



Harry James Potter-Evans-Verres and the Professor's Games

Eliezer Yudkowsky

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From Reader Review Harry James Potter-Evans-Verres and the Professor's Games for online ebook

Mladen says

Really good.

Amarelys says

The concept is still good, the characters are still interesting and humour still present, but the mind games are getting more and more complex and difficult to follow, despite the vulgarisation... Which is one of the reasons I had to take a mini-break and why it took me so long to finish the last bit of this volume. I'm probably still going to read the rest - I'm really curious to see how this Harry would deal with the climax from the official saga - but much more sporadically.

Tejas says

Way better than the first one

Jenneke says

My opinion about the book

In this book, the famous first-years battles enter the realm of Harry James Potter-Evans-Verres. In every year (although we do not learn much about the other year's battles) three armies are formed, that professor Quirrell makes to fight mildly dangerous battles, in order to practice the ancient art of battle magic. The price? A wish to be granted. However, then Dumbledore interferes and it looks like there is a player in the field who is on his side? What will be the effects of this?

My opinion about the series

First and foremost, this is a book that got my interest because of its nature. I love Harry Potter, I think J.K. Rowling has written an awesome series of books. However, they are not... rational. As the young Harry points out in these series, water cannot simply come to exist because of a simple *aguamenti*. That is partly the magic of the Harry Potter series, but to some people, especially those interested in science, it can be bothersome.

It actually never bothered me until I started reading "Harry Potter and the Methods of Rationality". Then, things changed.

Rohan says

Helped me be less wrong than I was

Ondřej Puczok says

Z odkazů na originální kánon se dostáváme k samotnému příběhu alternativního racionálního Harryho Pottera - a nutno říct, že z mého pohledu už tohle prostě nemá ten šmrnc. Síla prvního dílu této fanfikce byla stavěná na základech originálu a zároveň zlepšovala, dovysvětlovala a zpochybňovala. Tady už se ale skoro nic takového neděje a jen se dál rozehrává už započatá hra, což už není tolik zábavné...
...tedy minimálně první polovinu knihy. Protože když dojde na bitvy téhož generála, dostává kniha naprosto jiný spád. Spád, který je opravdu velmi dobře napsaný. Za mě jasné 3,5 hvězdičky a i když už jsem se tímto dílem pokračovat nechtěl, nakonec mi to zakončení nedalo...

George says

Just read it already

Leila says

I loved the "Ender's game" reference, and the way they set up that whole scene. Not sure I enjoyed the scheming as much as I was supposed to.

Liam Dodd says

The second 'book' is very different from the first, as it has involved itself into somewhat of a narrative, one that is a look confusing to see where it is going yet, but it is still enjoyable.

The focus has drifted away from directly discussing the questions of the magical world, though still tackling them here and there, but has instead decided to discuss the nature of command and persuasion, which is neat and all but not quite as fun as just dissecting the Harry Potter universe.

I will continue with the rest soon, but this part wasn't as good as the opening.

Chad says

The second book in Harry Potter-Evans-Verres and the Methods of Rationality, The Professor's Games continues Harry's adventures in his first year at Hogwarts. The professor mentioned in the title "The Professor's Games" is no other than Professor Quirrell (or, perhaps you could interpret it as Dumbledore, but I will let you figure that out). Quirrel takes on a more central role than in Rowling's The Sorcerer's Stone.

Certainly, in the canon, Quirrell is the main antagonist in Book 1. He's carrying Lord Voldemort on the back of his head, seeking out the sorcerer's stone to attain immortality. But Quirrell barely catches your attention throughout the book; your focus is directed to the wicked and plotting Snape rather than the "poor, stuttering Professor Quirrell." Harry himself goes to the end of the book thinking it was Snape.

In this book, Professor Quirrell is a dynamic and powerful character. His classes aren't merely lessons in wand-waving or encounters with magical creatures (he openly condemns this approach). He confronts them with ideas, with strategy-- and even introduces ideas from the Muggle world as well. You don't seem totally aware what to make of Quirrell, or what his intentions are. Does he still have Lord Voldemort in the back of his head? Is he somehow being controlled by Lord Voldemort? Or is he somehow rebelling against him? Does he have intentions of his own, separate from Lord Voldemort's?

The central feature to Quirrell's class is the concept of battle magic-- his version of defense against the dark arts. He introduces armies into Hogwarts, breaking the first years up among three generals (Potter, Malfoy, and Granger). In addition to House dynamics, you now get army dynamics.

Throughout the book, Harry, Malfoy, and Granger are the new trio; Ron is a minor character who occasionally shows up. And all are entirely different than the books. Draco is a mastermind, even willing to break his hatred of mudbloods to fulfill the ends to his plots, and becoming Harry's friend to seek power. Hermione doesn't know what to make of Harry, and plays the role of rival-friend. Harry-- well, he's definitely not the Harry of the canon. You aren't sure whether he is evil. He's trying to keep his inner Dark Lord in check, but he's definitely got some worrying symptoms.

Some readers may not like the abrupt endings. Unlike the original series, each book doesn't end with closure, tied nicely with a bow. The book was written as a series of blog posts, kind of like a Charles Dickens novel I suppose. To me, it's all the more motivation to keep reading. This one lives up to the trend of the first one, and leave you hanging.

Ranvir Desai says

It was fun at the beginning. But I guess if professor's games are the main theme here, I didn't like it much. It's too much chaos in 11 years class. Was less funnier than first part. As for the wars, they really make a great game, but Quirinus ruins it by allowing the traitors. Also the explanations seem little too shallow, and not much awe inspiring.

Still recommended. If you've finished through first part, go ahead, it's a different flavor altogether, some might like it.

Sofie says

4.5