Learned Pigs and Fireproof Women

Ricky Jay 1986

A fun and brilliantly researched history of the strangest entertainers in show business history by Ricky Jay, one of the great magicians working today and the self-styled scholar of the unusual. Black-and-white photographs and color illustrations.

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Ricky Jay 1998

A popular magician offers a guide to the most exotic entertainers in the history of showbusiness—from the amazing feats of handicapped individuals to the unusual talents of trained animals.

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A popular magician offers a guide to the most exotic entertainers in the history of showbusiness—from the amazing feats of handicapped individuals to the unusual talents of trained animals.

Cards as Weapons

Ricky Jay 1988

A tongue-in-cheek look at the newest method of self-defense details the history of card-throwing, exercises to improve your throwing ability, and fantastic stunts.

Matthias Buchinger

Ricky Jay 2016

Jay's Journal

Anonymous 2012-09-25

A withdrawn adolescent boy's initiation into the occult draws him ever deeper into the bizarre world of witchcraft, voodoo, and satanism until, at age sixteen, he commits suicide.

Many Mysteries Unraveled, Or, Conjuring Literature in America, 1786-1874

Ricky Jay 1990

Whipping Boy

Allen Kurzweil 2015-01-20

Winner of the Edgar® Award for Best Fact Crime The true account of one boy’s lifelong search for his boarding-school bully. Equal parts childhood memoir and literary thriller, Whipping Boy chronicles prize-winning author Allen Kurzweil’s search for his twelve-year-old nemesis, a bully named Cesar Augustus. The obsessive inquiry, which spans some forty years, takes Kurzweil all over the world, from a Swiss boarding school (where he endures horrifying cruelty) to the slums of Manila, from the Park Avenue boardroom of the world’s largest law firm to a federal prison camp in Southern California. While hunting down his tormentor, Kurzweil encounters an improbable cast of characters that includes an elocution teacher with ill-fitting dentures, a gang of faux royal swindlers, a crime investigator “with paper in his blood,” and a onocled grand master of the Knights of Malta. Yet for all its global exoticism and comic exuberance, Kurzweil’s riveting account is, at its core, a heartfelt and suspenseful narrative about the “parallel lives” of a victim and his abuser. A scrupulously researched work of nonfiction that renders a childhood menace into an unlikely muse, Whipping Boy is much more than a tale of karmic retribution; it is a poignant meditation on loss, memory, and mourning, a surreal odyssey born out of suffering, nourished by rancor, tempered by wit, and resolved, unexpectedly, in a breathtaking act of personal courage. Whipping Boy features two 8-page black-and-white photo inserts and 83 images throughout.

Pyg

Russell Potter 2012-07-31

Blending the sophisticated satire of Jonathan Swift with the charming exuberance of a Pixar film, Pyg tells the story of Toby, a truly exceptional pig who lives in late 18th-century England. After winning the blue ribbon at the Salford Livestock Fair and escaping the butcher's knife, Toby tours the country, wowing circus audiences with his ability to count, spell, and even read the minds of ladies (but only with their permission, of course). He goes on to study at Oxford and Edinburgh—encountering such luminaries as Samuel Johnson, Robert Burns, and William Blake—before finally writing his life story. Quirky, beguiling, and endlessly entertaining, this memoir of a "remarkable sapient pig" is a sharp and witty delight.

