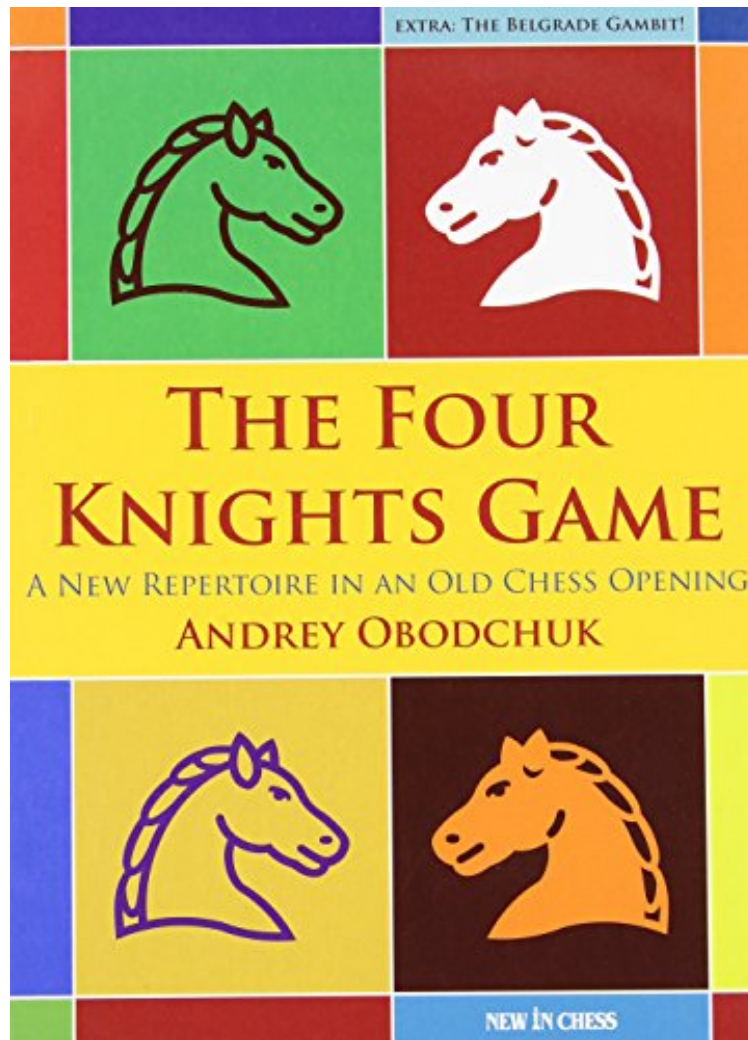


(Free download) The Four Knights Game (New in Chess)

The Four Knights Game (New in Chess)

Andrey Obodchuk

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Andrey Obodchuk : The Four Knights Game (New in Chess) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Four Knights Game (New in Chess):

3 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Excellent well written book.By peter grantThis book is very well organized. Seems very comprehensive. Provides a good alternative approach for white to the Petroff defense (calls it the Russian)6 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Poor notation choiceBy retired readerOK who made the choice of long format notation? Very hard to read this otherwise good book. I'm selling my copy and wont buy another if it has long format notation. Anyone playing chess more than one day doesn't need this old style notation. Terrible choice Mr. publisher.6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Good ideas for a practical chess openingBy Christopher J. FalterThe Four Knights Defense (1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 Nf6) is an intriguing repertoire

choice for the amateur player. You can play it against the Petrov (Russian) Defense (1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nc3), and you can use it to take your opponent out of his favorite version of the Ruy Lopez as well. It's almost a complete white repertoire against the open game (1. e4 e5), although the author does not present any ideas for responding to the Latvian Gambit (2....f5!?) or the Philidor Defense (2....d6). The Four Knights is also quite sound, having been essayed in 2011 by strong GMs such as Nisipeanu, Short, Adams, Vasiukov, Sutovsky, and Rublevsky. As the author notes, white can even play a sharp queen sacrifice against the most common black response, the Rubinstein Variation (4. Bb5 Nd4). If you follow the quieter lines, though, the Four Knights is a low-maintenance method to reach a thoroughly playable middle game against a club opponent. Please do not let me discourage you from playing the queen sac that Obodchuk analyzes, though: it leads to a fascinating fight! Obodchuk recommends the Spanish Four Knights for white (4. Bb5). Because this book is written from the white perspective, the author omits other white variations such as the Glek (4. g3) and the Scotch Four Knights (4. d4). He does, however, present the dubious Belgrade Gambit (4. d4 exd4 5. Nd5?!), although he concludes that black can choose between easy equality (by eventually returning the pawn under favorable circumstances) or principled superiority (by keeping the pawn and playing sound defense in a sharp position). If he knows what he's doing, that is! If you absolutely must do everything in your power to get the full point as white in that last tournament round, on the other hand, you might give it a try, as black's path is complicated enough that he might very well stumble while the clock is ticking. Obodchuk presents the repertoire and sidelines by analyzing model games. He offers suggestions for black's best play as well as white's, so black players of the open game can derive some benefit from his work. This is the first major work by the author, International Master Andrey Obodchuk. In the most recent FIDE ratings his ELO is listed as 2404. I have not been able to find any Four Knights games by the author online, but he has studied the theory quite deeply and arrived at reasonable recommendations for the white player. Kaufmann's subsequent repertoire (*The Kaufman Repertoire for Black and White: A Complete, Sound and User-friendly Chess Opening Repertoire*), for example, basically accepts Obodchuk's recommendation for obtaining a slight advantage against 4...Bc5. I would be remiss, however, not to point out that much of the author's work is presented as a database dump with little text explanation. This unfortunate practice reduces the value of the book to the beginning or intermediate level club player. In addition, he does not organize his repertoire suggestions in an easily accessible, concise way; you have to read through a lot of analysis to discover his repertoire recommendations. If you are a beginner or intermediate club player, I would suggest the friendlier introduction you are likely to find in the forthcoming *The Four Knights: Move by Move* by Lakdawala. Please note that I am suggesting this based on the reputation of *Everyman's Move by Move* series--it has not yet appeared as of this writing. If you are a more advanced player, however, you should definitely not hesitate to purchase this book, which represents the latest and greatest theory in the opening. Advanced beginner and intermediate players would certainly benefit as well, but should consider reading Lakdawala's book first. Full disclosure: The publisher provided a review copy of this book to me. I have endeavored to remain completely unbiased and helpful, and feel confident that the review reflects my commitment to objectivity.

The Four Knights variation is one of the oldest chess openings, dating back to the 16th century. In recent years it has been injected with numerous fresh ideas and has shaken off the reputation of being a peaceful choice. White has quite a few ways to create tension and play for the attack. Russian International Master Andrey Obodchuk has written a repertoire book for white players based on the Spanish Four Knights variation. He covers a range of positional themes as well as amazing, sharp adventures, and creates an easy-to-handle toolbox for amateur chess players of intermediate level. Players of the white pieces will discover how to build on the strong points of their position, while black players will learn how to defend. As a special extra there is an additional chapter on the Belgrade Gambit, another variation of the Four Knights Game, containing some fantastic lines, ideal for uncompromising players.