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The Witch of Lime Street: Séance, Seduction, and Houdini in the Spirit World



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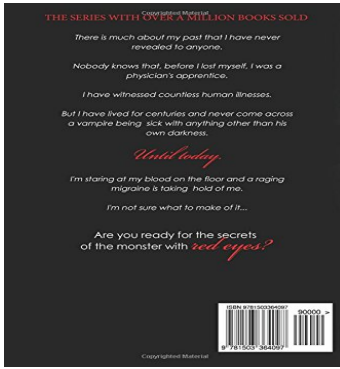
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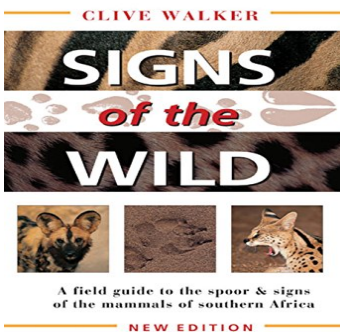
History comes alive in this textured account of the rivalry between Harry Houdini and the so-called Witch of Lime Street, whose iconic lives intersected at a time when science was on the verge of embracing the paranormal. The 1920s are famous as the golden age of jazz and glamour, but it was also an era of fevered yearning for communion with the spirit world, after the loss of tens of millions in the First World War and the Spanish-flu epidemic. A desperate search for reunion with dead loved ones precipitated a tidal wave of self-proclaimed psychics—and, as reputable media sought stories on occult phenomena, mediums became celebrities. Against this backdrop, in 1924, th

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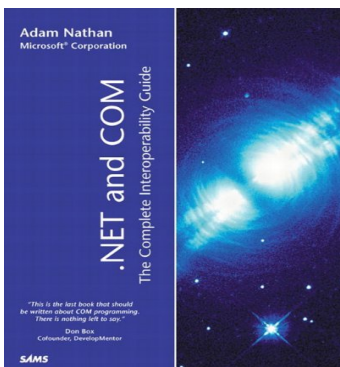
A Shade of Kiev 2 (Volume 2)

Book 2 of the completed A Shade of Kiev trilogy, from million-bestselling author Bella Forrester.



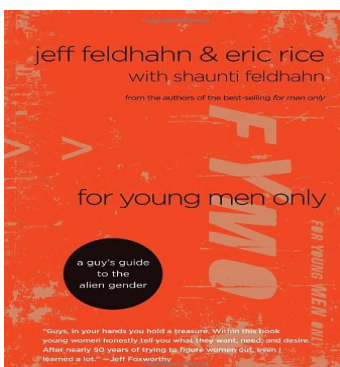
Signs of the Wild: A Field Guide to the Spoor & Signs of the Mammals of Southern Africa

This compact field guide to the identification of Southern African mammals based on their spoor, droppings and skulls has long been a top seller. This edition offers up-to-date information on identification through signs; provides new illustrations for a number of species; and features illustration



.NET and COM: The Complete Interoperability Guide

<> The focus of the book is on COM Interoperability (since it's a much larger subject), and the heart of the discussion is broken down into four parts: Using COM Components Within the .NET Framework Using .NET Framework Components from COM Designing Good .NET Framework Components for CO



For Young Men Only: A Guy's Guide to the Alien Gender

Just for guys...the inside scoop on girls from the girls themselves.Okay, the authors aren't girls. But to bring you the facts they surveyed more than 1,000 of them. Every teen guy wants to know how girls are wired, what they want, and how they really think... Or at least

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What others say about this ebook:

Review 1:

Not my "cup of tea".

Review 2:

An in depth look at Harry Houdini's battle against medium Mina Crandon (known to her followers as Margery) in a time when spiritualists were courted as celebrities. When the Scientific American launches a contest, offering a sizable cash reward to any spiritualist who can hold up under the scrutiny of a panel of judges, proving true communication with the dead, mediums crawl out of the woodwork. As part of the panel, Houdini and others unmask many as frauds, but are split when it comes to Margery whose displays of physic ability appear genuine—at least in the opinion of most of the judges, with the exception of Houdini.

This is a wonderfully detailed and obviously impeccably researched novel that brings the Jazz age and America's fascination with mysticism to life. The reader is treated to Houdini's friendship with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the ups and downs of their relationship, Houdini's doggedness in his quest to expose charlatans—particularly Margery—and the numerous people who moved in their circles.

