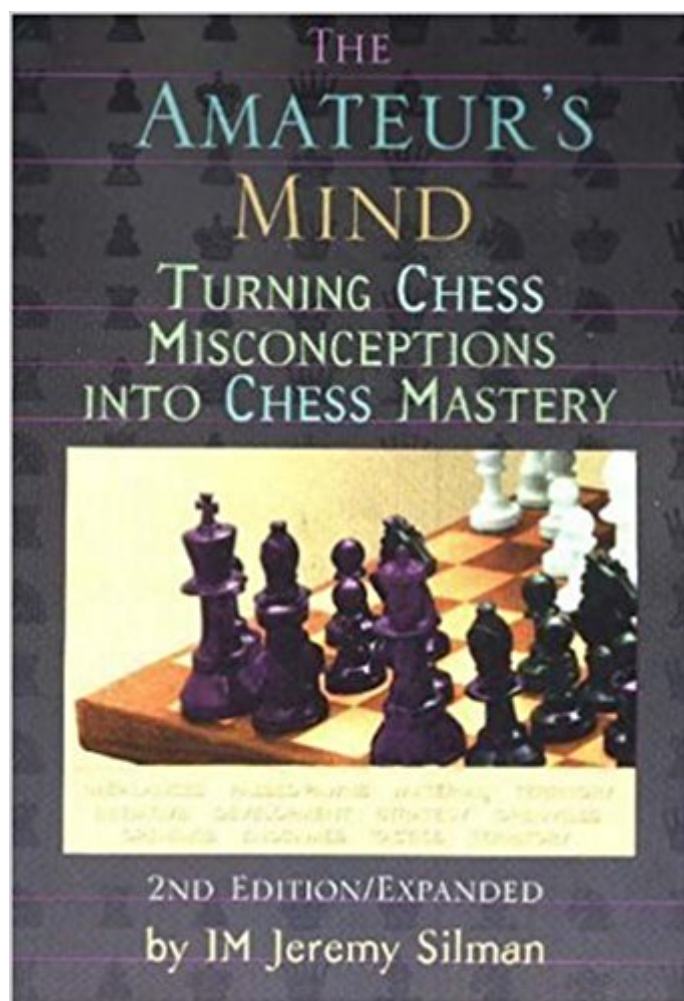


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# The Amateur's Mind: Turning Chess Misconceptions Into Chess Mastery



## Synopsis

This book takes the student on a journey through his own mind and returns him to the chess board with a wealth of new-found knowledge and the promise of a significant gain in strength. Most amateurs possess erroneous thinking processes that remain with them throughout their chess lives. These flaws in their mental armour result in stinging defeats and painful reversals. Books can be bought and studied, lessons can be taken -- but in the end, these elusive problems always prove to be extremely difficult to eradicate. Seeking a solution to this dilemma, the author wrote down the thoughts of his students while they played actual games, analysed them, and catalogued the most common misconceptions that arose. This second edition greatly expands on the information contained in the popular first edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An explanation of what a typical chess player is thinking when they make an important move can make it easier for a good instructor to better determine the weaknesses or strengths of the player. This is a very good way to determine what advice is required to help the player best improve their game. I only read a small portion of the book but I was impressed with the informative and understandable explanations and evaluations.

In my opinion this book is a must for any serious chess player's library, whether you are new to the game or have been playing for years. With this book Silman helps you to understand some of the finer points of the strategy of the game. One of the most common imbalances in the game of chess

is Bishop vs. Knight and if that were the only topic covered in this book it would be worth purchasing, but it also covers other imbalances such as Bishop vs. Rook and pawn majorities on opposite wings. Definitely a worthy purchase.

Fantastic analysis on looking for the imbalances of the 64 square battlefield. This is not only great for your progression into the upper 1000's but even for those under the 1000 mark looking to move up. IM Silman never ceases to get his points across in a clear and concise way.

I have been a casual player for 25 years, always carrying a constant yearning to improve. Every year or two I would buy a chess book and begin to read, but eventually put it up on the shelf essentially unread... until now. This text is excellent, by any standard. Great writing... witty, thoughtful, organized, smart. Great graphics/book quality. Crystal clear and concise presentation of chess content. Silman has a gift in writing! Truly a joy to read and feel yourself improving at chess. I greatly anticipate reading "How to Reassess your Chess (4th)" next. There's something about Silman that enables me to "stay" with him that I have not experienced with any other chess author. I had seen this book at the stores for years, but was put off a bit by the title, figuring it was out-of-my-league. NOT true... I was able to follow and retain all the material and concepts fairly easily. I regret not buying this book years ago! Get yourself some chess software (recommend Arena 3.0 (free) or Fritz 13), work through this book, and watch your game and online rankings improve. Mr. Silman, I truly hope you are making a bundle on these books! You must have poured years of tireless effort into writing them. It shows! Thanks! BTW, you are certainly NOT condescending, arrogant, etc.

This is not a book for rank beginners but if you have a reasonable grasp on tactics and some idea of how to open then this is a great primer for starting strategy. I played quite a lot of chess as a early teenager but never any real study, as such while I was reasonably tactically sound, I would often flounder after the opening if the opponent was playing solidly not knowing really where I should be playing. Now in my thirties I've begun playing again, both online and over the board. I've read a few books, some tactics to sharpen that, some opening books to make sure I don't get in a tangle out of the opening, Silman's endgame book to make sure I recognise how win and when I can go into won end games. All this is good and necessary but of course there is also the question of strategy, as Tartakower put it of "knowing what to do when there is nothing to do". This book taught me quite a bit about how to find the right moves when there is "nothing to do". How to play against knights or

with bishops and more particularly about space advantage how to play to strengthen my position not just look for material winning tactics. Where I should be looking to play and how to identify weak squares etc. I can't say I can do it perfectly now or never get sucked into becoming a mindless king hunter, or can always identify what my opponents plan is, but its getting better. Its satisfying to play a move that is both good and one that you wouldn't have considered a few months earlier. I recommend working through the book a few times, read it do the problems at the end - giving the positions a lot of thought before looking at the answers. Then a few months later come back. You can go probably go through it faster but see how you go on some of the problems. Yes you'll probably remember some but that is part of the point. If you are like me however you'll still get quite a few wrong, and need to learn it over again.

Silman is fantastic

Amateur's Mind really does what the title says. It gets into the mind of chess players anywhere from class E all the way to Expert. He's great at not only dissecting the thinking process behind moves but also psychological issues players have. He has great pointers at the end of every chapter and even after the test questions in the back. I had got this book last summer and read all the way through it (doing about a chapter a day) and right now I am going back to the test questions and review the book. His answers and explanations are still informative and quite instructive even a year later when I think I know it all. Last summer I was around 1180 OTB (USCF) now I am around 1500, in part was due to this book and a lot of tactics. Couple of tips at the end of one test solution as a sample-NO position will play itselfThe creation of a unified plan should always take precedent over a random gain of materialA confident, defiant opponent makes the bravest player entertain a nagging doubt about his skills and yours. pg 335If you got time get this book, get a board and study; along with some tactics on the side.

This is a good book in that it sheds light on a number of chess considerations. Its slow to work with, but so are all chess developmental books. Once I master it -- if I do, I will win more chess games and lose less. The book was ordered and promptly received.

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