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David Bird

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Master Bridge Series

THE ABBOT AND THE SENSATIONAL SQUEEZE

DAVID BIRD

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David Bird : The Abbot and the Sensational Squeeze (New Edition) (Master Bridge Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Abbot and the Sensational Squeeze (New Edition) (Master Bridge Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. David Bird's usual great British dialog and excellent appropriate

withholding of information (until ...By NickDavid Bird's usual great British dialog and excellent appropriate withholding of information (until the right time....) to show EXACTLY what you need to be thinking about at the bridge table3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Abbot goes on but the jokes get a little thinBy John Peter O'connorThis is the first book in this series to be credited solely to David Bird. Previously, the magazine articles written by Bird had been revised by the original author together with Terence Reese prior to book publication. After the death of the latter, David Bird continued to work alone. Of course, he was always the original author and it was never made clear exactly how great an input Reese had to the book revisions.Like all of the other works in this series, this book follows the adventures of the fictional bridge playing monks of the order of St. Titus. Each chapter sees the monks in some bridge situation where they play a number of hands. The bidding is normally English Acol style but this is secondary to the play of the hands which is where the interesting bridge problems can be found.While the earlier books all concentrated on the exploits of the monks in England, they also contained a number of chapters detailing the exploits of a missionary outpost in Africa. Political correctness having seen off that scenario, the "away" section of the book has the Abbot, the leading character, playing as the guest expert on a bridge cruise, an interlude which is a lot less funny than the rest of the book.If you are new to the monks of St.Titus, I would recommend that you first track down some of the earlier books. Especially the first two: "Miracles of Cardplay" and "Unholy Tricks" as they are funnier and fresher. However, if you are already a fan of these books, do not hesitate. Reese may be missing from the front cover and the wit may not be as sharp but you will still enjoy the contents.8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. The Foibles of the Abbot AmuseBy William M. BegertDavid Bird's latest volume of stories about the Bridge-addicted Abbot and his Franciscan order of St. Titus wins over the reader on two levels. First, and most important for any Bridge enthusiast, every story involves several puzzles to bend the mind and promote logical thinking. Second, the rich character development will amuse and delight all readers -- particularly enjoyable are the Abbot's reliable vanity and his ongoing vendetta against the young upstart, Brother Cameron. Cards being fickle, both get their comeuppance against one another in various episodes. So that Bridge does not seem like a vengeful contact sport, Bird wisely emphasizes the brothers' roles as teammates in tournament play to ameliorate some of the sassier moments. While there is a lot of humor and able writing here, I would not recommend this book to anyone who does not play Bridge on at least a casual basis, as they will be hard-pressed to grasp the relevance of the puzzles to the stories and the pleasures of this wonderful book will be lost on them.

David Bird has surpassed even himself and his inimitable combination of scintillating bridge and humour will swell the ranks of the cognoscenti with equally delighted new recruits. If you are not already happily enrolled, join now!

The Abbot is rapidly superseding the Hideous Hog as the best known fictional bridge characterOXFORD TIMESAbout the AuthorDavid Bird is recognised as the world's leading humorous bridge writer. He has written over 130 bridge books, and in the last ten years he has won six 'Book of the Year' awards from the American Bridge Teachers Association - and in 2016 won the Master Point Press International Bridge Press Association Book of the Year Award for The Abbot, the Parrot and the Bermuda Bowl. David contributes regularly to Bridge Magazine, English Bridge, Bridge World, the American Contract Bridge League bulletin and other magazines around the world, as well as Vu-Bridge on the internet. He is also a voice commentator for Bridge Base Online. He lives in Chandlers Ford, Hampshire, England.