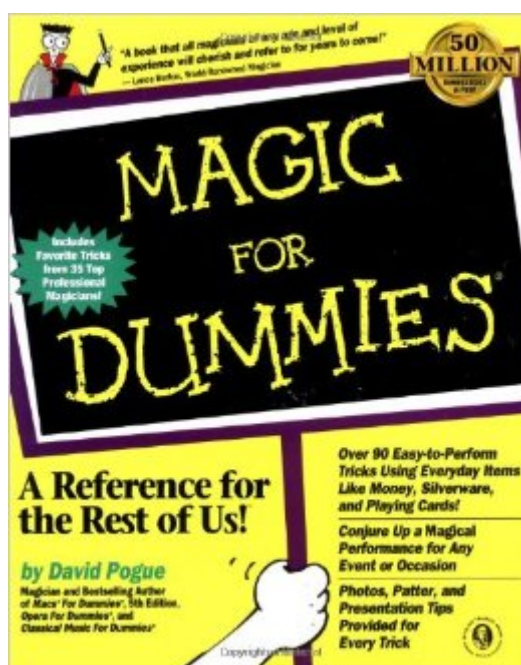


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# Magic For Dummies



## Synopsis

You don't need a white tiger, expensive props, or hours of preparation to do magic. With a little practice, some clever misdirection (which lays at the heart of all magic tricks), and showmanship, you can surprise family, friends, and coworkers using a few everyday items! If you're looking to saw a beautiful woman in half or make buildings disappear, we're sorry, but this book isn't for you. But if you want to act out little miracles that you can perform on the spur of the moment with items that are usually within reach, then *Magic For Dummies* can show you how. *Magic For Dummies* features more than 90 easy-to-perform deceptions, illusions, and sleights of hand for any event or occasion. You'll discover how to perform entertaining card tricks, coin tricks, disappearing acts, as well as the always-popular mind reading trick. You'll even see how easy it is to make money disappear as well as melt a saltshaker! Chock-full of show-stopping tricks, *Magic For Dummies* will:

- Get you started with easy-to-learn magic tricks
- Let you turn a restaurant into a your stage with tricks that include utensils, mugs, and even food
- Show you how to use a deck of cards to perform endless magic tricks
- Make you the life of the party with tricks such as "Call This Number," "The Strength Test," and "The Phantom Photo"
- Get you out of tough situations by giving you ten things to say when things go wrong

Filled with photos, patter, and presentation tips for every trick in the book, *Magic For Dummies* offers a great opportunity to become familiar with some of the coolest magic tricks ever performed. With the help of author David Pogue and the stunning tricks contributed by thirty-five of America's top professional magicians, you'll be leaving your friends, family, and coworkers spellbound at your mastery of the mystical arts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is more than a simple collection of tricks. It's a full introduction to the world of magic. Not only do you discover the secrets behind tricks that you can reproduce without much special equipment, you also get a foundation in the whole art of magic. Most of the book is, of course, consumed with telling you how to do stuff. The tricks are organized by the venue in which they could best be performed. There are tricks for the office, tricks for restaurants, tricks for parties, and tricks for wherever you carry a pack of cards. The instructions for all the tricks are clear and even humorous. Mr. Pogue is an excellent teacher, able to convey in writing what many couldn't do through speech. But the book is more than just these tricks. It's also a guide to the performance art of magic itself. Nothing, according to Mr. Pogue, is as important as the panache you can exhibit. And of course he's right. Pogue teaches you that the projection of confidence is, more than anything you do with your hands, responsible for the creation of illusion. He also gives you a real sense of the history and tradition of magic. There's an introduction to famous magicians and a listing of resources to help you continue your exploration of the craft. I was also impressed to discover that there's an attempt at a "trickography"-something like a bibliography attempting to credit, where possible, the inventors of the included tricks. This trickography goes into some detail about the responsibility that magicians have towards each other, even though there's nothing in the magician's trade which can be copyrighted. All in all, it's a fine work, well worth your money.

(...)If you're looking for some new magic tricks and a good laugh (Eccl. 3:4), read "Magic for Dummies" by David Pogue. Don't let the title fool you, even experienced magicians can benefit from this book. The book contains many impromptu effects--things you can do anywhere with familiar objects. For example, you're in a restaurant with your friends and the conversation lulls. You take a packet of sugar off the center of the table and pour it into your clenched fist. Give it a little squeeze and "voila!" there's no sugar to be found. You could adapt many of the tricks to a Biblical theme. For example, "The Phantom Photo" is an illusion where you assemble an empty picture frame, an audience member selects a famous movie star, and their photo appears in the frame. This same illusion and a little imagination could turn it into a lesson about the major Bible prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. Each chapter has something valuable. The effects are quite strong and unique. Many of the tricks were submitted by over 35 of the top magicians in the world. In addition to the secret, David adds tips and valuable suggested patter to the effects. The book contains several cartoons by Rich Tennant (The 5th Wave). One was especially appropriate for the Christian Conjuror and is included with this review. I found the answers provided to common

questions like "How did you do that?" and things you can say when you flub a trick very helpful. Although I wish I never needed to use those lines, reality proves me wrong. It's good to be prepared. To help you become a well-rounded magician, David has also included a couple of chapters on the history of magic, describing some of the most famous magicians and incredible moments in magic.

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