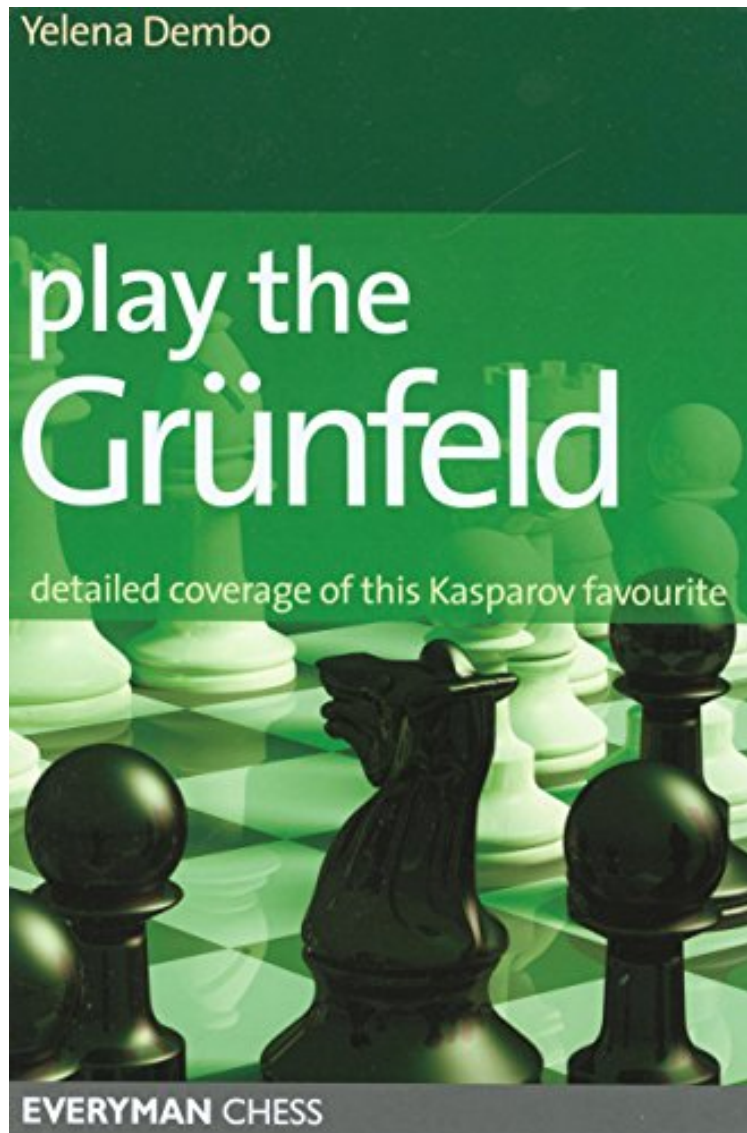


[E-BOOK] Play the Grunfeld: Detailed Coverage Of This Kasparov Favourite

## Play the Grunfeld: Detailed Coverage Of This Kasparov Favourite

*Yelena Dembo*

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#1056738 in Books 2007-06-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.95 x .53 x 6.43l, .70 #File Name:  
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**Yelena Dembo : Play the Grunfeld: Detailed Coverage Of This Kasparov Favourite** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Play the Grunfeld: Detailed Coverage Of This Kasparov Favourite:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Still a good repertoire book todayBy WuvMuffinI started out playing the Grunfeld last year and I have consulted this book many times. True some of the lines need to be updated like 10 ... Na5 in the Classical Exchange with the set up Bc4, Ne2 and Be3. The line that has been challenging 10. ...

