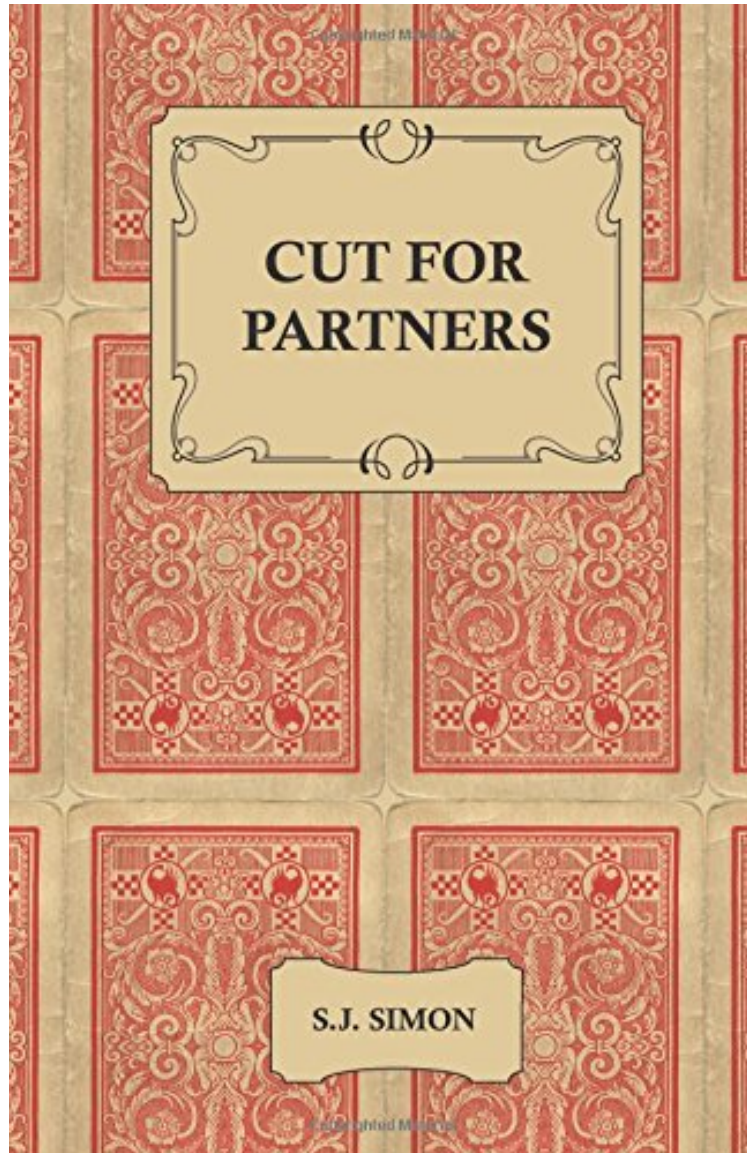


## Cut for Partners

*S. J. Simon*

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**S. J. Simon : Cut for Partners** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cut for Partners:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderfully thoughtful analysis, poor editingBy John BlackwellPublished posthumously, this book on contract bridge shows clear signs of lack of finish - poor grammar, inconsistent statements (passing partner's takeout double of 1S on QT983 trumps is praised in deal one of rubber 3, but passing partner's takeout double of 1H on KT6532 trumps is castigated in deal nine of rubber 3). So why 5 stars?Each

deal features comical behaviour by the cast of characters, followed by a truly fascinating analysis of the pros and cons of various actions in the situations that arose. Here is the model on which Victor Mollo built his more famous *Menagerie*, but I prefer the original. Interestingly, although bridge theory has changed considerably from the time and place from which Simon wrote, almost all these deals pose similarly fascinating problems today. For example, several hands pose the question whether one should overcall 1S with 2H on a weak distributional hand. These days, the 2H overcall is usually played stronger, so the question becomes whether to make a WJO of 3H. This sounds much more dangerous, until one realizes that with opponents playing negative doubles the danger is reduced, but so is the preemptive effect. Try writing down what you think is the proper bidding and play on each deal in this book, and asking your partner to do the same. I guarantee this will produce some heated arguments! For those who have already read his more famous *WYLAB*, this book struck me as somewhat darker in tone. Simon is more hostile to Futile Willie than before. Someone once told me Simon had committed suicide shortly after finishing this book: perhaps he saw part of himself in Willie? 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining, but the Bidding's a bit out of date. By Kevin C. In this lesser known sequel to "Why you Lose at Bridge", Simon has us follow three rubbers played by his quartet of flawed players. "The Unlucky Expert", who always makes the "proper" bid or play regardless of whether his partner stands a chance of understanding him or responding correctly "Futile Willie" who's desperation to be scientific and make good "trick" plays often causes common sense to fall by the wayside "Mrs. Guggenheim", the dear old lady type who never really bothered to learn good bridge and often makes bidding decisions based on "but partner is such a good player!" and such nonsense "Mr. Smug", the imperfect but practical player. As can be expected, each of the hands is its own disaster and is constructed to illustrate a particular point by Simon. The misadventures of the foursome are rather humorous, but caused me to think more while I play (am i making a futile willie play here?, etc) The problem is, this book was written more than 30 years ago, and the bidding is rather out of date. Although much of his advice is still accurate, a couple of points he make are no longer quite valid (for example, when north preempted in his partner's overcalled suit one hand, Simon asked "He raised his partner to 5 diamonds on what? Just a fistful of diamonds? Certainly not!", though many players would do just that these days. Nevertheless, this book is quite an enjoyable read, and could very well improve you game a great deal

This vintage book contains an accessible and entertaining guide to playing bridge. Told as a narrative following a game of bridge between four 'characters', it explores various situations that the players find themselves in and suggests how a play would have been better made. Entertaining and instructional, *Cut for Partners* is highly recommended for any bridge player. Contents include: First Round, Preliminaries, Deal No. 1, The Play, Post-Mortem, Chucks, Deal No. 2, The Play, Post-Mortem, Chucks, Deal No.3, The Play, Post-Mortem, Chucks, Deal No.4, The Play, Post-Mortem, Chucks, et cetera. Many vintage books such as this are increasingly scarce and expensive. We are republishing this volume now in an affordable, modern, high-quality edition complete with its original artwork and text.