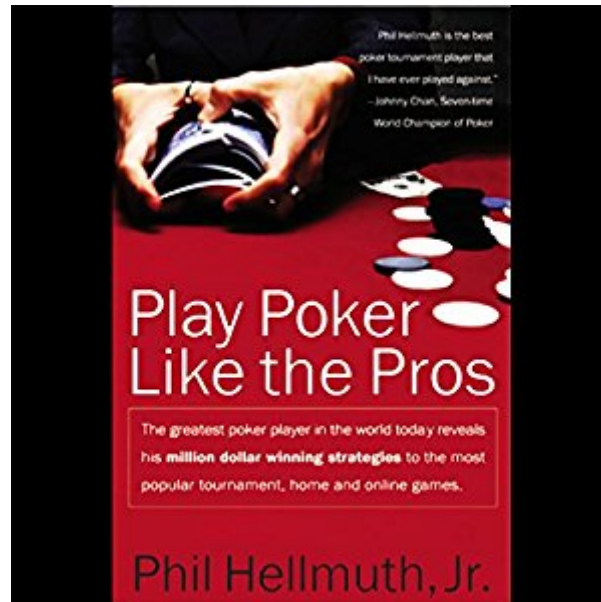




The book was found

Play Poker Like The Pros



Synopsis

In *Play Poker Like the Pros*, poker master Phil Hellmuth, Jr., demonstrates exactly how to play and win—even if you have never picked up a deck of cards—the modern games of poker, including: Texas Hold'em, Omaha, Seven-Card Stud, and Razz. Phil Hellmuth, Jr., a ten-time World Champion of Poker, presents his tournament-tested strategies to beat any type of player, including: The Jackal (crazy and unpredictable) The Elephant (plays too many hands) The Mouse (plays very conservatively) The Lion (skilled and tough to beat) *Play Poker Like the Pros* begins by laying out the rules and set-up of each game and then moves on to easy-to-follow basic and advanced strategies. Hellmuth teaches exactly which hands to play, when to bluff, when to raise, and when to fold. In addition Hellmuth provides techniques for reading other players and staying cool under pressure. There are also special chapters on how to beat online poker games and an inside look at tournament play. Written and read by Phil Hellmuth, Jr. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours and 10 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: HarperAudio

Audible.com Release Date: October 26, 2006

Language: English

ASIN: B000KF0GFO

Best Sellers Rank: #51 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Games #62 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Poker #78 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Card Games

Customer Reviews

Sorry Phil, but while this book has some useful concepts (assigning a "type" to each opponent, etc.) and some useful practical advice (if you're a lousier player than your opponents, at least give them some tough decisions to make), it's not near the top of any list of poker books that I'd recommend. I could have given fewer stars, perhaps zero if I'd penalized Phil 0.01 stars for each egotistical thought or sentence in the book. But because it does cause some thought that causes some improvement if you can wade through the ego muck, and doesn't do much harm technically, I'll call

it 3 stars.

It is a how to book.

I actually bought both the paper version and audio version of this book for friends who wanted to learn to play poker. The scenarios Phil Hellmuth gives are real and he describes his losing and winning hands, along with the thought process behind each play. He tells you how to simply and quickly calculate odds and shares examples as well. He gives you the basics of each game and suggests good starting hands for each. Phil's table image turns off a lot of people but his success is beyond question or doubt. It turns out Mr. Hellmuth is also a pretty good teacher. His beginner's strategy will allow anyone to walk into a card room and play long enough to get the feel for the game and gain table time for experience. I have yet to share this book with anyone who has any negative feedback.

This book has some good advice for the absolute beginner. It also has some good advice for the okay player. If you know another game well, and want a quick introduction to a game you don't know, this book will probably be a good, easy, and quick way to do that. Other than that, be careful with this book. It doesn't offer too much "bad" advice, but the advice it does offer needs to be a little clearer before you can take it to heart. It does good to cover lots of games, and it does good by explaining how to handle different player types, but when it gets to advanced topics, it doesn't cover the advanced thinking well enough, which is necessary to really understand the advanced topics. This could really help the beginner, or the okay player, but if you already have read a bunch of books on the game you're looking for, look elsewhere.

I think Phil plays better than his advice, which boils down to this: push all in if you get 88 or higher. I'm not sure if perhaps he was intentionally giving bad advice figuring he could later fleece the people who read his book. Or maybe he was intentionally trying to insult the pros, by saying they played like that. Probably he is just not much of a writer but he wanted to cash in on name recognition. Caro or Sklansky are poker writers, Hellmuth has shown that he is not.

This book was definitely an interesting read. However, the tone is for beginners (although more experienced players will probably pick up a thing or two). Unfortunately for newbies who read this, the playing strategies outlined within will get them killed. Read on...I really enjoyed the stories about

him aggressively raising with weak hands, and pulling down pots. Unfortunately, many of these stories were in the "Beginner" sections. The type of aggression he advocates DOES NOT WORK in a low-level game which has either clueless opponents, or even a couple of better-than-average players. For example, reraising pre-flop in hold 'em with a pair of 7's, and then betting into a scary flop in a multiway pot will absolutely get you killed! Phil is a masterful tournament player, but he would get crushed in the \$\$ games that I play in if he followed his own advice. Throughout the Hold Em and Razz sections especially, he advises players to get a lot of money into the pot early, giving them a reason to stay in the hand later, even if their cards don't improve (specific examples were Ace-King in Hold 'Em and solid low-draws in Razz). What kind of thinking is that? In the Pot Limit Omaha section, he gives the advice, "Look for a reason to fold." Guess what, Phil? That is how any beginning player should think for ALL games. My last main beef is that the "Advanced" sections preach a change in playing style, but it all revolves around his ability to read other players. Easy for him to say since that ability is what makes him a world-class player! But there's no in-depth discussion about how I can get better at reading players. As I said above, it is an interesting book, and I'll probably read it again and catch some things I missed the first time. Still, newer players should start elsewhere with books by authors like Lee Jones, Mason Malmuth, and Mike Caro.

It was a gift and they loved this book

There's no denying that Phil Hellmuth is full of himself, however... he is also a good poker player with a wealth of knowledge. This was a good book. I had read many others before, so the section on Holdem was difficult to sit through. I did learn a lot about Omaha Hi/Lo, Razz, 7-Card Stud, and Stud Hi/Lo. Those sections were a great start. The first time ever playing those games online... I was sitting there with the book open, reading it, needless to say, I made some money.

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