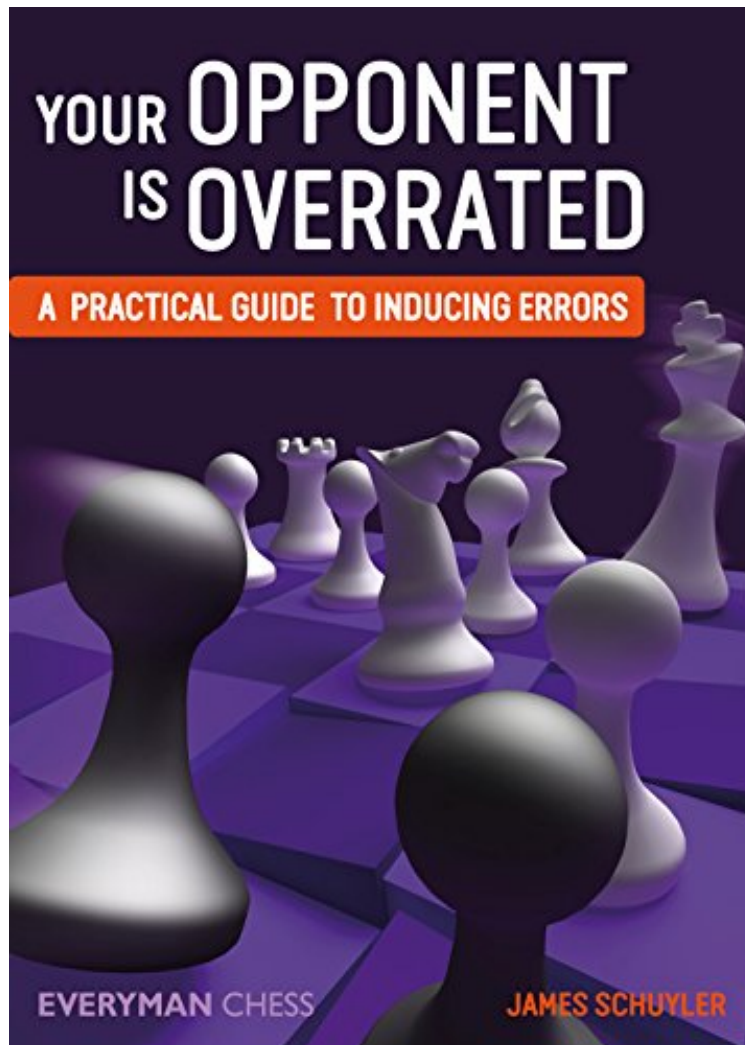


(Read free ebook) Your Opponent is Overrated

Your Opponent is Overrated

James Schuyler

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#1138599 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2016-11-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.37 x .52 x 6.791, #File Name: 1781943524224 pages Author: James Schuyler Pages: 224 Pages Publication Years: 2016 | File size: 75.Mb

James Schuyler : Your Opponent is Overrated before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Your Opponent is Overrated:

22 of 23 people found the following review helpful. A true gem! By Constantine Ananiadis This is one of the best chess books I own (and I own 300+ chess books). It reads really easily (it is as if the author is sitting next to you and is talking to you) and it's packed with lots of "psychological tips" (for lack of a better term) that can prove very useful during the course of an OTB game. The author does not concern himself with the normal chess knowledge such as outpost squares, open files, mating patterns and the like. Rather, he hits on the various competitive issues that confront us all when we sit down to play in an OTB tourney vs another (human) opponent. To my knowledge, no other book

deals with issues such as how to handle the clock (yours and your opponent's), various ploys (gamesmanship?!) that opponents might try against you, dealing with the unexpected and many more. I'd say that the theme of the whole book (which I like a lot and it applies to other competitive endeavors sporting or otherwise) is "nettlesomeness" or the degree of which a move is likely to induce errors. Especially in the Carlsen-era we're in currently, this is quite topical. Carlsen is known for not always playing the best move (according to the engines) but rather the one that poses the most problems to his opponents. Lasker was also famous for that and there's actually a whole chapter on Lasker and his play. Anyway, easily 5 stars for this gem. A very unique book, aimed for the "club player" but masters and up will also get something out of it. It's one of the rare chess books I have gone thru in almost one sitting while others I start, stop, never finish etc as they don't keep my interest. Highly recommended!

20 of 22 people found the following review helpful. A masterpiece!

