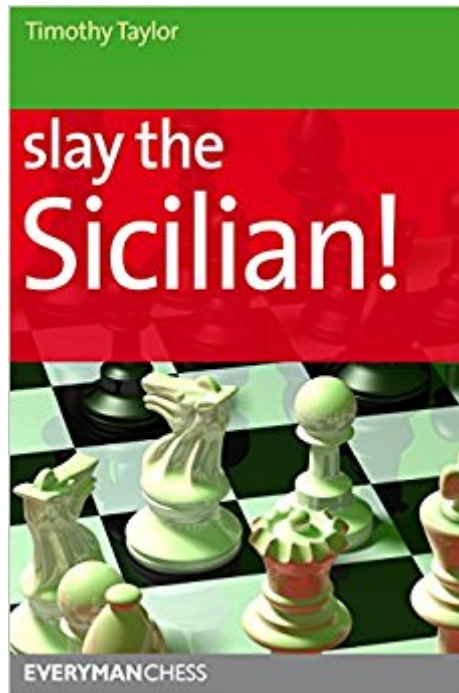




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Slay The Sicilian!



Synopsis

Former US Open Champion Timothy Taylor presents a repertoire for White against the most popular opening in chess – the Sicilian Defence. Taylor's repertoire is based first and foremost on the Open Sicilian, which is regarded as White's most ambitious and challenging response to the Sicilian. He focuses on the classical Be2 lines, which were popularized by the success of former World Champion and chess legend Anatoly Karpov. These lines are easy to learn and generally lead to solid positional play, but with a drop of poison. Taylor covers what to do against all the Sicilian variations. He examines the most important games, studies in depth the main plans and tactics for both sides, and highlights the key practical issues. Read this book and you will be ready to slay the Sicilian!

- *Presents a Sicilian repertoire for White
- *Covers all the main variations
- *Ideal for improvers, club players and tournament players

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Overall, it's a fine book that will suit the majority of players. In particular, it would be an ideal choice for those who are toying with the possibility of switching to the Open Sicilian, but are reticent because there is too much theory to learn. My impression is that his suggestions merit close attention, do have some poison, but aren't going to rattle battle-hardened Sicilian players who know their opening systems thoroughly. Nevertheless, even for the higher echelons it would be a handy tool to polish up their classical education.

- Glenn Flear

This, if nothing else, is a great book of Sicilian games that are a delight to play through and instructive to boot. Buy it just to play over the games and read the notes!

- Chess Life

International Master Timothy Taylor is an experienced tournament player who has enjoyed several notable successes. He is an accomplished chess writer who is renowned for his entertaining and thought-provoking style.

This is a repertoire book against the Sicilian (Dragon, Najdorf, Scheviningen, etc.) that provides active and sound lines against booked-up opponents, with the idea of frustrating them by playing your own game. Most of the time, this means such as Be2, Be3, and an early f4 by White, and then a thematic Kingside assault with Qe1-Qg3 and possibly Qh3. White endeavors to attack Black's king while keeping the center under control. This is not "main line" play but sound enough to be played by former World Champion Anatoly Karpov and other strong GMs. Taylor is honest that, against best play, his repertoire does not lead to anything more than = or +/- but it gives you complex play that should be familiar to White more than Black and is based more on understanding than tactics. (Even the tactics are often thematic rather than random, such as e4-e5 and/or f4-f5 by White, often as a line-clearing sacrifice). This is a 5 Star book. Highly recommended!

The book delivered exactly what I expected, which is a repertoire not heavily based on theory, with many practical examples, and explanations of the plans involved. The general idea is to play the White side in a positional way, à la Karpov, a "squeeze" mentality, and there are a lot of good examples for this.

A very Solid Repertoire based on Karpov's handling of the Sicilian. It is thematic in White almost always plays 6. Be2, but it's in no way gimmicky like other books on Anti-Sicilians or whatever other ways they try and sidestep main lines. Certainly, 6. Be2 has its own theory, but it usually leads to quieter Sicilians where White can maintain an edge based on his Space advantage and positional play. Karpov himself believed that it is unnecessary to rush headlong into forced variations early in the Sicilian since he already maintains a superiority in the Center. It also has the advantage of being less critical, so players are likely to focus their memorization on more theoretical lines. The author sprinkles in his own humor and wit throughout the Book noting that the Dragon player stayed up all night finding an improvement on move 30 against the Yugoslav attack only to meet 6.Be2 the next day and be forced into using his own brain to solve problems over the board. This is a good strategy for the general chess population whose life isn't mostly devoted to chess. I had never heard of the Author before buying this book, but I've been impressed by his writing. The book is divided by each Sicilian Variation and Taylor gives complete games (I don't buy opening books without complete

games as its too dry and boring), usually leading in with a Karpov game. Some of his own games are sprinkled in too, so he practices what he preaches. Taylor seems to use Fritz more as a supplement not the end all-say all like some other authors, which I respect. I think this is very well written book and the authors own humor should adds some entertainment while you learn.

I like It.

There have been reviews of some of Tim Taylor's chess books that were really down on his book. One particular international master, who has written about as many chess books as Tim Taylor has (Whom I respect a great deal), even sounded a bit angry about his book, saying that it he thought Taylor was writing lots of chess moves and advice, but it was completely disorganized, and unclear who the content was aimed for. I've bought Tim Taylor's chess books from the very-first one he wrote over 30-years ago. Tim did actually once write a chess tournament book (1985 NY international, I think), tournament he played in, and called it the strongest tournament in the United States (at the time), since NY 1924! --- This is pure poppycock of course, but it should be remembered that Taylor was quite 'green' as a chess-writer at the time he wrote this. My own take on Tim's chess books is that he is writing in a way that says, "Here, I am reviewing my own play, and the play of others, and what I think I should do, and trying to put down in games, variations, research, etc. what I plan to do in my future battles for chess success; I welcome you to join me in this written journal of what I have learned in producing this particular chess book". The bottom-line is that I (a Life-Master with a 2260 rating over a 13 year period of time), have always enjoyed Tim's chess books more than most of the other ones I've owned. In this Sicilian book, Tim Taylor does one of the things I like the most by a chess author - He chooses great players that have chosen the variations he is writing about, discusses the reasons they likely chose these solid choices (Like Edmar Mednis before him, Karpov is his favorite 'hero player' to use as one of the perfect examples), and espouses on how you can learn from these examples, use similar strategies as they have done, and minimize the risk-factors in the middle game from the choice of the opening variation at the very-beginning of your game. Taylor is still an active tournament player, who is constantly looking for ways to improve his results (aren't we all?). In this book he continues that journey, and it continues to be a pleasure to follow him in his journey, and to incorporate his recommendations in my own play. I give this book (and most of Tim's other books), 5-stars out of 5, for really caring about his readership, and also putting most of his all into producing chess books that are useful to most of the people that they are aimed at. If you play the Sicilian for either color,

you will get full-value for your money with this book!

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