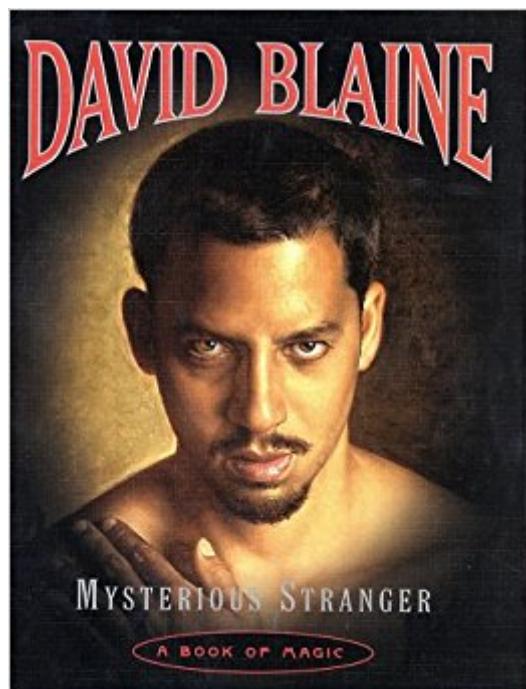


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Mysterious Stranger: A Book Of Magic



Synopsis

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

He was buried alive for a week in Times Square, encased in ice for three days, also in Times Square, and stood atop an 83-foot pillar in Manhattan's Bryant Park for 36 hours-and received national TV coverage for all these feats. Often touted as the new Houdini, Blaine is a consummate magician as well as endurance artist and an important force in the field for his advocacy of "street magic." In this spirited book, his first, Blaine offers readers a magical extravaganza on paper, a mix of autobiography, history of magic, how-to (do magic), interactive magic tricks and self-help advice. Blaine begins with intimations of stage magic's power, with an account of legendary 19th-century magician Robert-Houdin traveling to Algeria on orders of the French government to quell an uprising by showing that his magic was greater than that of the rebels. He ends with a knuckle-whitening account of his pillar stunt, a "dream manifesto" ("Read. Observe.... Our minds have no limits") and suggested resources including books of general interest (at the top: *The Brothers Karamazov*). This is a very personal volume, with Blaine's passionate, playful, opinionated, determined personality evident on nearly every page. Magic buffs will find much here that's familiar, like the recaps of magicians past and present, but even serious hobbyists will pick up tips from the tricks and explanations scattered throughout, and the final chapters, devoted to Blaine's endurance challenges, are pure gold. Copious illustrations enliven the already brisk text. Though doubling as major promo for Blaine, this is one of the most thorough and enjoyable introductions to magic in years. Two-color throughout; four-color photo inserts. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The Michael Jordan of magic. The hip-hop Houdini. These are some of Blaine's promotional tags. Even if you didn't join the 15.88 million viewers who watched this escape artist's "Frozen in Time" special, you might like to know that Robert DeNiro has optioned his life story. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I had previously finished reading Mike Tyson's autobiography and saw that it was co-written by Larry "Ratso" Sloman who had also co-written two other books I enjoyed by Howard Stern. So I went to to see what else Sloman had written, or co-written and I found this book by David Blaine as a \$2.99 e-book. I didn't really know what to expect when I first started reading it but must say I was pleasantly surprised by this book. At first I thought this book was going to be the history of magic according to David Blaine, but he also shared how to do a few easy card tricks. He discusses some of the influential magicians and their signature illusion. On some of the illusions he shares how the it is done other ones he does not either because he doesn't want to share or doesn't know. Once he

gets through sharing the history or illusion and side shows Blaine starts sharing his story. The stories surrounding him getting his start in magic by working as a waiter in New York City and doing parties. He discusses just walking up to people at clubs and on the streets to perform tricks. Blaine would constantly practice his card tricks to be solid. His story of getting on television, being offered a show on MTV and turning it down to signing with ABC, is an interesting one. The book really picks up pace when Blaine shares the behind the scenes information on his television specials including getting ready for both the buried alive and frozen stunts. I would recommend this book for anyone that is interested in magic and/or illusion. I think with some of the card tricks, that are clearly explained in writing along with illustrations, could be good for a shy child to learn maybe to make friends. There is also a chapter dealing with confidence and shares how some of the great showmen have built up their confidence that could help encourage a shy child. If you're a huge David Blaine fan and are hoping to learn more about the Mysterious Stranger through this book that will not happen. Blaine plays it pretty close to the vest concerning information about his private life. He does share his mother's story of fighting cancer, briefly winning and then ultimately losing the battle. The story never gets to personal beyond that.

This book is a mind-blower. Open it anywhere and start reading (which is how I read a lot, I'm pretty ADD) and you'll have a hard time putting it down. Each time I open the book, I end up sitting there with my jaw dropping open, and saying "Holy @#\$%&*! Listen to this!", a lot. Blaine talks about magic in history, about the most astounding magicians and their lives, about the dedication it takes to do this. He talks about his own life, and his travels and some really bizarre stuff he's seen and done. After seeing footage of him on the street, I had come to the conclusion that he was from another planet. Evidently he's not really magic or non-human. One thing I'm getting out of this book is what an extraordinary amount of dedication and passion magicians have, and just how many thousands of hours it takes them to get this good. This book is really fascinating. Plus, who knew the guy could write so well, too?

I loved the book. Great photos, history, biography, magic tricks, social commentary, motivational messages, thrill-seeking and dangerous action... FANTASTIC writing, a quick read- because I couldn't put the book down. There was a background overview of magic in general and autobiographically interesting topics. Buy it for the photos, buy it if you are a magic- loving hobbyist, buy it if you're an entertainer or if you work with or enjoy being around people. Buy it if you can't stand people and want to understand people who enjoy being around other people. Buy it if you are

interested in history, geography, world studies... Buy it if you get a thrill from reading about someone else's failures and insecurities. It's an honest and entertaining book, written by a strong thinker and expert communicator.

I bought Mysterious stranger just days ago after being a David Blaine fan for several years. I have read it twice, once beginning to end. Blaine is an expert at his craft and is truly dedicated. Blaine tells the history of magic and reveals the stories of some of the great showmen of all time. The book takes a look at Blaine's bio and some of his magic and feats of endurance. The layout, art, and editing of the book are as brilliant as Blaine's magic. I would recommend this book to anyone, Blaine fan or not. I truly respect the message that Blaine spreads and the manner in which he carries himself. He is always humble and spreads joy to people of all race, religion, and class. He believes(just as I) that mankind is capable of many things and that we always reach for our full potential. Blaine, as Houdini in his time, has set a new standard. I look forward to more from him.

I have to admit that I am not a magician, and I had never really heard of David Blaine until recently. I got this book for my boyfriend for his birthday. He loves it! I have taken a look at it, too, and one of the things I love the most is that it isn't a "normal" book by far. It's full of quotes and pictures and stories (good for those of us out there who have short attention spans and love pictures). David Blaine is a fascinating individual, and this book certainly exceeded my expectations! Very inspiring, I would highly recommend!

This book presents a fascinating look into the life of a very interesting man, David Blaine. I have come to gain a greater appreciation for the man and his art, and learned more about his eccentricities, his stunts, and how he got to where he is today. Along with being an interesting biography, this book presents invaluable tips and tricks to anyone interested in magic. One of my favorite tricks I learned from this book is a method by which you can know what someone's card is over the phone. If you want to know more about street magic, David Blaine, magic tricks, or just want an interesting read, pick it up.

An enlightening look into the life and work of one of America's great magicians. Filled with his thoughts but also some great tips for anyone with an interest in performing the magical arts.

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