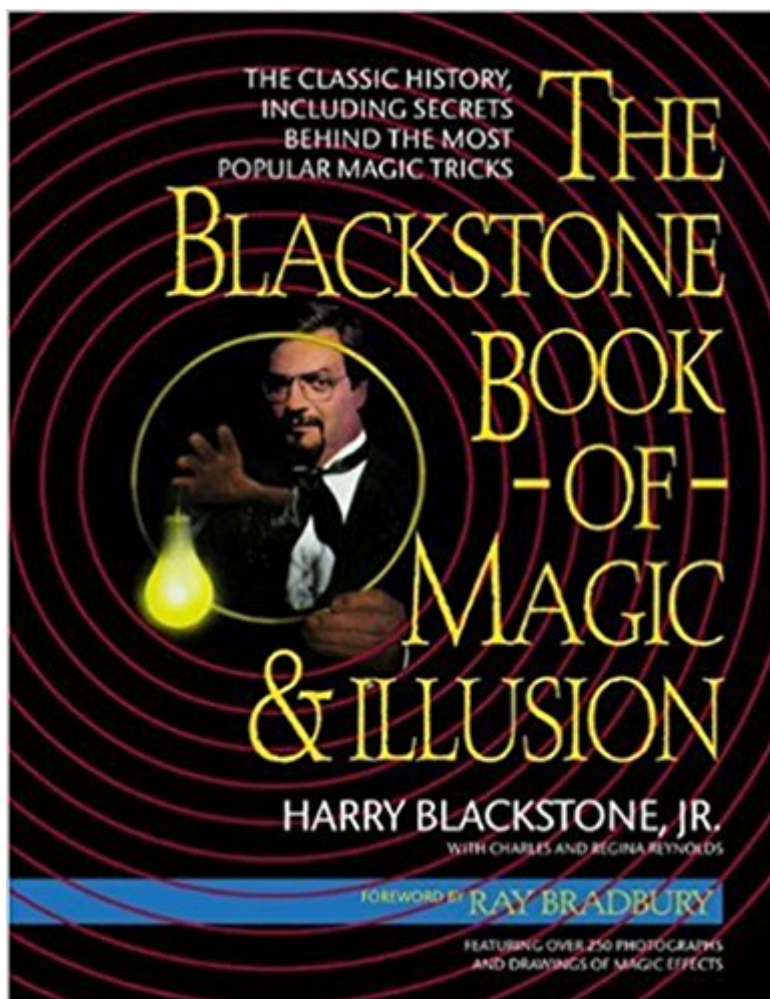


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# The Blackstone Book Of Magic & Illusion



## Synopsis

Finally back in print! This much-in-demand classic coincides with November release of Harry Potter movie and the explosive popularity of magic and magicians! Ideal giftbook for all ages! This unique volume, with over 250 photos and drawings, includes the complete Blackstone story, along with a vivid and varied appreciation of the history, science, and art of illusion, from the temples of ancient Egypt to the vaudeville stages of the 1920s to Broadway, Las Vegas, and television, including profiles of the greatest stage magicians, sleight-of-hand entertainers, and mentalists. The book discusses the why and how of magic (vanishing, transformation, escapes, mentalism, etc.), and the psychological principles behind effects such as sensory illusions and misdirection. In addition, the book contains 20 classic magic routines in detailed execution. Among them: The cups and balls; The classic coin-palm; Sawing a woman in half with a rope rather than a saw; The ring on a ribbon; The Hindu card shuffle; And eight other confounding card tricks 250 b/w photos and drawings.

## Book Information

Paperback: 230 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #827,147 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Games > Magic #197 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Magic & Illusion #257 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Magic

## Customer Reviews

Harry Blackstone Jr. shares the history of modern magic, largely as seen through the eyes of his family. His father was the original Great Blackstone and Blackstone has carried on the tradition. This is not a merely anecdotal history, however. It's Blackstone's personal reflections on the art and game of magic--not just how it works but why it works as entertainment. It's about the psychological showmanship as well as the craft. Included are lessons in how to perform tricks that go beyond the

mere technical details to show how to make a simple trick a piece of true theater. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Entertaining and very readable. -- Publishers Weekly[A] wonderfully entertaining and informative book. -- ALA Booklist

really good for those who wish to study the history of magic performers. Blackstone Jr. was always a favorite

If you are looking for a book to learn magic tricks, try something else (like the Mark Wilson Course in Magic.) But if you would like a general book about magic history, especially the careers of the Blackstone Family, this is a good book to get. It covers all aspects of magic starting with ancient China, going through medieval times and heavily emphasizing from 1850 - 1980. Lots of photos and descriptions of a variety of magicians but only gets in depth with the Blackstones. It does have a few basic tricks but they are covered much better in other books. Overall I enjoyed it.

I have to say that this book gives a history of magic and some vague answers to the art of magic and illusion. It was basic information with some simple tricks. You could probably find the same stuff on the internet for free. If you are looking for answers about bigger illusions than making two matches pass through each other then this is not your book. He implies that the reader is not ready for some of the larger tricks in a tone that could be considered arrogant. Also, there is a lot of him tooting his own horn or telling you how great he is and how great his dad was, like we did not already know. He makes several references in the book as to how his dad was better than Houdini and how Houdini stole ideas and property from his dad. Maybe true, but that's not what I bought the book for. All in all, don't waste your money. It would be better spent elsewhere....you could learn more on YouTube and not have to read through all the fluff.

As a Conjuror I have studied the classic works of many of the great old conjurers. Of all of them Blackstone is one of the most well known. This book provides clear and simple explanations of some of the greatest tricks and illusions known to Magic. Great for the beginning or advanced conjuror.

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