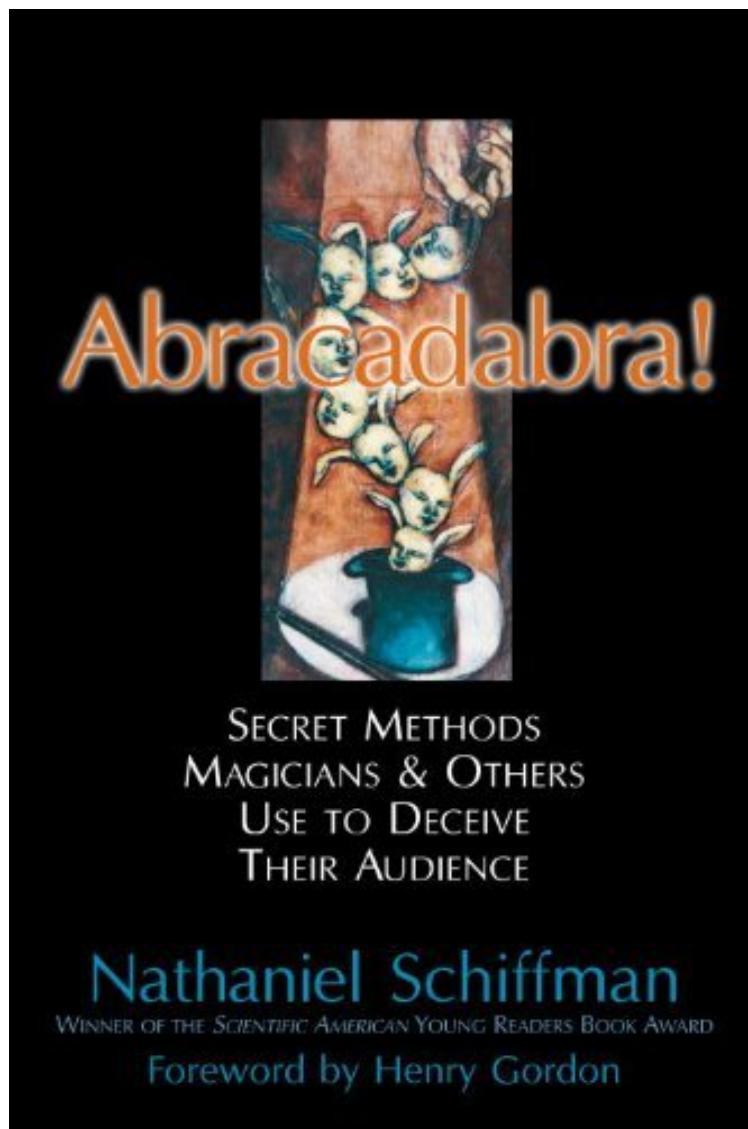


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Abracadabra: SECRET METHODS MAGICIANS AND OTHERS USE TO DECEIVE THEIR AUDIENCE

Nathaniel Schiffman
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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Really Refreshing View Of How Illusions Work By thirdtwinWritten in a somewhat technical/academic style- but covers a lot of material that most books on illusion

don't- especially useful in reminding the reader how the audience is distracted- and that often the trick is one of timing- things the audience sees as happening in the moment have actually been set up ahead of time in every detail- and the movements the audience sees have nothing to do at all with the actual secret behind the illusion. This book comes at entertainment from a different angle than the thousands of books that just list sleight of hand and card tricks.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An intriguing and very informative guide to magic of the late Victorian period. By CustomerTopnotch guide to illusions of the late 1800s and early 1900s. Illusions are presented at first as they would be perceived by the audience, then explained with the aid of excellent diagrams. They are also organised by type of illusion, making it easy to focus on one particular area - for example, a section on making a person disappear and all the versions and methods used at the time. The most surprising part of this book was that some of these illusions are still being performed today. I thoroughly enjoyed it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By huyenbihocgood book , good information

Magicians use more than just mirrors, string, and sleight of hand to deceive their audience. Those who are masters at this trade have developed an arsenal of techniques to manipulate people. Every action and utterance on stage and off is precisely planned to achieve a specific effect. Abracadabra! is an insider's look at what goes on at a magic show, behind-the-scenes, and in the mind of the magician. Nathaniel Schiffman explains the principles of deception, exposing those innocent-seeming motions that conceal vital actions from onlookers; how the conjurer uses misdirection of space and time to mislead the audience; how silly and simple optical illusions can fool us, and what to look for during a magic show. Also explored in detail is the world of off-stage magic. Some "magicians" use various techniques in life to deceive and influence you, yet these magicians don't boast of their magic talent, because they are advertisers, politicians, army commanders, spies, con artists, computer programmers, movie directors, faith healers, psychics, and others. These "magicians" work to make you buy their product, believe in their cause, and influence your thinking from the time you get up in the morning, until you go to bed at night. This is not a "how to" book for aspiring magicians, but a layperson's guide to methods used to mislead or fool you. Lighthearted and informal, Abracadabra! will fascinate anyone interested in knowing how one person can control many. Included are hands-on experiments, magic tricks, and reader participation segments. You'll soon see that magicians don't just manipulate playing cards and animals; they manipulate you.

"...unusually captivating book of the strange...wide-ranging analysis of the principles of illusion,...a hard book to lay down." -- Scientific American About the Author Nathaniel Schiffman (East Brunswick, NJ) is a writer and magic enthusiast whose longstanding fascination with magic has compelled him to explore the nature of illusion by devouring magic literature, attending countless performances, and performing tricks.