

[Read free] The Theory and Practice of Gamesmanship or the Art of Winning Games Without Actually Cheating

The Theory and Practice of Gamesmanship or the Art of Winning Games Without Actually Cheating

Stephen Potter

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Stephen Potter : The Theory and Practice of Gamesmanship or the Art of Winning Games Without Actually Cheating before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Theory and Practice of Gamesmanship or the Art of Winning Games Without Actually Cheating:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I used to play chess with a friend who blew cigarette smoke in my face, saying "I'm ashamed at what I'm about to do to you."By James Kenney"Always seat your opponent with the sun in his eyes," advises the first Western book ever written about Chess. It is advice which would be right at home in Steven Potter's amazingly original work, Gamesmanship. "Play your opponent, not the game," could serve as a quick summary of Potter's incisive approach.First, let it be clear that this is a satire, not a book devoted to teaching you The Art of Winning Without Actually Cheating. For a humorous book, however, it is in fact fairly useful and trenchant. Who among us who dabbles at poker can resist a hearty bluff once in a while? Or a pretend bluff, grandly tossing in a pile of chips with a devil-may-care air? Who can resist a backwards compliment of an opponent's play? These are mere fillips in Potter's chef de oeuvre. Here is Potter on pre-game maneuvers: "If the opponent wears, or attempts to wear, clothes correct and suitable for the game, by as much as his clothes succeed in this function, by so much should the Gamesman's clothes fail."Potter goes on to cite the clever ploy used by an experienced hand at Gamesmanship, who kept two changes of clothes in the dickey of his car. "If he found, at the club-house, that his opponent was rather humbly dressed, he would wear his smart outfit. If the conditions were reversed, out would come the frayed pin-stripe

trousers, the stringy clubs and the fair-isle sweater."This may all sound rather juvenile, but I used to play chess with a friend of mine (who was worse at the game than I was) who would blow cigarette smoke in my face, and cackle "I'm ashamed at what I'm about to do to you," before key moves. He won far more often than he should. While Gamesmanship is intended as wry humor, it still communicates much about the human condition, and above all, about our drive to win. The English excel at this sort of wry satire, and Steven Potter is indeed fluent at it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A True Comic Classic By Mrs Darwin Potter's Gamesmanship is a dryly hilarious work well worth your time, a true comic classic. The premise is that this is a guide to the practice of winning games without knowing how to play them. Unsettling your opponent by wearing gear which is dauntingly correct, or gear to incorrect as to throw them off; introducing personal stories at just the right moment to throw off your opponent; anything, in order words, other than actually winning through skill at the game itself. As such, this is both funny on the face of it and a wonderful send-up of the sort of tactics whereby people attempt to win credit or sympathy in real life. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By lanfunny