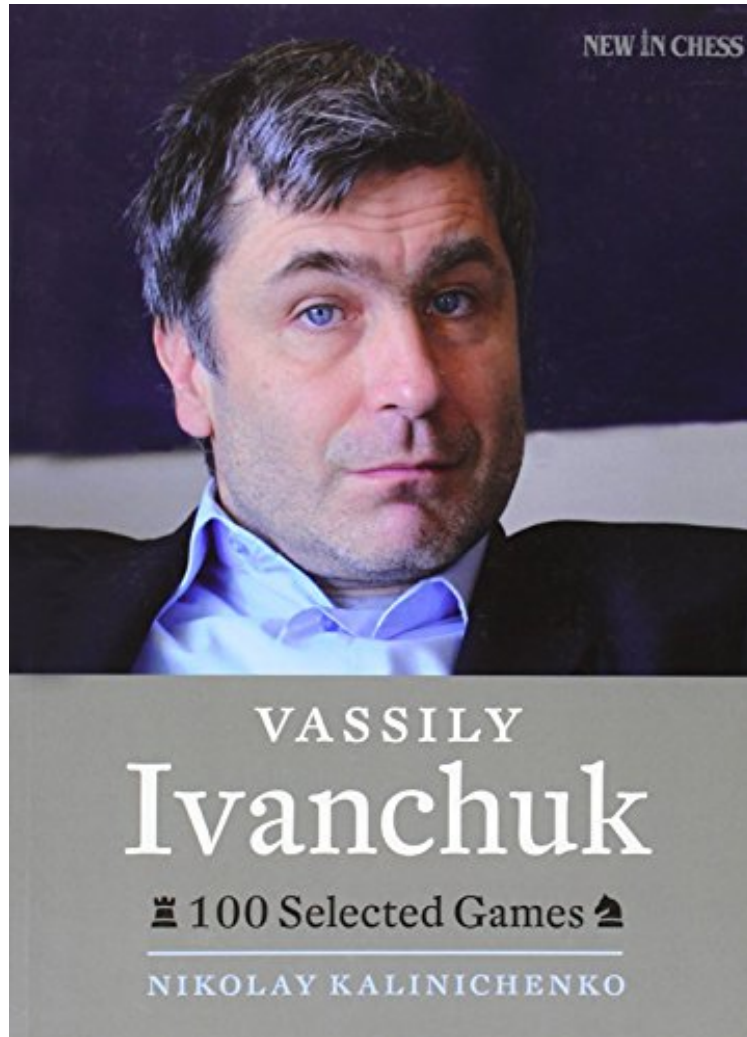


(Read now) Vassily Ivanchuk: 100 Selected Games

## Vassily Ivanchuk: 100 Selected Games

*Nikolay Kalinichenko*

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#1163249 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2013-06-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.23 x .78 x 6.75l, 1.31 #File Name: 9056914278304 pages Author: Nikolay Kalinichenko Pages: 317 Publication Years: 2013 | File size: 56.Mb

**Nikolay Kalinichenko : Vassily Ivanchuk: 100 Selected Games** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vassily Ivanchuk: 100 Selected Games:

21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. A Great Player Needs a Better Book By mojojoko50 Ukrainian GM Ivanchuk is approaching the end of 25 years as an elite GM. He joins Keres Rubinstein as a frequent world #2 player, who never got to play for title. In his early 20's, he broke the Karpov/Kasparov domination at Linares in 1991. The book-index lists 58 GM tournament first prizes. His positional style is near perfect, full of creative ideas; he presents deep beautiful plans and astonishing attacks/combinations. Ivanchuk plays almost every opening (there are 21 different openings represented in this book, often introducing important novelties). Along with his age-peers (Anand,

