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Poker's 1%: The One Big Secret That Keeps Elite Players On Top



Synopsis

Elite poker players aren't like the rest of us. Sure, they play in huge games where tens of thousands of dollars can move in the blink of an eye. But that's not the only difference. Elite players play and think about the game in a completely different way from everyone else. If you want to raise your game to their level, it's not just a matter of getting a little better at what you already do. The honest truth is that the way 99% of poker players approach the game is fundamentally flawed. You will never be able to crack the top 1% until you know what they know. There's one big secret to the game that nearly every elite player knows, yet almost no one else understands. It's an open secret-no one is hiding it. Elite players talk about it sometimes in videos and articles. Nevertheless, top players have known this secret for years, yet still almost no one else does. Poker's 1% seeks to change that. It bridges that gap between the elite players and everyone else. It promises that as long as you are willing to put in the work, you too have a shot to reach the top. Poker's 1% teaches a way of thinking about how you play, a way to unify every hand you've ever played and ever will play into one single, overarching strategy. The goal is that you will have one big "aha" moment, the moment where you finally "get" this game. After that, it's just fine tuning. The more you fine tune your strategy, the more you win, and the higher you can go. Poker's 1% gives you a unique window into the secrets of the world's best players. It shows you what you've been doing wrong and how to fix it. And, most importantly, it guides you in a straightforward way along the path from average player to elite.

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Customer Reviews

I wrote a bit more about this one on my own site, because it wasn't available on yet. And

incidentally? If you buy this title direct from Ed Miller on his own site, he gets quite a bit more of the proceeds than if you purchase it via . Just figured I'd mention it-- pays authors about double the % of each sale if the price is between \$2.99 and \$.99. Anyway, this book: nice! It's a great intro to some other books (he mentions Janda, though I strongly prefer Tipton), but Miller's "frequency first" approach is much more intuitive than the other material I've read and it's likely to, all by itself, improve the play of those who grasp the material. He offers useful suggestions for study (I'd add "Card Runners EV" or "CREV" to his software recommendations). I think there's a further step one could easily take here, which informs much of my own play--which is almost entirely in live cash games, so you've never heard of me, so what do I know?--which is this: sometimes your opponent's specific range doesn't matter any more than his specific hand. Often a rough notion as to an opponent's frequency/likelihood of taking a specific line is all the card/betting analysis necessary unless your own hand happens to be very strong. IOW, if he's in bet/fold mode, your hand doesn't matter. And if he's in go-to-the-river-and-get-all-in mode, your hand likewise doesn't matter unless you happened to pick up a (situationally determined) monster. Miller doesn't miss this point, exactly, but he seems more concerned with range construction--both yours and villain's--than with determining an objectively best play in the moment.

I have been a fan of Ed Miller's ever since I ran across Two Plus Two back in 2005. I found the work he did back then eye-opening, but slightly over my head. I'm not sure if it is indicative of an improvement in his writing or an improvement in my capacity to understand what he writes, but his more recent books make a ton of sense to me and have greatly improved my game. Miller's latest book, Poker's 1%: The One Big Secret That Keeps Elite Players On Top, is no exception. In this book, Miller tackles a concept that he calls an "open secret." It's open because others have written about it before -- most notably, Matt Janda in his book Applications of No Limit Hold'em and Bill Chen and Jerrod Ankenman in The Mathematics of Poker. However, it's a secret because most people have a hard time understanding the type of math presented in those books. I'm a math teacher and even I found a lot of previous discussions of the math of poker tedious. But Miller has a knack for simplifying difficult concepts in a way that most people can understand. If you are mathematically challenged, or just lazy like me, then you'll love Poker's 1%. This is not to say that Miller has made becoming one of Poker's 1% easy. Most readers will find that understanding the work that needs to be done will not automatically make them more likely to do it. Miller points to the difference between knowing how to lose weight and actually losing weight to illustrate this point. Miller would make an excellent grade school teacher with how well he uses

diagrams to explain complex concepts. One of my favorite from the book is his use of a pyramid to explain how often you should continue in a hand. The bottom of the pyramid is it's widest point.

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