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Alexander Delchev, Semko Semkov

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Most Flexible Sicilian: A Black Repertoire with 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6:

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy British_BillFull coverage of the Kan and Takmanov variations of the Sicilian Defense.17 of 18 people found the following review helpful. A Masterful Work on The Taimanov/Kan SicilianBy CybertalIt might seem strange for an author to write another Sicilian book so quickly after publishing a well received tome - Delchev is also responsible for authoring The Safest Sicilian, published in 2008. However, the focus of these books is completely different - The Safest Sicilian focused on offering a pure Taimanov repertoire, while the focus of this review offers a very fluid and flexible repertoire choice between the Taimanov and Kan.Delchev puts a heavy emphasis on comparing and contrasting Taimanov and Kan approaches vs. White's chosen structures. No matter which approach he recommends, he covers both options in an extremely thorough fashion. One of the hallmarks of Delchev's books is his deep analysis - The Safest Sicilian, The Safest Gruenfeld, and The Modern Reti are all distinguished by extremely piercing analysis of every option. The Most Flexible Sicilian continues in this excellent tradition. Delchev doesn't dodge high theory, especially in the Taimanov - he dives right into the lines and offers improvements in topical lines typically inhabited by 2700s. But he also doesn't avoid giving practical advice - for instance, against the Third Rank Setup, he proposes that if you're less comfortable with keeping up on high theory, then the Kan suggestion would prove more comfortable. He also proposes nearly revolutionary ideas against the Kan

and Taimanov Maroczy setups - he very clearly demonstrates how the Hedgehog has been mishandled for quite some time! Even if you aren't a Sicilian player, these sections would be worth reading. Each section contains an introductory coverage, a detailed theoretical section, and a practical game section. Each of these sections is detailed, well analyzed and contain detailed verbal expositions. The suggestions themselves are of top notch quality. Delchev does a skillful job of suggesting both moves that lead to solid equality and moves that leave quite a bit of life in the position. One excellent example of this is his Taimanov coverage of the Fianchetto system. One system leads to solid Scheveningen style positions (albeit with ...h5-h4 included), another leads to very super aggressive pure Taimanov play with ...h5-h4 and thematic piece play on the dark squares. Both suggestions are intrinsically sound, but lead to completely different types of play. Delchev also gives a range of suggestions against various anti-Sicilians. These are of equally sterling quality, though tastes may differ with some of the suggestions. For instance, Delchev gives 1. e4 c5 2. c3 d5 3. ed Qxd5 4. d5 Nf6 5. Nf3 e6 against the Alapin Sicilian. Is this bad? Of course not - but there are certainly lines that retain more winning chances for Black. Delchev's writing is straightforward, instructive and occasionally humorous. For instance, about one move he writes, "This is a capital way to prevent d4. However, you risk being summoned by the arbiter for a booze control." It's somehow even funnier with the slightly awkward English! This book is mandatory if you play the Taimanov or Kan. Repeat: mandatory. Delchev has added to and enhanced his sterling reputation as an author with this superb work. 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. An excellent chess repertoire book on the Sicilian defense for black. By Les Lassiter. An excellent chess repertoire book on the Sicilian defense for black. Covers both the Kan and Taimanov variations of the Sicilian in depth. Also, unlike some other repertoire books, it also covers white's anti-Sicilian attempts, thereby creating a complete repertoire for black against 1.e4. No matter what your style you will find something suitable here. Highly recommended to all serious students of the game.

This book is a follow up of The Safest Sicilian. It offers a repertoire based on 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6. This time It covers both the Taimanov and the Kan. The pawn structures are almost identical so many ideas work in both variations. At the same time the different move order offers subtleties which may turn decisive for the outcome of the opening battle. Delchev believes that the Sicilian players should know the full range of set-ups after 2...e6. That would allow to choose the most unpleasant system against any particular opponent.