P.T. Barnum

A. H. Saxon 1989

I believe hugely in advertising and blowing my own trumpet, beating the gongs, drums, to attract attention to a show, Phineas Taylor Barnum wrote to a publisher in 1860. 'I don't believe in 'duping the public,' but I believe in first attracting and then pleasing them.' The name P.T. Barnum is virtually synonymous with the fine art of self-advertisement and the apocryphal statement, "There's a sucker born every minute." Nearly a century after his death, Barnum remains one of America's most celebrated figures. In the Selected Letters of P.T. Barnum, A.H. Saxon brings together more than 300 letters written by the self-styled "Prince of Humbugs." Here we see him, opinionated and exuberant, with only the rarest flashes of introspection and self-doubt, haggling with business partners, blustering over politics, and attempting to get such friends as Mark Twain to endorse his latest schemes. Always the
king of showmen, Barnum considered himself a museum man first and was forever on the lookout for "curiosities," whether animate or inanimate. His early career included such outright frauds as Joice Heth, the "161-year-old nurse of George Washington," and the Fejee Mermaid—the desiccated head and torso of a monkey sewn to the body of a fish. Although in later years he projected a more solid, respectable image-managing the irreproachable "legitimate" attraction Jenny Lind, becoming a leading light in the temperance crusade, founding the Barnum & Bailey Circus—much of his daily existence continued to be unabashedly devoted to manipulating public opinion so as to acquire for himself and his enterprises what he delightedly termed "notoriety." His famous autobiography, The Life of P.T. Barnum, which he regularly augmented during the last quarter century of his life, was itself a masterpiece of self-promotion. "Will you have the kindness to announce that I am writing my life & that fifty-seven different publishers have applied for the chance of publishing it," he wrote to a newspaper editor, adding, "Such is the fact—and if it wasn't, why still it ain't a bad announcement." The Selected Letters of P.T. Barnum captures the magic of this consummate showman's life, truly his own "greatest show on earth."

Knack Magic Tricks—Richard Kaufman 2010-02-09 From simple to advanced, and using household and inexpensive props, Knack Magic Tricks includes tricks using cards, coins, handkerchiefs, and fruit, as well as mental tricks, anytime tricks, standup tricks, and tricks especially for kids (to be performed both for them and by them).

Hitler's Games—Duff Hart-Davis 1986 A detailed, illustrated account of the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games ranges from the early planning from 1933 on to all key events of the games themselves, and covers the political and ideological factors involved

Pyg—Russell Potter 2011-11-03 After escaping the butcher's knife with the help of his steadfast companion Sam, Toby soon finds himself under the order of the volatile impresario Silas Bisset and his travelling menagerie of performing monkeys, horses, turkeys and canaries. Before too long, he is packing out theatres and concert halls, impressing the crowds with his ability to count, spell and even read the minds of ladies. But celebrity comes at a cost, as Toby soon finds out . . .

The Templar Revelation—Lynn Picknett 2004-09-21 THE MOST CLOSELY GUARDED SECRET OF THE WESTERN WORLD IS ABOUT TO BE REVEALED -- AND YOU WILL NEVER SEE CHRISTIANITY IN THE SAME LIGHT AGAIN. In a remarkable achievement of historical detective work that is destined to become a classic, authors Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince delve into the mysterious world of the Freemasons, the Cathars, the Knights Templar; and the occult to discover the truth behind an underground religion with roots in the first century that survives even today. Chronicling their fascinating quest for truth through time and space, the authors reveal an astonishing new view of the real motives and character of the founder of Christianity, as well as the actual historical -- and revelatory -- roles of John the Baptist and Mary Magdalene. Painstakingly researched and thoroughly documented, The Templar Revelation presents a secret history, preserved through the centuries but encoded in works of art and even in the great Gothic cathedrals of Europe, whose final chapter could shatter the foundation of the Christian Church.

The Old Neighborhood—David Mamet 2012-03-28 In The Old Neighborhood David Mamet confirms his stature as a master of the American stage, a writer who can turn the most innocuous phrase into a lit fuse and a family reunion into a perfectly orchestrated firestorm of sympathy, yearning, and blistering authentic rage. In these three short plays, a middle-aged Bobby Gould returns to the old-neighborhood in a series of encounters with his past that, however briefly, open windows on his present. In "The Disappearance of the Jews," Bobby and an old buddy fantasize about finding themselves in a nostalgic shtetl paradise while revealing how lost they are in their own families. In the comfort of her kitchen, Bobby's sister "Jolly" unscrolls a list of childhood grievances that is at nice painful and hilarious. And the old girlfriend in "Deeny," faced with a man she once loved, finds herself obsessively free-associating on gardening, sex, and subatomic particles. Swerving from comedy to terror, from tenderness to anguish—with a swiftness that unsettles even as it strikes home—The Old Neighborhood is classic Mamet.

