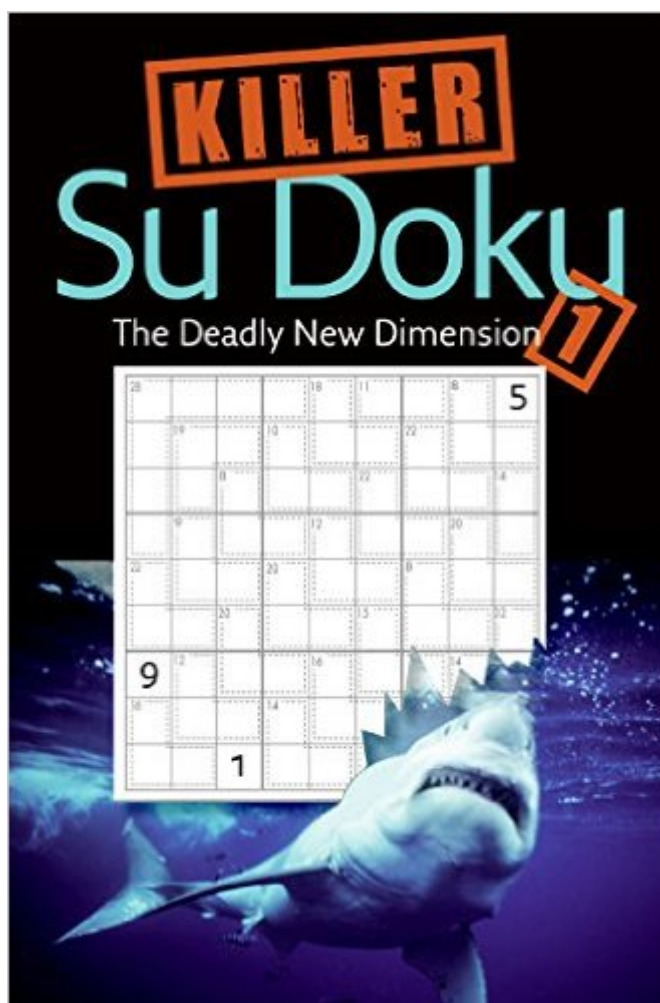


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Killer Sudoku 1: The Deadly New Dimension



Synopsis

Just when you thought it was safe to pick up a pencil Killer Su Doku is based on the original Su Doku grid, with the same rules and numbers "1 to 9" but with an added deadly twist. This time there is an element of arithmetic involved and there are few, if any, clues. The aim is to not only complete every row, column, and cube so that it contains the digits 1 to 9, but to also fill in the outlined cubes so they add up to the same number. Hints to solve the puzzle are hidden in the joined squares where only one combination of numbers applies. In the case of joined squares, if the printed number is 3, it should be 1 and 2 that go into the squares. Likewise, in the case of three joined squares, if the printed number is 6, the only combination possible is 1, 2, and 3. To add one final fiendish level, each puzzle also has a time worked out by its Japanese creators so you can try to beat the clock.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was hoping to be the first person to review this one, but it appears I'm a couple of days late. When I bought it, I was unsure about whether it'd be good or not because there were no reviews. ON KILLER SUDOKU: I had first encountered Killer Sudoku in Will Shortz's Favorite Sudoku variations. I liked it so much I wanted to get more. It may seem like Killer Sukoku is just some cheap knock off of the original, but I'd say it's what the original should have been. In fact, it'll probably make you bored of the original like it has for me. Killer Sudoku is so much more complex, and gives you a lot of opportunities to apply logic that don't exist in the original. It gets to the point in the original that to make them the most difficult, the puzzle solver must resort to the chore of possibility testing to figure

it out. In Killer Sudoku there's a lot of tricks you can do involving the sum regions, and that keeps it interesting. Although regular Sudoku has numbers, it doesn't work with numerical values (the numbers could be replaced with letters or even meaningless symbols and you'd still be able to figure it out). In Killer Sudoku the numerical values are crucial to figuring out the puzzles; most of them give you no starting numbers and only give you sum regions instead. ON THIS BOOK: One of the first things I noticed was the Sudoku borders are in BOLD BLACK and that makes them easy to see. In Will Shortz's book with Killer Sudoku, the borders were lighter and less noticable, and I'd sometimes lose track of which 3x3 square I was in. What the first reviewer said about difficulty is mostly true.

In my opinion, Killer Sudoku puzzles are much more fun and satisfying to solve than regular Sudoku puzzles because of the added complexity of the sums and the various techniques that can be employed to solve them. "Killer Su Doku 1: The Deadly New Dimension" contains 110 puzzles of which there are 17 Gentle, 30 Moderate, 42 Tricky, 16 Tough, and 5 Deadly puzzles. Each puzzle has a suggested time to beat. There is also a two-page "Guidelines for Solving Killer Su Doku". I didn't find the guidelines for solving to be particularly useful. They give a quite minimal explanation of how to solve these types of puzzles and leave out explanations of some of the more important techniques for solving, such as the 45 Rule. (Steve Arons book, "The Official Book of Killer Sudoku" contains a much more comprehensive introduction.) Regarding the suggested times, I didn't specifically time myself, but I often noticed that I took much less or much more time than what was suggested. As for difficulty, I found that sometimes a puzzle in a given section was either much harder or much easier than what was implied. The puzzles in the Deadly section were no more difficult than the ones in the Tough section. The hardest puzzles in the book are 78, 98, and 105. I eventually figured out some interesting equations and relational techniques for solving 78 and 98. (Whew, that was fun!) Puzzle 105 is the only one that I have not yet managed to solve. This brings me to a recommendation for the Solutions section. In general, I find the solutions in the backs of Sudoku books to be useless. If I finish a puzzle and it conforms to the rules then it's correct; otherwise it's wrong. I don't need a solution to tell me that.

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