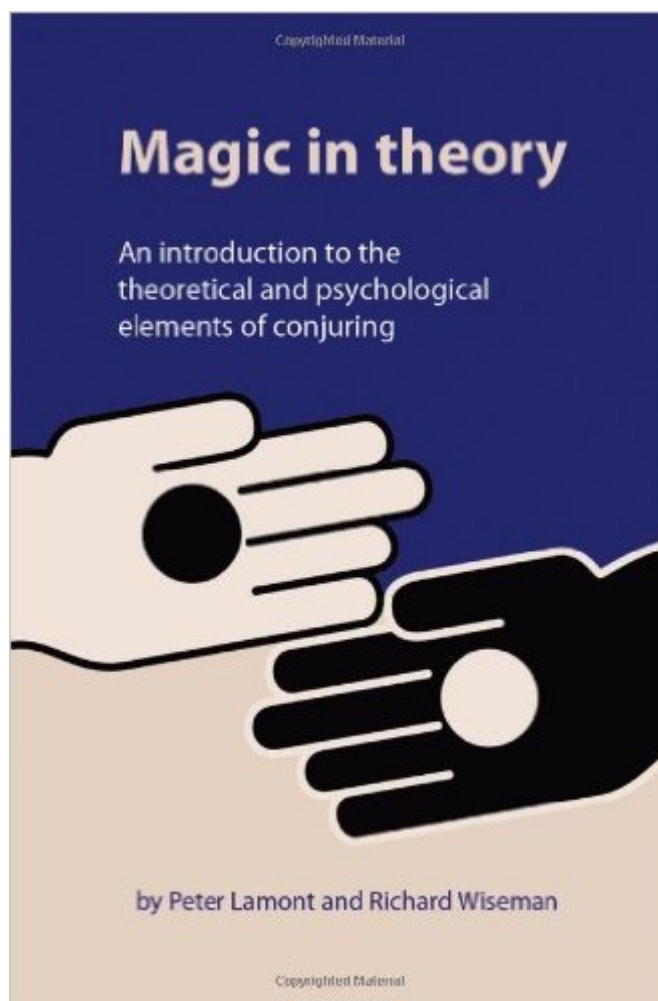


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Magic In Theory: An Introduction To The Theoretical And Psychological Elements Of Conjuring



Synopsis

A useful manual for any magician or curious spectator who wonders why the tricks seem so real, this guide examines the psychological aspects of a magician's work. Exploring the ways in which human psychology plays into the methods of conjuring rather than focusing on the individual tricks alone, this explanation of the general principles of magic includes chapters on the use of misdirection, sleight of hand, and reconstruction, provides a better understanding of this ancient art, and offers a section on psychics that warns of their deceptive magic skills.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a good book for beginners and intermediate performers who would like to understand and learn the different styles, psychological and mind set of the magic and mentalism profession. The book must be read from cover to cover as chapters build on each others knowledge. Great knowledge to be had. Lawrence O'Leary

This book, Magic in Theory by Lamont and Wiseman, is a competent book but is not inspiring. There are good discussions on most topics related to the subject matter but the style is dry and clinical. Strong Magic by Ortiz is better. The books by Tamariz are much better and the very recent book by Schneider, titled "Theory and Practice of Magic Deception" is head over shoulders superior. You might want to consult my review of the latter book.

I was tempted to only give this book 4 stars, but I did enjoy it. It was a breeze reading through it and I suggest that anyone interested in the theoretical aspects of conjuring purchase this (and read it). As Lamont and Wiseman state, this book will not necessarily teach you how to detect the "modus operandi" in tricks always and there is no substitute for real life practice in the methods of deception (using mentalist techniques, magic/conjuring, pseudo-psychic approaches, etc) to really "grasping" these concepts. I do think that if a student of conjuring learns to apply these principles in his/her practice, they will find that, altogether, they develop into far better magicians. A few simple tricks are mentioned throughout the book (nothing really impressive, so if you're looking for a list of tricks, look elsewhere) and the elements involved in theoretical conjuring (how we use misdirection to influence the perceptions of the "victim" and the reconstruction process) are discussed in moderate depth. It did get a tad repetitive at some points (hence my referenced temptation), but it was very efficient at giving guidelines for people interested in furthering themselves as magicians. I took something from it myself. Highly recommended.

This exceptional book studies the theoretical and above all psychological elements of conjuring, in an analytical way, especially considering the Misdirection and the Reconstruction. It is very very interesting and you can learn much from it. I am a magician so I know what I say.

A bit impenetrable, requiring more than one read, but it's short enough that that is not unreasonable. It's very interesting to read about magic and misdirection from a more psychological and scientific point of view. And when I mean "psychological", I don't mean the standard arm chair psychology offered by most, even some of the very best, magicians, but truly psychological from a dedicated and formally trained professional.

The book covers some great historical data that can be very difficult to dig up on your own. It misses the mark on some of the basic principles of human neuroscience - the subtle details of body language and neurolinguistics.

This is a good basic introduction for the new magician. I wish I had found something like this 40 years ago! While it may seem a bit basic for the experienced performer, the re-aquaintance with the basics and the concise format make it a good, thought-provoking read. And a good addition to the basic library, magician or not!

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