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Play the Scandinavian (Grandmaster Guide)

Christian Bauer

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Christian Bauer : Play the Scandinavian (Grandmaster Guide) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Play the Scandinavian (Grandmaster Guide):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Donald LacroixSimply put a must have for anyone who enjoys playing this opening for Black.37 of 37 people found the following review helpful. OutstandingBy M. AraratA very good book on the Scandinavian Qa5.Pros:1.The author is an active 2600+ player.2.The author play the opening.3.Standard examples are reevaluated.4.The format combines variation with evaluation in prose.5.The author cited and comment on previous books (as well as authors) on the Scandinavian (Whals,Prie,Muller). So you can decide if you want to keep your old sources or elminated from your library.6.Clear and honest evaluations of every line.Lets elaborate:From the introduction you have the 101 reasons to play the opening.The opening is Forcing so you have to

study less opening theory than with the Sicilian Najdorf. After 1.e4 d5 best reply is exd5 and in the main line you will be playing a restrain e6-c6 Vs d4 structure. A like the straight to the point approach in the book. For example, when evaluating: 1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.d4. in page 240. Previous books on this opening cited DeFirmian - Granda 1996. then they evaluate 3..e5 as better for Black. Bauer analyzed that game and pointed out 7.c3 as a weak move that allowed Granda a fantastic initiative. Instead White should play 7.Nf3 0-0-0 when after 8.Bd2 Black has compensation but he/she is NOT WINNING " Black obviously has enough for a mere pawn, but I have not found any advantage for him". Well now is clear why a got 4 draws in this line when playing similar opponents...I played those games thinking I have an extra "something" when in reality the game was =. Please do not panic, Bauer suggests 3..Nc6 as a way to keep the position complex and with more real chances to win the game. 3.e5 simplify the position too much to outplay players at the same level than me. This book is a real pleasure to read ,it has a clear (very easy to follow) structure. If you are a seasoned B01 player this book is a must. Players taking the opening for the first time will also benefit from the book. Just go over the games and read the comments. My suggestion is that the book should be read backwards (sidelines first) since bellow master level this is what you face 8 out of 10 times in OTB play. Disclaimer: I am not a professional reviewer, my chess skill level is around 1900 USCF. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Top Class Scandinavian By Gary Bowers This book is by a very strong player who has been willing to take up the Scandinavian as black at the highest levels of chess. For that reason alone, it would be foolish to ignore this book. It is a highly complete and up to date book (2010) which easily replaces the Wahls (1997) book which was only published in German. Certain obscurities have been left out, for example the Anderssen Counter Attack is not covered. But the Mises gambit is covered, as are delayed attempts by white to play b4. Unlike Wahls (1997) who completely dismisses the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit, Bauer (2010) simply says that though it is unsound technically, it can be dangerous OTB. I should mention that 2...Nf6 (the so-called Portugese) is not covered at all. However, last time I consulted Fritz about this 2...Nf6 did not look like black's best try in the Scandinavian anyway. Personally I am more interested in this book for various game plans for white against the Scandinavian than for black. Although the book is technically written for black, there are lots of interesting ideas for white. The book takes the main lines of the Scandinavian quite deep as one might expect from such a strong player. However, there are lots of early deviations for both sides provided, and with first rate analysis.

When opening a chess game with the Scandinavian, 1.e4 d5, Black decides on the very first move where the battle will be fought a significant gain for any competitive player. Grandmaster Christian Bauer is one of the worlds leading experts on the Scandinavian and in this book he reveals the secrets of his over-the-board success. Bauer focuses particularly on 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5, the established main line of the Scandinavian. An understanding of the move order nuances is essential, and Bauer is an ideally-qualified guide.

Bauer makes a compelling case for why Black can still play the Scandinavian with 3...Qa5 and provides ample analysis to support his thesis. Carsten Hansen, ChessCafe