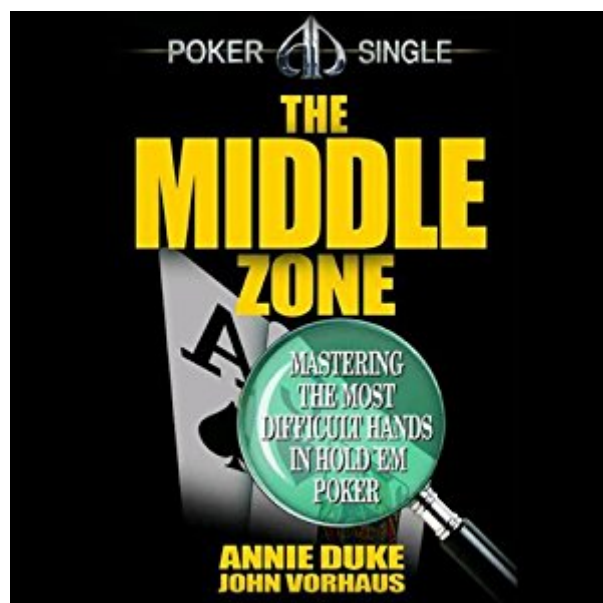


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# The Middle Zone: Mastering The Most Difficult Hands In Hold'em Poker



## Synopsis

So often in Texas hold'em poker, you just don't know where you stand. Do you have the best hand? The worst? Within the great gray area between the stone nuts and a pure bluff it's often hard to tell. But take heart, because in this innovative new poker single, Annie Duke and John Vorhaus dive deep into the murky decision space of the middle zone, show you what it is, how to avoid it, and what to do if, alas, you step in something sticky. In *The Middle Zone*, you'll learn... How to forecast your prospects for a hand How to sidestep potsize mistakes How to win pots that don't belong to you How to turn accidental bluffs into intentional ones The middle zone is one of hold'em's most common decision spaces - and one of its most commonly misplayed. But it doesn't have to be that way. Just read and study *The Middle Zone* and you'll walk away with a simple, reliable strategy for navigating this tricky space effectively on hand after hand, and turning a cloudy poker situation into a clear - and clearly profitable - one instead.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a very good treatment of an important subject. As another reviewer points out, part of the advice here is very hard to carry out. Avoiding the middle zone is a fine idea but not always easy to do. The advice here about how to fight your way out of the middle zone or give way while you still have money in front of you is very good. This isn't a book; it's a long article and a very good one. And the price for the Kindle version is reasonable for a good article. Annie Duke has a lot of detractors and she isn't perfect but this is a good product and will help you and that is all that

matters. It is possible that you can get enough information on this subject out of her book on decision-making but I read this article first and I'm not certain right now. My advice would be to read Decide to Play Great Poker first and, if you aren't sure you have this subject down pat, buy the article.

Like Annie's other book, this book focuses more on the decision making process, and less on how to play specific hands in specific positions. While the concepts in this book are helpful in evolving a player's thinking process, "staying out of the middle zone" is easier said than done. Following the guidelines in this book, one should only play the nuts, or a hand that can quickly make the nuts on the flop. This strategy is akin to set-mining, and is not really the best way to beat the ultra-aggressive games in casinos and online. With so many players 4- and 5-betting all-in PF, with hands like AT-AKs, KQs-KJs, and QJ-Q9s, staying out of the middle entails folding AK, AQ, and QQ hands pre flop more often than would be ideal against such hyper-aggressive tables. Annie's concepts might make sense in theory, but in practice, they will either have you playing weak-tight against loose-aggressive players, or having you rely heavily on all in pre flop coin flip situations. I'm sorry, but getting to the flop cheap with speculative hands is the key to crushing NL games. And, speculative hands consist mostly of all the middle zone hands that Annie suggests players stay away from. This is okay advice for a beginner, but not for good players.

If you read this book and take the info to heart, you will find yourself NOT getting into most of those "What am I gonna do NOW?!" situations in poker. This is written concisely by a known poker pro and she gives advice to really improve your game!

Except it left me wanting more. Cleverly written as it plainly explained concepts in a somewhat funny way. At one point I was actually laughing out loud. Although the concepts covered are in other books...such as Harrington on cash games, (the trouble hand section) which I believe he stated he got from Brunson. They were still covered well and made you think. Such a short read I was wondering what the heck happened until the end when it was explained that it was a "single" and I at that point also checked the cover ...where I must point out that the words "poker single" are fairly blurry. At any rate, I ain't mad. Actually happy, as I also ordered the book, "decide to play great poker." I hope it's as interesting and clever as this one.

A very good book for a very good price. Even if you are not sure, not buying would be a mistake

because it's offering you such good odds (ratio between potential benefit and price you must pay in order to take your chances). I don't think any good poker player could pass up a deal like this. Also, it's very well written. I enjoyed very much.

Well described by earlier reviews as an article and not a book. For three bucks I can't complain - it was very useful. Sometimes just having a precise focus on a specific 'trouble issue' - properly explained is useful and this article serves that role very well. It's very short and as such perhaps overpriced, but for poker players looking to improve their understanding of the psychology of poker - it will only be helpful. For some it will be old hat but for newer or less experienced players who are still improving or forming their games it's a great reference and not too pricey. Better to pay three bucks than to try to sift through a ton of 'free' articles for useful information like this.

I was a huge fan of "Decide to Play Great Poker" and Duke & Vorhaus deliver here again. It's clear, well-written, and tackles one of the trickiest problems in poker. Shorter than a book, but longer than an article, this offers some great ideas for the price of a big blind in many games. Looking forward to the next in this series...

The middle zone is aptly named for capturing all those middle situations, which are certainly most of them. As has been said anybody can play aces or kings this book delves into what most of the face frequently

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