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Cyrus Lakdawala

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Cyrus Lakdawala : 1...d6: Move by Move (Everyman Chess) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 1...d6: Move by Move (Everyman Chess):

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. The Rat returns!By CustomerLakdawala essentially gives an opening system that can be played against 1.d4 or 1.e4. However, the main value of the book is against 1.d4 openings.The backbone of this system has been called the "Rat" (among) various names. Essentially Black will allow White to set up and then undermine the center. Lakdawala guides the player through some dense analysis with

reasonable explanations. Since the 1980's this opening system has come a long way. At points it's about ideas and at other points it is about the exact move order (or you get clobbered). However, the author does a good job defining the motifs breathing new life into an oddball opening that just might be more fun than its reputation. So if you are patient, don't mind defending and counter-attacking, and have a strong strategic slant then you might want to explore this opening and this book is definitely the best to date. My rating floats around the 2100 mark. 35 of 36 people found the following review helpful. BUY THIS BOOK IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU By admeyer731 took up 1...d6 for Black as my main repertoire after having a world of difficulty with it when I had the White pieces. Before that I played the KID almost exclusively (sometimes Benko, Benoni, and a few others) so I found the positions resulting from 1...d6 lines to be familiar for the most part. 1.d4 players often like playing 1.d4 and 2.c4, which runs into a favorable line for Black (most databases have a blistering 55% score for Black [in case you don't already know, ca. 45% should be the norm for most mainline Black openings]): 1.d4 d6 2.c4 e5! which often leads to an exchange of queens where Black loses his ability to castle and that is absolutely no problem. Black plays ...c6 and ...Kc7 where safety is found while White is saddled with his light squared bishop having limited scope due to his own pawn on c4. I run this almost everyday on club players with much better results than 55%... YOU SHOULD TOO. Transpositions into other openings like the Philidor, Old Indian, KID, Benoni, English, Sicilian and others means you can lure opponents into territory they are not familiar with. this will cause them to lose valuable time off their clock while you can go for a pleasant walk at your next tournament. This DOES mean you have to familiarize yourself with additional opening systems and let me tell you, this is what it takes to build a repertoire and that takes years my friends--no matter how talented you may be. The book provides you with guidelines and asks you questions to make sure you're actively participating in the learning process. Reasons why you should play 1...d6!? are numerous--I'll give you a few:* Universal system you can play against any of White's first moves* It is easy to unbalance the game from just the first two or three moves--Black gets to call the shots!* Strong World Champs like Kasparov and Petrosian have employed it with success Hope this was helpful and good luck to you, Adam V Meyer40 of 42 people found the following review helpful. Maybe I'll change my black opening repertoire By Chess Master In my chess tournament career, I have never played 1... d6 as black. I bought this book primarily because I found it somewhat annoying to play against as white, especially in blitz games. I have also liked the other books I have read in Everyman's "move by move" openings series, so I had high expectations for this book, which have fortunately been met. As the author states, his "true chess nature is that of an initiative-challenged chess dullard." In that spirit, this book and black opening repertoire is directed more at those players of a positional rather than tactical bent, recognizing that in any opening there will be lines that lead to more tactical than positional treatments. I like the QA format, and the true measure of my appreciation for the book is that I am seriously considering changing my own black opening repertoire to include 1...d6. I have to admit, though, that although I have skimmed through the whole book, my thorough reading has taken me through only 1/3 of the book so far. One small complaint is that sometimes he talks down to the reader, with comments such as "White always enters this line expecting something for nothing. With this sense of entitlement..." But this does not seriously detract from the enjoyment or educational value of this book. Few of the games in the book that are used to illustrate the opening ideas are games of the top grandmasters. This is probably due in large part to the nature of the opening, which isn't particularly popular at the very highest levels. Also, the author at times seems to be a little biased towards black in his analysis, a not uncommon trait in a repertoire book. Nevertheless, I heartily recommend this book to chess players who are looking at this opening from either side of the board, especially players who are unfamiliar with this opening, and players rated below about 2300.

Cyrus Lakdawala examines the universal defence 1...d6, constructs an opening repertoire for Black and provides answers to all the key questions in this opening.

From the Back Cover