Kamsky, Adams, Gelfand, Shirov ..) Ivanchuk's play is part of the current standard of deeply researched openings, aggressive no-holds barred middle games with razor sharp endgame play. Four of these peers have already produced high quality game collections with outstanding notes. I was excited to finally see this book. New In Chess has produced: a well bound nicely printed text, with adequate indexes, great cover photos, and 2"x2" head photos scattered in the text. The selected games are terrific. On the rare occasions I have seen Ivanchuk notes they have been brilliant, but he is infrequent in publishing analysis. Although he can often be viewed on-line at event post-game interviews, which are a real treat. The opponents are cream of the GM world. The first 30 games cover late 1980's to 2000, with the remaining 70 games 2000-2012. The notes are pretty good, about 2-3 pages per game. Kalinichenko has used his database to provide plenty of opening references to other games. Occasionally he makes a clunker remark like informing the reader that the Ruy Open variation is an alternative to the main line (duh?!). The writer sticks to established ideas on his judgement calls on opening lines. The book has a 12-page bio based on research of primarily Russian/Ukrainian sources -- it's content is unremarkable for anyone who has been reading New in Chess or internet sources. Kalinichenko does not seem to have had direct input from Ivanchuk in writing this book. The Bio includes an odd 'secondhand interview' of the writer asking questions about Ivanchuk then the answers come from other published sources. Ivanchuk's personality does not really shine through, nothing new is revealed, with only the brief comment on Ivanchuk's well-known mental stresses. The games are presented with little competitive context or competitive color. There is limited comment on strategic issues. Plentiful offering of variation calculations, which seem accurate computer checked. The endgame coverage lacks depth. Kalinichenko is a correspondence GM an experienced chess-writer. Yet I feel the middle game notes do not fully unpick or delve into the thinking of this combinational genius or explain subtle play fully. Nor does he address how Ivanchuk can ratchet up the tightness in complex positions and make his pieces dance. There is immense beauty in Ivanchuk's playing style. ---So for a reasonable price, I got a collection of wonderful games in a nice looking book with very good, but not great notes. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One In A Million Giftedness By Rev. John D. White Amazing games from a genius whose penchant for emotional highs and lows has detracted from his playing. Ivanchuk is perhaps like Rubinstein, Keres, Bronstein, and Leko -- incredibly strong grandmasters who never quite reached the pinnacle of chess by winning the world championship. His playing is nonetheless reminiscent of Rudolf Spielmann, Mikhail Tal and Rashid Nezhmetdinov; brilliant, imaginative, combative, and magical. A longer biography might have improved the book, but the games speak volumes about his inspired playing. 19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. A collection of 104 gems that need a little more polishing By Christopher J. Falter In 1989, 20 year old Ukrainian grandmaster Vassily Ivanchuk astonished the world by winning the Linares super-tournament. Two years later, he defeated both Karpov and Kasparov while winning the tournament for the second time. Remarkable results at such a tender age! Surely we were seeing the advent of the next world champion ... but life is not quite so simple. At key moments, right when he has seemed poised to ascend the chess Olympus, Chuky has lost his footing and fallen over a metaphorical ledge. Author and correspondence GM Nikolay Kalinichenko introduces his subject with a light biography that chronicles some of his most exhilarating victories and excruciating stumbles. For example, he shows Chuky cruising to victory in game 5 of his 2002 world championship match against Ponomarev--when suddenly, on move 47, he loses the thread. With 2 horrendous blunders he squanders the victory, then loses the game. In the short match he cannot recover, and his best opportunity to win the world championship vanishes. If from the competitive perspective Chuky has been an enigma, though, Kalinichenko helps us see that from the artistic perspective Chuky's career has been a major triumph. In 104 annotated games he shows Chuky launching brilliancy after brilliancy to defeat the world's strongest players. He sacrifices a pawn against Kasparov (Linares, 1991) to plant his knight on a beautiful outpost. He gives up his queen against Shirov (Wijk aan Zee, 1996), but his minor pieces dominate. He sacs a knight on f5 at the 1985 World Junior Championship, then gives a clinic on exploiting the weakened dark squares around Mishra's king. Against Smeets (Tata Steel, 2010) he tosses a pawn to activate his dark-squared bishop, then eschews material gain in favor of an irresistible mating attack. And so forth. Every one of these games is not only beautiful, but worthy of study. Kalinichenko's annotations are quite capable, highlighting the critical decisions, the bright ideas, and the lost opportunities for both sides. However, he often seems to be adorning Rybka evaluations with a few words, rather than weighing and explaining the dynamic factors. For example, Chuky's victory over Kasparov in Linares (1991) seems counter-intuitive; Kasparov had the 2 bishops in a reasonably open position, yet he never really got into the game. How did Chuky manage to win? Kalinichenko offers plenty of variations ending in evaluations of "white is better" or "black can hold," but he never goes deeper. He could have mentioned Chuky's space advantage, or even more important his durable initiative, which required prophylaxis at key junctures, but he gives no such explanation. Analyzing Ivanchuk - Mishra 1985, Kalinichenko briefly mentions that 22...g6 "seriously weakens the dark squares," but he says nothing about Chuky's instructive exploitation of the weakness. If Kalinichenko had provided more detail about the dark-square attack, rather than settling for phrases like "with decisive advantage to white," he could have made this game an instructional classic. Even if this book does not realize its full potential, it nevertheless, like Ivanchuk's career, is an artistic triumph. I have greatly enjoyed studying Chuky's games; how can you not enjoy these classics? Recommended for players rated 1700 and up. The publisher provided a review copy of this book to me in

