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## Slay the Sicilian!

*Timothy Taylor*

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**Timothy Taylor : Slay the Sicilian!** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slay the Sicilian!:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Book on How to Soundly Avoid MainlinesBy Jesse J. FloresThis 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 you 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! 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. What I expected By Tom Ewall 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, a la Karpov, a "squeeze" mentality, and there are a lot of good examples for this. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Recommend Highly By Randy A very Solid Repertoire based on Karpov's handling of the Sicilian. It is thematic in White almost always plays 6. Be2, but its 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 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.