Letter Fountain—Joep Pohlen 2015 In addition to examining the form and anatomy of every letter in the alphabet, punctuation marks and special characters, the book examines over 150 typefaces, their origins, and font characteristics, visually explained by full page tables including scale, weight, and useful alternatives. Cross-references allow typefaces to exist in a broader visual culture context, comparing important designs with seminal artpieces and movements, from Gutenberg's era to today. Special attention is also given to the aesthetics of the digital age and the choice of the right typeface for a job. Rounding out the guide are an in-depth comparison between sans-serif and serif typefaces, an essay about measuring systems and indications, advice about typographic rules, plus a manual for developing digital fonts.

Sum—David Eagleman 2009-02-10 At once funny, wistful and unsettling, Sum is a dazzling exploration of unexpected afterlives—each presented as a vignette that offers a stunning lens through which to see ourselves in the here and now. In one afterlife, you may find that God is the size of a microbe and unaware of your existence. In another version, you work as a background character in other people's dreams. Or you may find that God is a married couple, or that the universe is running backward, or that you are forced to live out your afterlife with annoying versions of who you could have been. With a probing imagination and deep understanding of the human condition, acclaimed neuroscientist David Eagleman offers wonderfully imagined tales that shine a brilliant light on the here and now.

Rocket Boys—Homer H. Hickam 2015-11-19 From the moment 'Sonny' Hickam watches a satellite pass overhead, he and his friends are determined that they will build a rocket. This is the true story of the boys' adventures from the moment their first rocket destroys a fence.

Gambling Scams—Darwin Ortiz 1997 Explains how to watch for the techniques used to cheat at forms of gambling such as blackjack, craps, roulette, and backgammon.

The Last Book You'll Ever Read and Other Lessons from the Future—Frank Ogden 1994
Words Are My Matter-Ursula K. Le Guin 2019-10-22 A collection of essays on life and literature, from one of the most iconic authors and astute critics in contemporary letters. Words Are My Matter is essential reading: a collection of talks, essays, and criticism by Ursula K. Le Guin, a literary legend and unparalleled voice of our social conscience. Here she investigates the depth and breadth of contemporary fiction—and, through the lens of literature, gives us a way of exploring the world around us. In “Freedom,” Le Guin notes: “Hard times are coming, when we’ll be wanting the voices of writers who can see alternatives to how we live now … to other ways of being, and even imagine real grounds for hope. We’ll need writers who can remember freedom—poets, visionaries—realists of a larger reality.” Le Guin was one of those authors and in Words Are My Matter she gives us just that: a vision of a better reality, fueled by the power and might and hope of language and literature.

The Golden Turkey Awards-Harry Medved 1980

Dark Majesty-Teex Marrs 2004-08-01 Texe Marrs’ best-selling books have sold over two million copies. Now he does it again with this shocking expose’ of the men of the Secret Brotherhood. Imagine a secret society of grotesque rituals, with candidates lying naked in a coffin as hooded figures, carrying candles, chanting strange epithets and magical formulas... A secret society whose symbol is the death’s head—skull and bones... A secret society that includes in its ranks three U.S. Senators, the overseer of one of the world’s greatest banking fortunes, and the president of the United States of America. The men of the Secret Brotherhood are super-rich and greedy, and they’re deadly. Do these men control the CIA? Did they mastermind both the JFK assassination and the Persian Gulf crisis? Are they responsible for some of America’s most notorious financial scandals? The calculating men of the Secret Brotherhood have a hidden plan, but you won’t know what it involves. So far, their plot has succeeded beyond their wildest dreams. Now they want more. To get their way what on earth will these powerful but corrupt men do next?

The Notorious Dr. August-Christopher Bram 2009-10-13 Christopher Bram tells the story of Augustus Fitzwilliam Boyd, alias Dr. August, a clairvoyant pianist who communes with ghosts, and who finds meaning in his life through a strange love triangle with a righteous ex-slave and nervous white governess. Spanning the years between the Civil War and the early 1920’s, this riveting and ambitious historical novel displays the immense talents of a prodigious, highly esteemed author working at the height of his powers.