By Zanjero A masterpiece! If there was a Nobel Prize for chess literature, this should certainly win one as this groundbreaking work is loaded with nuggets of wisdom and thought-provoking practical advice for the tournament player that I have never read before (and I have read plenty of chess books!) This is like an advanced college edition of "Chess For Tigers" as Schuyler dives deep into uncharted waters into the realm of chess psychology, providing his own system to increase your likelihood of victory. I felt like I was taken on a consciousness-expanding journey, but instead of Ayahuasca, Schuyler's book enlightens with purposeful game examples and just the right touch of explanations to drive home his philosophy. This book provides an understanding of how strong players like himself think. Also, the text and diagrams are easy on the eyes which is a big plus for me. I applied some of the principles in this book in my last tournament chess game and played better than I have in a long time. I attribute this book for taking me out of my chess slump. Thank you professor! Not a wasted word in this book. A true gem!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Thought provoking but misguided advice

By T. Seymour There are different approaches to chess. The author proposes that you take a calculated risk approach, relying on your opponents inevitable mistakes by playing aggressive (and probably unsound) moves right from the first moves. He argues that while perhaps not the best objectively (a computer would defeat such play every time) it works out more often than not and is therefore a good practical approach. I disagree with the author for a couple of reasons, although it's possible that neither of them will apply to you.

- 1) Playing chess in this way will limit a player's progress at some point. Maybe you just want to enjoy each game and have no ambitions to significantly raise your level, in which case fine, however most people want to improve. The author mentions Carlsen as a player who often poses practical problems by playing moves not considered the best by the engines. This is to say "if it's good enough for Magnus Carlsen, it's obviously good enough for you!" However, I don't remember seeing Carlsen ever playing unsound openings like the Halloween or Blackmar-Diemer gambits in his World Championship matches (or other high level events), openings praised in the book. I'd also argue that he doesn't intentionally play the second best moves. To him they are the best tries. Another example I could use is Nakamura, a naturally attacking player, who has commented on the fact that learning how to play more solid positional chess helped him step up his chess level.
- 2) The author's approach seems to assume that the only pleasure to be taken from chess is in winning. This doesn't hold for me personally. If I lose a game where I feel I've given my best then I feel OK about that. Of course I will study the game and see what I could improve to hopefully avoid a similar loss in the future but that's for the next day. On the flip-side my most painful losses have come from taking unnecessary risks, which resulted in my opponents simply collecting the point without having to really sweat for it. For me that's the worst kind of loss. Other people may be able to shrug it off and look forward to going for another unsound attack in the next game, hoping their opponent won't defend correctly. Good luck.

I give the book two stars, as although I think a lot of the advice is misguided it was also a thought provoking read. My general conclusion is that you can take big 'calculated' risks if you want, but they aren't usually necessary. Chess is a very complicated game. If you play good moves you will get chances to win anyway.

Which opening does better in practice: the wild, unsound and refuted Latvian Gambit (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 f5) or the solid Philidor Defence (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6)? As James Schuyler points out, referring to the definitive Megabase, the Latvian Gambit scores higher. How can such a discredited opening (and the same story is repeated with other unsound openings) do so well? The point is that playing like this throws the opponent off balance, makes them anxious and induces mistakes. Even the very best players recognize the value of discomforting the opponent. Historically, Emanuel Lasker was the master of this approach and his modern day equivalent is world champion Magnus Carlsen. Carlsen frequently employs offbeat openings and his opponents invariably fail to counter them correctly. This is the key theme of this book. Schuyler covers all phases of the game and discusses other vital subjects such as harassment, material imbalance, time management, surprise moves, unusual ideas, provocative play, manoeuvres and recovering from bad positions. Includes methods to improve practical play. Develops a win-oriented attitude. Examines ways to induce mistakes.

The book deals with what every amateur would like to know, and has doubts about. It does this through an array of different topics, treated in different chapters, e.g. material imbalances, lost positions, clock, the endgame, etc. These topics are worth pursuing and reading about, because maybe they can shift our view and give us an extra edge in the

next tournament game...When the author shares some games or gives me a hint of what to look for, and through that search I learn something new. Does this mean I'll become a GM thanks to reading the book? Surely not. But I'll improve as a chess player, and that is worth it for me. (Davide Nastasio Georgia Chess)About the AuthorJames Schuyler is a FIDE Master. He was Nevada State Champion in 2007 and won the Virginia State Championship in both 2011 and 2012. He has been teaching chess for over 25 years.