Na5 is Topalov's innovation which he used against Anand in the World Championship Match in 2010 which is 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Bc4 c5 8. Ne2 Nc6 9. Be3 0-0 10. 0-0 Na5 11. Bd3 b6 12. Qd2 e5 13. Bh6! And the last game played in this line was between Bacrot and Caruana which Bacrot won. Looking over the games involving this line I couldn't help but feel that Black is forced into passivity in this line. Thankfully a lot of new lines cropping up in Classical Exchange of the Grunfeld tend to congeal together very well. The main ideas for the Grunfeld in the Classical Exchange lines as of late as explained by Mrs. Dembo to play e5 and an eventual f5-f4 and conduct an initiative on the kingside in the spirit of the King's Indian with the added benefit that White's forces are uncoordinated and are unable to conduct a breakthrough on the queenside and center thanks to the Black Knight on d6 blockading the d5 pawn and protecting the b5 square. You will see this idea a lot in the Svidler variation which Dembo provides as an alternative and in other works such as the GM Repertoire series by Avrukh who advocates for ... Qc7, ... Bg4 and responds to f3 with ... Bd7 with the idea of playing an improved version of the Svidler variation. After going through this book you should have no problem playing other recommendations from other books such as The Safest Grunfeld and Avrukh's two volume GM Rep tomes for the Grunfeld. Against the 8. Rb1 Modern Exchange Dembo recommends 9. ... b6. As another review noted, "it's a good choice for a repertoire book." Dembo gives the reader three different ways to play against this variation after 9. ... b6. I personally don't like this move because it isn't really in the spirit of the Grunfeld but based on the recommendations given by Dembo in terms of analogy, I would say her recommendations has a lot in common with either Lasker's Defense (liberating one's own position through exchanges as well as extinguishing White's initiative (which becomes a little dry at times and the Karpov Caro-Kann (in the variation where Black plays e6 and fianchettoes the light-squared Bishop). There is nothing wrong with these variations but in order to win in these positions one needs to be willing to be patient so that his queenside majority can exert influence into the end game. And another sign of warning which is shown through the example of Dembo, the Grunfeld is characterized by flexibility of its pawn structure, therefore will transpose into positions where you have to fight for a color complex of squares. You will eventually have to sacrifice an exchange so that you can maintain a foothold in the center. Thankfully you still have chances in the end game thanks to your queenside majority. In all honesty 8. Rb1 is dropping in popularity because Black found resources in the main line in which Black pawn grabs on a2. That line goes 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bxc3 Bg7 7. Nf3 c5 8. Rb1 0-0 9. Be2 cxd4 10. cxd4 Qa5+ 11. Bd2 Qxa2 12. 0-0 Bg4 13. Bg5 h6 14. Be3 Nc6 15. d5 Na5 16. Bc5 b6 17. Bxe7 Re8 18. d6 Nc6 19. Bb5 Nxe7 20. Bxe8 Rxe8 And Black holds the balance for the exchange (although pointwise Black is equal). Avrukh also recommends this variation as well. Although I don't like playing the Dembo's recommendations in this line it is probably equally as good as Avrukh's recommendation when playing for a win. Basically if you want to play something more strategic against this line for Dembo's recommendation, but if you want to memorize (some people like doing that) I recommend Avrukh's interpretation of the line. Neither Avrukh's or Dembo's recommendations have been refuted yet, so pick whichever one. I personally have never found a line I liked playing as against 8. Rb1. If I had to pick I would choose Dembo's recommendations. In the Bf4 lines Dembo recommends that we castle after 5. e3 and offer a gambit. I believe another reviewer here questioned Dembo's decision to offer the gambit and that structural defects and a loss of a pawn do not constitute the value of the Bishop pair. I would agree with that reviewer but there are many games in those lines where Svidler ends up using the Bishop pair and lead in development by offering the gambit to win. I don't personally like that gambit but fans of Svidler's interpretation of the Grunfeld might like it. I have given the gambit a whirl a few times and I must say if you like to play energetically this is a good recommendation indeed. Avrukh recommends that you play 5. ... c5 right away instead of castling. Both continuations are lively and energetic and of course, sound. True, I have highly praised Dembo's Play the Grunfeld but honestly, it is a very well written book. You can't doubt her for 10 ... Na5 needing to be updated because this book was published in 2007! That just goes to show that opening books have a limited life span but she did provide an alternative which isn't currently under a cloud that is 10... Bd7. 10. ... Bd7 still being regularly played by Navara and Svidler sparsely jumps between 10. ... Bd7 and 10. ... Qc7. Everything else I feel would still be able to get you up to date on the Grunfeld today. Of course in some parts coverage is quite sparse or not to your liking, so I will direct you to Avrukh's two volume GM Rep books. I feel that having both books will help you immensely against 1. d4. I haven't read The Safest Grunfeld yet by Delchev and Agrest but I hear it is quite a good book and will help you assimilate ideas in the Grunfeld. There's also a repertoire against 1. c4 and 1. Nf3 in there. They have also updated on the 10 ... Na5 Classical Exchange and recommend it as a back up, so if you're interested in playing that line The Safest Grunfeld might be what you're looking for. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good Grunfeld in-depth intro for a club player / expert but Kindle edition poorly edited By Jack Woehr This 2007 volume on the important Grunfeld Defense (1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5) to the Queen's Pawn opening by Women's world champion candidate (2012) Yelena Dembo is still relevant and most useful as a sort of battlefield introduction for A-class players and above who need useful information quickly. This book's 192 print pages are not exhaustive; the most weighty reference, two volumes running over 900 pages, by Konstantin Sakaev, is now out of date and out of print. Dembo points to the deeply studied nature of the opening, played frequently at grandmaster level for nearly 100 years (and for much of that time, more popular than the King's Indian) for her choice in eschewing a "general concepts" approach and instead presenting a