Fugitives and Refugees-Chuck Palahniuk 2007-12-18 Want to know where Chuck Palahniuk’s tonsls currently reside? Been looking for a naked mannequin to hide in your kitchen cabinets? Curious about Chuck’s debut in an MTV music video? What goes on at the Scum Center? How do you get to the Apocalypse Café? In the closest thing he may ever write to an autobiography, Chuck Palahniuk provides answers to all these questions and more as he takes you through the streets, sewers, and local haunts of Portland, Oregon. According to Katherine Dunn, author of the cult classic Geek Love, Portland is the home of America’s “fugitives and refugees.” Get to know these folks, the “most cracked of the crackpots,” as Palahniuk calls them, and come along with him on an adventure through the parts of Portland you might not otherwise believe actually exist. No other travel guide will give you this kind of access to “a little history, a little legend, and a lot of friendly, sincere, fascinating people who maybe should’ve kept their mouths shut.” Here are strange personal museums, weird annual events, and ghost stories. Tour the tunnels under downtown Portland. Visit swingers’ sex clubs, gay and straight. See Frances Gabe’s famous 1940s Self-Cleaning House. Look into strange local customs like the I-Tit-a-Rod Race and the Santa Rampage. Learn how to talk like a local in a quick vocabulary lesson. Get to know, I mean really get to know, the animals at the Portland zoo. Oh, the list goes on and on.

Sinai Tapestry-Edward Whittemore 2007-07-15 Sinai Tapestry, the brilliant first novel of the Jerusalem Quartet, is an epic alternate history of the Middle East in which the discovery of the original Bible links a disparate group of remarkable people across time and space. In 1840, Plantagenet Strongbow, the twenty-ninth Duke of Dorset, seven-feet-seven-inches tall and the greatest swordsman and botanist of Victorian England, walks away from the family estate and disappears into the Sinai Desert carrying only a large magnifying glass and a portable sundial. He emerges forty years later as an Arab holy man and anthropologist, now the author of a massive study of Levantine sex—and the secret owner of the Ottoman Empire. Meanwhile, Skanderbeg Wallenstein has discovered the original Bible, lost on a dusty bookshelf in the monastery library. To his amazement, it defies every truth held by the three major religions. Nearly a century later, Haj Harun, an antiquities dealer who has acted as guardian of the Holy City for three thousand years, uncovers the hidden Bible. Sinai Tapestry is the first volume of the Jerusalem Quartet, which continues with Jerusalem Poker, Nile Shadows, and Jericho Mosaic.

Magic and Showmanship-Henning Nelms 2012-04-30 Highly instructive book by a noted authority on the subject analyzes every phase of conjuring, from sleights, devices, misdirection, and controlling audience attention to incorporating patter and the effective use of assistants.

Mysterious Stranger-David Blaine 2003 David Blaine, downtown hipster and extraordinary illusionist, offers an exploration of the mysteries and history of the ancient art of magic. Mysterious Stranger brings Blaine’s magic directly to his audience. In the book you’ll find: mind-bending tricks you can learn to do by yourself; interactive magic effects; mind-reading and psychic techniques; David Blaine’s unique perspective on the art of magic; a copiously illustrated history of the art; and autobiographical background and an insight into David’s private world.

Hiding the Elephant-Jim Steinmeyer 2005 This is the story of the Golden Age of magic and of the world’s most legendary magicians: the eccentric personalities who patented the first ghost and competed fiendishly in the race to make things materialize, levitate and disappear. We meet Harry Kellar, the ruthless thief of secrets who was the model for the Wizard of Oz, and PT Selbit, the first man to saw a woman in half on stage. We meet John Nevil Maskelyne, whose Egyptian Theatre was a London institution for sixty years. Hiding the Elephant is the masterwork of a man who has dedicated his life to magic, who knows the tricks inside out, and still believes.

The Icon Thief-Alec Nevala-Lee 2012-03-06 A controversial masterpiece resurfaces in Budapest. A ballerina’s headless corpse is found beneath the boardwalk at Brighton Beach. And New York's Russian mob is about to collide with the equally ruthless art world... Maddy Blume, an ambitious young art buyer for a Manhattan hedge fund, is desperate to track down a priceless painting by Marcel Duchamp, the most influential artist of the twentieth century. The discovery of a woman’s decapitated body thrusts criminal investigator Alan Powell into a search for the same painting, with its enigmatic image of a headless nude. And a Russian thief and assassin known as the Scythian must steal the painting to save his...
reputation – and his life. The murderous race is on. And in the lead is an insidious secret society intent on reclaiming the painting for reasons of its own – and by any means necessary. 

