

# Your Next Bridge Hand - A Dream or a Nightmare? -- Book Review

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Despite the title, it is only the bridge hands that will be provocative in David Silver's *The Naked Bridge Player and Other Stories* (Master Point Press, Toronto). This is a collection of stories based loosely on themes from classic literature and the silver screen, from "The Three Musketeers" to the "Matrix" trilogy.

One of the characters in the title story is the product of a mixed marriage. His father played the ultra-conservative Roth-Stone bidding system, his mother the more mainstream Standard American system.

Mind games are played with the lead character in the chapter entitled "Bridgetrix." The bridge player is ushered into a room where he meets an extremely old man in a wheelchair, who asks him, "Have you ever had a dream ... that you were convinced was real? What if you were unable to wake from that dream?"

How would you know the difference between the dream world and the bridge world. What if I told you that you've been playing bridge in a dream world, the Bridgetrix?"

No doubt we have all played bridge hands that were nightmares that we wished we could awaken from.

The old man in the wheelchair later explains, "The Bridgetrix is a bridge dream world constructed by the Canadian Bridge League to keep us under control in order to morph bridge players into the inept creatures you see in that bridge club."

And of course, many people are playing more and more bridge on the computer, so you could be playing computer bridge in a matrix world.

Maybe even reading this review is an illusion designed to distract you from the fact that intelligent machines are just using you as a battery source.