variation tree, by which she means, mostly, a tree of her recommended variations. The variation tree presented in Dembo's book is pruned of many branches; Dembo's pet lines are given the prominent, often exclusive place. The broadest coverage is of the Exchange Variation with Rb1. The coverage of White's evasion 3. f3, for example, is exclusively sideline. Nonetheless, this is an enormously helpful book for advanced chessplayers who "know about" the Grnfeld without really knowing it in depth. The directions one must pursue for further research (easy enough to do on any of the chess games database websites) are readily apparent after a careful reading. I spent about 80 hours working through most or all the variations presented. The primary benefit of that study was indeed and after all an enriched "general concepts" awareness. The Kindle edition was obviously prepared by ladling the publisher's source files sloppily into a large soup can, as is typical of print volumes which are later adapted to Kindle. Publishers, please take note: some of your customers are indeed literate, in the broadest classical sense of the word, and would appreciate a Kindle-specific editing pass before you release your converted editions. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Play the Grunfeld!!!!!!By Michael W. This is a great book, It covers everything that you need to know to play the Grunfeld with confidence. I did not like to playing against Queenpawn openings until I found the Grunfeld. It leads to very sharp aggressive play, I really liked the tree format for the variations instead of complete games, was much easier to memorize and understand. I almost didn't buy this book because I saw a review that said it is too advanced for the intermediate player, but I had no problems. Great book highly recommended along with "Understanding the Grunfeld" by Rowson. These two books are a great place to start, And still advanced enough for the more seasoned player.

The Grnfeld is an exciting and dynamic answer to 1 d4, and has become very popular at all levels of chess. A major reason for this is that it has been a long-time favourite of the World's strongest-ever chess player, Garry Kasparov, who used it many times in his numerous World Championship battles. In Play the Grnfeld, Yelena Dembo produces a comprehensive and yet workable repertoire for Black, offering a solution against each of White's tries. Yelena Dembo is a renowned chess coach, who has taught students from over 30 countries.

From the Back Cover The Grnfeld is an exciting and dynamic answer to 1 d4, and has become very popular at all levels of chess. A major reason for this is that it has been a long-time favourite of the World's strongest-ever chess player, Garry Kasparov, who used it many times in his numerous World Championship battles. The Grnfeld very much relies on the principles of the hypermodern school of chess: Black allows White to erect an impressive-looking centre on the assumption that in the long run it could prove to be more of a liability than an asset. Play often becomes very complex and tactical, one of the reasons the Grnfeld appeals to ambitious players. Despite its attractions, some prospective Grnfeld players are discouraged by the necessity of needing to learn numerous different variations in such a complex opening. In Play the Grnfeld, however, opening expert Yelena Dembo circumvents this problem by producing a comprehensive and yet workable repertoire for Black, offering a solution against each of White's tries, whether it's a critical main line or a tricky sideline. After reading this book, you will have the required knowledge and confidence to begin playing the Grnfeld in your own games. \*Written by a renowned Grnfeld expert\* Covers all of White's main tries \*Reveals the tactical and positional ideas for both sides Yelena Dembo is a young International Master from Greece with numerous tournament successes to her name, including the bronze medal at the 2005 European Women's Championship and one Grandmaster norm. She's a renowned chess coach, who has taught students from over 30 countries. She's also an experienced chess writer and a regular contributor to the quality publication Chess Informant. This is her first book for Everyman Chess.