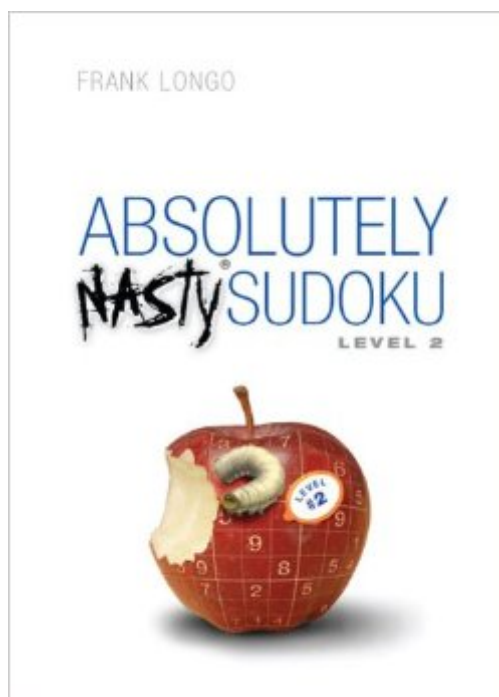


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Absolutely Nasty Sudoku Level 2



Synopsis

Even more interaction; this time used in combination with other procedures; and a lot more heavily than in the first book.

Book Information

Series: Absolutely Nasty® Series

Spiral-bound: 159 pages

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Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (50 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #128,844 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Sudoku #334 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Puzzles

Customer Reviews

I recently purchased the entire Menza series, and I have to say they've lived up to the Menza criteria. You have to focus and know your solving techniques to get through these without guessing or cheating. Do yourself a favor and purchase the book *Mensa Guide to Solving Sudoku: Hundreds of Puzzles Plus Techniques to Help You Crack Them All (Mensa)* to help you learn the techniques used in these puzzles. I started out by letting my wife begin with *Mensa Absolutely Nasty Sudoku Level 1 (Mensa)*, and I've been working on Level 2. After familiarizing myself with the solving tips, I went to work on my Level 2. Usually I go straight to the back and try and solve the last puzzle in the book. That kinda tells me how difficult the book will be. That puzzle is still unsolved. I've now worked through the first 65 puzzles in Level 2, starting from #1. I've used the X-Wing technique frequently and also some Swordfishes to get through these, so you'd better be prepared. My wife is also struggling with her Level 1, but mostly due to inefficient candidate marking and not staying focused on all possibilities while marking. Some of her puzzles have, however, still required an X-Wing to solve. When I get really stuck, I also tend to use a sudoku tool called Simple Sudoku. This is freeware and can be downloaded from [...]. This tool will allow you to easily see things such as hidden pairs and locked candidates when you build in your book puzzles.

This is an excellent book, with lots of difficult puzzles. One really nice thing about this series as a whole is that it provides you a clear path of improvement. If you are using the Mensa Guide to Solving Sudoku: Hundreds of Puzzles Plus Techniques to Help You Crack Them All or Mastering Sudoku Week by Week: 52 Steps to Becoming a Sudoku Wizard (which is actually my favorite), this is a great series to have alongside. One problem I have with most Sudoku reviews is that they are not specific about what techniques are and are not required, so I will attempt to list here all the ones I've found required in the book. Book 1 in the series started relatively easy - about as hard as a typical "hard" puzzle in other books. Book 2 (this book) starts basically the way book 1 left off, requiring the following types of techniques: * Elementary techniques (cross-hatching, single cell, single candidate) * Locked candidate elimination * Naked pairs, triples, and quads About halfway through, however, the puzzles get considerably harder. In the second half of book 2, you will find puzzles requiring: * X-wings: LOTS of them, some puzzles requiring two different X-wing patterns * Non-unique (or "Gordonian") rectangles * XY-wings I would say the majority of the puzzles in the second half require at least one X-wing each. This was actually a nice little bonus for me, as I was looking for a chance to practice X-wings.

I found the title "Absolutely Nasty Level 2" misleading. I thought that the title would mean different levels of "absolute nastiness," but instead the puzzles are simply intermediate level. My experience has been that a Level One rated puzzle is usually meant for the beginning Sudoku aficionado; Level Two, intermediate; Level Three, advanced; and Level Four, Master. Prefacing levels with "Absolutely Nasty" changes the whole expectation! I was very disappointed when I received the book, tried a puzzle and finished it in a few minutes. I stuck the book in a box I keep for the grandkids to store their games in. However one day, after finishing my last "difficult" Sudoku book, I was desperate for something...ANYTHING....Sudoku, so I dug out the NOT Absolutely Nasty Level 2 book. Flipping through it, doing a puzzle here and there, I found that, to my surprise, the book actually INCREASED in difficulty, even though no mention of increasing difficulty was noted in the title. The last half actually DOES have some more difficult puzzles that require more "intermediate" or "advanced" strategies. Still not "absolutely nasty" as I was hoping for but at least more entertaining than it initially seemed. Perhaps the author should consider renaming the book to more accurately reflect its difficulty level, as well as a notation that the book contains both intermediate and advanced (or whatever definitions he wishes to give his levels) levels. This book is simply (pun intended) way too easy to be called "Absolutely Nasty!" What I like BEST about this book is the

quality of the material.

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