The True History of the Elephant Man - Peter Ford 2010-04-01 Due to horrible physical deformities, he spent much of his life as a fair-ground freak. He was hounded, persecuted, and starving, until his fortune changed and he was rescued, housed, and fed by the distinguished surgeon, Frederick Treves. The subject of several books, a Broadway hit, and a film, Joseph Merrick has become part of popular mythology. Here, in this fully revised edition containing much fresh information, are the true and unromanticized facts of his life.

The Woman Without a Hole - & Other Risky Themes from Old Japanese Poems - Robin D. Gill 2007 17-syllabet Japanese poems about human foibles, sans season (i.e., not haiku), were introduced a half-century ago by RH Blyth in two books, “Edo Satirical Verse Anthologies” and “Japanese Life and Character in Senryu.” Blyth regretted having to introduce not the best senryu, but only the best that were clean enough to pass the censors. In this anthology, compiled, translated and essayed by Robin D. Gill, like Blyth, a renowned translator of thousands of haiku, we find 1,300 of the senryu (and zappai) that would once have been dangerous to publish. The book is not just an anthology of dirty poems such as Legman’s classic “Limericks” or Burford’s delightful “Bawdy Verse,” but probing essays of thirty themes representative of the eros - both real and imaginary - of Edo, at the time, the world’s largest city. Japanese themselves use senryu for historical documentation of social attitudes and cultural practices; thousands of senryu (and the related zappai), including many poems we might consider obscene, serve as examples in the Japanese equivalent of the OED (nipponkokugodaijiten). The specialized argot, obscure allusions and ellipsis that make reading dirty senryu a delightful riddle for one who knows just enough to be challenged yet not defeated, make them impenetrable to outsiders, so this educational yet entertaining resource has not been accessible to most students of Japanese (and the limited translations prove that even professors have difficulty with it). This book tries to accomplish the impossible: it includes all the information - original poems, pronunciation, explanation, glossary - needed to help specialists improve their senryu reading skills, while refraining from full citations to leave plenty of room for the curious monolingual to skip about the ecletic goodies. [Published simultaneously with two titles as an experiment.]

Extraordinary Exhibitions - Ricky Jay 2005 An informal history of sensational, scientific, silly, satisfying, and startling attractions based on seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth-century broadsides from Ricky Jay’s extraordinary collection.

Doc Savage Omnibus - Chris Roberson 2015-02-24 Raised to be perfect both mentally and physically, Doc Savage travels the world using brains and brawn to right wrongs.

A Madhouse in Goa - Martin Sherman 1998

Jay's Journal of Anomalies - Ricky Jay 2003 This excursion into the history of bizarre entertainments includes armless calligraphers, mathematical dogs, tightrope-walking fleas and assorted quacks, flimflammers and charlatans of spectacle.

Puppetry of the Penis - Simon Morley 2010 A few years ago, Simon Morley and David Friend began performing their repertoire of dick tricks’ live on stage in Melbourne. After a hit first season at the 1998 Melbourne Comedy Festival, they embarked on a national tour, which took eight months, covered 20,000 kilometres and was captured in all its glory in the documentary ‘Tackle Happy’. Receiving overwhelming critical acclaim at the 2000 Edinburgh Festival, Puppetry of the Penis was a sell-out West End hit in London, and took New York and North America by storm in 2001. The show now continues to travel the world, liberating and enthralling its audiences, having now been performed in 3 languages, in over 30 countries, by over 60 Puppeteers trained up by the masters. Simon and David officially now have the “most famous, flaccid penises on earth”. Now, for the first time, the secrets of the Ancient Australian Art of Genital Origami are revealed. Marvel at the Atomic Mushroom; be blown away by the Windsurfer; coo at the Baby Bird; be amazed by the Hamburger. This user’s guide to an age-old art is a book that every man should study - and every woman should learn from.

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