exchange for my honest review. My ratings of the publisher's books have ranged from 3 stars to 5 stars.

Chuky, youre a genius. Leading grandmasters have been heard to whisper these words, impressed with yet another brilliancy of Vassily Ivanchuk. The Ukrainian wizard, immensely popular with pros and amateurs alike, has been a member of the world elite for more than twenty years and is one of the most active players on the international circuit. Ivanchuk has finished first in all major tournaments in the world, at times with astonishing supremacy and always with deeply creative chess. He has won the Junior World Championship, the Blitz World Championship and reached the number two spot in the world rankings. Four times he was a member of the team that won the Chess Olympiad, once also claiming the individual gold medal on first board. The question why Ivanchuk, with his phenomenal talent and uncompromising passion for the game, has never become World Champion is something of a mystery. The inability to handle stress has been suggested and he himself has pointed at periods of black moods or psychological crises. Still, despite occasional erratic results, he has always maintained his position among the very best. For this book Correspondence Grandmaster and chess author Nikolay Kalinichenko has selected 100 of Vassily Ivanchuk's best and most instructive games, explaining his moves and plans for club players. The result is a fascinating and rewarding journey to Planet Ivanchuk, the extraterrestrial location where the sphinx from Lvov is said to receive his best brainwaves.

Ivanchuk continues the line of great players who never became world champion, such as Keres and Korchnoi. However, in some respects, he has even surpassed them: Ivanchuk has finished ahead of myself and Karpov in tournaments, whereas his great predecessors practically never achieved such a success, where they finished in front of the entire elite of their day. (Garry Kasparov) An eye-opening measure of Ivanchuk's greatness. (David R. Sands The Washington Times) The games are annotated in a very entertaining way, always understandable for the beginner as well. (Uwe Bekemann, German Correspondence Chess Federation German Correspondence Chess Federation) Ivanchuk's style is quite technical, he is always trying to find the truth at the board. That is why his games are so instructive for beginners as well as professionals. This book presents his best games with extensive annotations and shines light on his creations from different angles. (Martin Rieger Schachwelt) The games and analysis are of extraordinary quality and will reward those who wish to improve their chess or simply relish great games. (Raymond Keene The Sunday Times) Ivanchuk's best games are exceptional and distinctive, and this book will give you a good taste of his greatness as a player. There are wins over Kasparov, Kramnik, Anand, Carlsen, Aronian, Topalov, Caruana, Karjakin and pretty much every other great player of the past 20 years generally multiple wins. Kalinichenko's analysis is competent and instructive. (Dennis Monokroussos The Chess Mind) The book begins with a portrait of Ivanchuk which not only throws light on the beginning of his career, but also deals, in an interesting way that was new to me, with his well-known form swings. Kalinichenko's work is an homage to the greatest lover of our game which is long overdue. (Mario Ziegler Rochade Europa Magazine) The games are fascinating and very well analyzed. Ivanchuk has the ability to tie up the greatest players in knots. (Marshtower Chess s) Almost all the games selected are little jewels. Do you see yourself as a real lover of the game? Then you cannot afford to miss this book. (Vedder Schakers.info) The first major work on this most enigmatic of champions. (British Chess Magazine)