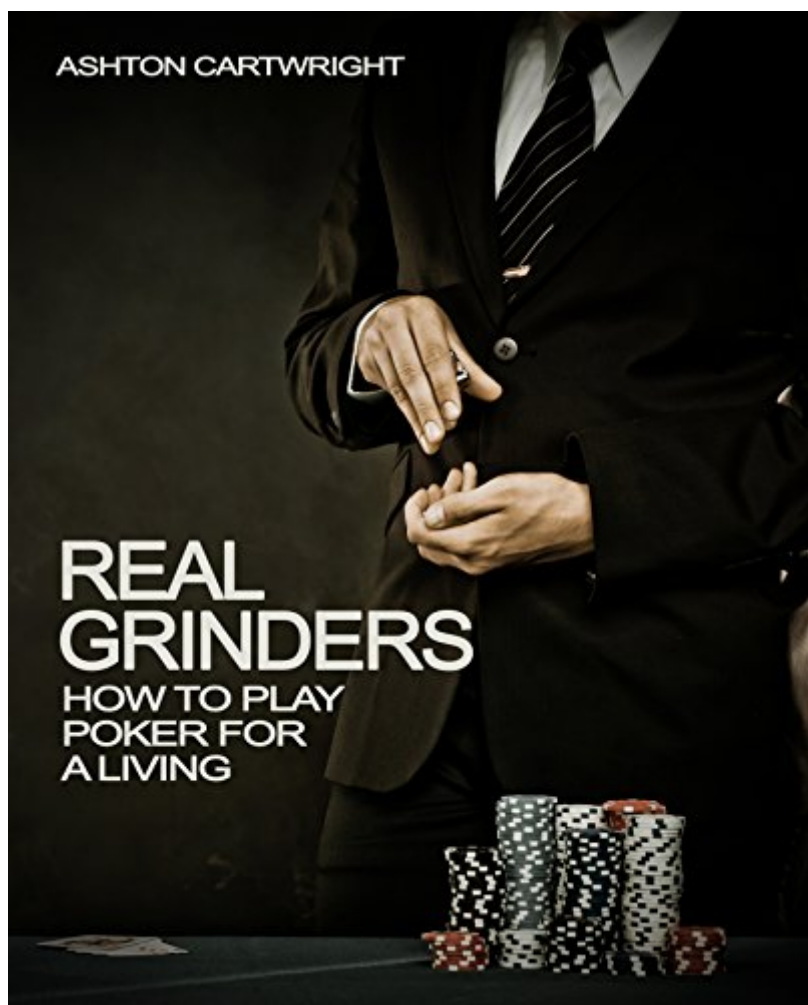


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# Real Grinders: How To Play Poker For A Living



## Synopsis

Three years in the making. Six different countries. Twenty eight professional poker players. All of them Real Grinders. If you've ever wanted to know if you have what it takes to be a professional poker player, now is your chance to find out. We've brought together some of the best pro players from around the world to talk about what it's like playing poker for a living; the good parts, the bad parts, the successes, and the challenges. Everything that separates the winners from the losers in a game where fortunes can be won or lost on the turn of a card, and a level head and a quick wit control the table. Some of the players in this book include: Aaron Mordey Alan McMaster Alek Givotovsky Alexander Antonios Ashley Warner Ashton Cartwright Brett • brett\_threat • Chalhoub Bryan Huang (Pokerstars Pro) Chris Lee Cole • TopKat5757 • Swannack Didier • didibearr • Guerin Grant Levy Jackie "Jackstar" Glazier (888 Pro) Jackson Zheng Jacky Wang Kahle Burns Mathew Brown Octavian Voegelé Oliver • Talerric • Swoop AE • Gill Patrick • pmahoney22 • Mahoney Paul Hockin Rory Young Ryan Laplante Slava Sheynin Tom • winga699 • Wing Victor Teng, and more. Real Grinders. Professional poker doesn't get more real than this.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed *Real Grinders* for its easy writing and its biographical nature. I have an insatiable curiosity about most things and one is about professional gamers, people who make a living out of the games that they love. One thing that can never be underestimated is their undeniable love for the game. It is that dedication that I pick up on every time when I read one of these texts. The author is also a professional poker player so that also provides more insight into the mindset of these individuals versus this being a book written by a person who did not have that hands-on knowledge and expertise. *Real Grinders* is not a literal "how to play poker text" or a "how to become a professional" guide. It actually provides insights from real poker (professional) players, how they started on this path and how it affects their everyday lives. They are also very candid when they speak about the future of playing poker for them personally and how the game is changing. I enjoyed reading how many of the players started out and how it developed into a love or an obsession. None of them set out on becoming a professional poker player but they were confident enough to give it a go. I think the author himself, coming from a business background, really created a strict cycle for himself, before giving up his day job and becoming a pro. There's a lot to consider and many of the pros also agree that it takes a certain kind of personality. One word that stood out to me from the stories was discipline. Most of the pros agree that playing poker for a living takes a certain amount of discipline, a dedication and a mental toughness to withstand the highs and the lows of the game.

I had a hard time determining a fair number of stars to give this book. I enjoyed it, but feel it "delivers" on its premise to a very limited extent. I ultimately felt 4 stars was a more fair rating than 3, as I believe some of my expectations, as indicated below, might be a bit out of whack with the book's premise. What I liked: -Taste of the pro poker lifestyle from a variety of perspectives. -Uniform question format allows you to see trending issues and common challenges the range of players face. -Many participants went above and beyond to provide detailed answers, and really drill down into their experiences and practices, which did tend to compensate for some of the respondents addressed in my comments below. What I disliked: -Uniform question format also proved useless in cases where participants provided short answers lacking any depth and providing little in the form of

the information that would be expected from the question posed.-No follow up was done on participants that provided limited responses. One respondent in particular, when asked what he does to keep his skills sharp, said "I don't do any of those things" (He was referring to the example responses which are "Books, Training Videos.." among a few other standard examples. I understand this participant many not read books or watch videos, that is fine, but WHAT DO YOU DO if you don't do those things? To not follow up when you get a worthless answer is not only frustrating to readers, but devalues the book as a whole. If it doesn't provide value to the reader, either follow up to further develop the response or don't include the entire participant's "contribution".

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