

(Free download) Playing the Queen's Gambit: A Grandmaster Guide

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Lars Schandorff

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Lars Schandorff : Playing the Queen's Gambit: A Grandmaster Guide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Playing the Queen's Gambit: A Grandmaster Guide:

31 of 31 people found the following review helpful. Quality Chess has done it againBy top opening reviewerFor those of you that know, I am a big English Opening fan and ranted and raved about how good Grandmaster Repertoire English Opening Vol. One was. I considered it one of the finest opening works ever done and it seems that I'm not alone since it has recent one the FIDE Book of the Year Award plus countless others. However, Quality Chess has announced that the the series will now be three volumes. Sorry, but I don't have that much time to put in the amount of work for three volumes at 500 pages each. It was hard enough getting through the first one! Keep in mind that I'm in no way discrediting it but merely bringing to light that it would take nearly forever to wade through the theoretical masterpeices of the upcoming volumes. I would rather devote time for middlegame/endgame/tactical studies (I'm

about 1800 USCF BTW). I decided to get this book because of the excellent reviews it has achieved and because it was a repertoire book that aimed to put maximum pressure on black giving him no easy way out. Naturally I had to see what all the hype was about. Well, I'm pretty much in awe at the quality of this book. The repertoire is based on space and Lars doesn't give black a free lunch. This is noted when he dives head first in the Moscow and Botvinnik Variations of the super theoretical semi slav. The good news is that Lars guides you along the way lucidly explaining the position and certain moves. He never leaves you hanging. Also he cites every game at the end of a variation making looking it up a breeze for further studies/investigations. Lars pumps up his repertoire saying "The power of the Queens Gambit is beyond question." I believe this to be true since many top players regularly employ this. The most notable feature of this book is the high quality of selected annotated games which in my opinion is the best I've seen in a rep. book. Filled with stunning piece sacrifices, brilliant moves, and tactical combinations make these games worth the price of the book alone. They will certainly benefit anyone who studies them. A final note however is that this book should appeal to ambitious players. One cannot play over the selected games and expect a powerful weapon. The games need to be carefully studied and notes taken. Personal calculations must be made before you see what the correct moves are. I can also hear you screaming... what if black avoids the queens gambit altogether with 1...Nf6!!! Well, unfortunately that is beyond the scope of this repertoire book and the subject matter can be found in Boris's Grandmaster Repertoire (1. d4) Vol. 2 but again I must stress that undertaking these two books would require a ridiculous amount of time that could be more importantly used elsewhere. Instead I recommend you get a book on the Trompowsky (Richard Palliser's Starting Out The trompowsky Attack is the best and most up-to-date). Statistics on the Trompowsky speak for itself and it's an excellent weapon employed by a few creative players today. At one stroke, you cut out all the theory of the King's Indian, Grunfeld, Nimzo, etc.. force black to think on his own, and force him into territory in which you are most prepared in, I've had amazing results with it. Plus it's easy to learn and play. The Trompowsky, for those of you who do not know is 1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 I give Playing the Queen's Gambit my highest recommendation. You can also download a pdf sample on quality chess's website. Please rate if this review was helpful, Thanks guys. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best opening book I've read By George P. Burdell This book has the perfect mix of discussion, theoretical lines, and example games. My opening books make my eyes bleed with endless lines and very little idea of why the suggested moves are good. A few give you the "why" but few or no examples in how to proceed through the middle game. For me, this book is right on the mark. 26 of 28 people found the following review helpful. Ambitious, Excellent By Tom This is an excellent book. Using annotated games, Schandorff covers essentially all of black's defenses to the Queen's Gambit. The proposed repertoire is main line, and very theory heavy. The lines are topical, reflecting what the best players are playing these days (and keep in mind there has been a heavy shift recently to 1. d4 as the Petroff and Marshall are making 1. e4 a little played out). This is not a book for a beginner, or even a 'B' class player (USCF ~1700). I'm about 1850 and I find some of the lines very difficult to play. That said, I do think they do the most to challenge black. If you want to play the best moves (and why else would we play chess?) then the main lines are the way to go. This book will help you, though you're going to have to put in a lot of work to master the repertoire. What I can promise you is that it won't be wasted effort. You'll play these systems a lot, and hopefully with great success.

The power of the Queen's Gambit is beyond question, even though it allows some serious defenses - the Slav and Semi-Slav are favoured by the elite. Kasparov was playing the Queen's Gambit Accepted until he retired, and the Queen's Gambit Declined has been trusted for a century. The principled way for White to build a repertoire after 1. d4 d5 2. c4 is to play the critical main lines. Take as much space as possible - no compromises. The Tarrasch, Chigorin, Albin and all minor lines are also met with the same vigour - this is a complete White repertoire after 1. d4 d5 2. c4.

About the Author Lars Schandorff is a chess grandmaster from Denmark. He is renowned on the international chess circuit for the depth of his opening knowledge.