The chapters are mostly short, so although the book is somewhat lengthy, it reads like a breeze. Mr. Jaher has a beautiful way with prose that brings each section vividly to life, presenting history and research in a manner that reads like a page-turner. The reader is thoroughly transported to another time when people flocked to séances on a regular basis, delighting in the displays of channeled spirits, bell ringing, raps, table levitation and more. I spent several days thoroughly immersed in this book, enthralled by the time period and the people who populated it, saddened to see it end.

Review 3:

I would give it maybe a four except that Jaher is an astonishing writer, and he is able to make silk out of dross the oldest way in the book—that is, he is a poet, and his most memorable passages are not about people but about propensities, metaphors, the way one thing matches another in some way only a poet can see. It is the most Chestertonian book I've read in ages, and heaps better than some actual Chestertons I could mention. His ideas about the reasons why the seance and the tickertape parade became popular at exactly the same time are nonsensical when you think about them afterwards, and yet as he writes them, they seem as convincing to the reader as they must have to the writer.

The book is built up, as other reviewers here have told you, of dozens of small chapters each with a poetic or allusive title, and so there is little use in going back to any particular one and remembering what it is about from the title. He does not seem to want ever to focus our attention of any one character, for after a few pages on Houdini, he jumps back across the ocean and tells us about Conan Doyle, or about the ever-changing circle that gathered around Mina Crandon to witness her extraordinary brother come back from the dead. It's one cliff hanger after another, but in the end, few of them actually amount to anything, and they all become footnotes in what seems to be the main story of the book, the prize money offered by the Scientific American to that medium who can produce convincing evidence of life after death.

A friend of mine recommended the Long Island medium John Edward McGee, who was all the vogue about 12 years ago. Through him she had gotten word that her deceased son was at rest

and still loved her, When my wife and I went to see John Edward at the Masonic Auditorium here in San Francisco, a wave of disappointment, closely akin to rage and/or contempt, blew through me and I knew Houdini's feelings for charlatans taking advantage of grief. I have to say that I did not see Mina Crandon as a John Edward type?the "Mr. Sludge the Medium" toady that Robert Browning abhorred. Mina, or "Margery" to use her alias, convinced me through Jaher's entire book. In fact, I read it carefully and I still don't see how Houdini trapped her, or why he other judges changed their once favorable opinion about her.

She was genuine, I think, so I'm on the side of Conan Doyle about this one. My mother was a Doyle and we used to assume we were closely related to the creator of Sherlock Holmes, as well as to the credulous believer in fairies. Something was happening on Lime Street and Houdini just used this occasion, as he had many times before, to probe the private parts of the women he claimed to be "investigating for hidden ectoplasm." God help us, the shibboleths of the 20s, and all the investigating by "scientists" that had to be done.

Review 4:

Great book. Detailed account of the final obsession of Harry Houdini - exposing fake mediums. Margery is his biggest case and this book tells the story brilliantly.

Review 5:

Fascinating things you didn't know about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Harry Houdini and the Spiritualism movement that swept the US and Western Europe after the First World War--to say nothing of the magazine Scientific American. And ectoplasm! A good enough read and well-researched, but by the end I was disappointed there weren't more clear-cut, "how'd they do that!?!?" answers. It didn't turn me into a 'believer' but I was astounded that the investigators in the case couldn't seem to decide one way or another in so many instances. I'd call Jaher's prose somewhere between purple and workmanlike--but the dramatization will make a fun movie.

The Witch of Lime Street: Séance, Seduction, and Houdini in the ...

The Witch of Lime Street: Séance, Seduction, and Houdini in the Spirit World [David Jaher] on *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. History comes alive in this textured account of the rivalry between Harry Houdini and the so-called Witch of Lime Street.

'Lime Street' Bewitches With Mystery And Mayhem : NPR

Oct 10, 2015 ... David Jaher's account of Harry Houdini attempt to debunk Boston society psychic Mina Crandon mixes history with high-wire theatricality — even though most readers will know who came out on top. ... **The Witch of Lime Street. Seance, Seduction, and Houdini in the Spirit World. by David Jaher. Hardcover ...**

The Witch of Lime Street: Séance, Seduction, and Houdini in the ...

Oct 1, 2015 ... The following is from David Jaher's **The Witch of Lime Street: Séance, Seduction, and Houdini in the Spirit World**. David Jaher received a BA from Brandeis University and an MFA in Film Production from New York University. At NYU, he was the recipient of the WTC Johnson Fellowship for directing.

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