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Jim Steinmeyer

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Jim Steinmeyer : Hiding The Elephant before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hiding The Elephant:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Very Magical Book By C. McNair Wilson Discovered this remarkable book in "Shakespeare Co." the legendary bookshop in Paris. The title and cover art grabbed me and I

jumped right in to the delightful stories, wonderfully recounted by (to my amazement) my old friend Jim Steinmeyer. He is the ingenious mind behind some of modern magic's grandest moments--the disappearance of the Statue of Liberty and many more. My traveling partner, MaxPaul, and I spent the balance of our European trip taking turns reading, and loving, "Elephants." Jim Steinmeyer is a highly-respected and noted illusion designer, magic historian, and, best of all, a enthusiast for all things magic and magical. Jim and I worked together at Walt Disney Imagineering and he is the real thing. He often introduced us to new and thrilling ways to make our "Disney magic" even more magical--in theme parks, resort night clubs, and Disney's Broadway productions. Make "HIDING THE ELEPHANT" a visible presence in your library. I have mine on the living room coffee table for easy access--and to share with every visitor. As an unexpected bonus, the book also contains several deft illustrations of legendary magicians created by a living legend (also one-time Imagineer) William (my friend "Bill") Stout. (William Stout's books on their own are as magical as anything in print!) 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. PLEASE Mr. Steinmeyer, Raise the Price to \$75 Stop Selling Magicians Out... By Lee Scott I wish Mr. Steinmeyer would quit publishing the good stuff for laymen. This book spills the beans on some really powerful illusions. My grandfather was the town magician (think Mayberry) and paid hundreds of dollars for the blueprints for these exact illusions. Well, I guess we just have to hope a copy will fall into the hands of the next David Copperfield. If you know of a very smart child or teen this book would be a great birthday or Christmas present. Mr. Steinmeyer has similar titles that should also be considered. Google is website. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Do you really want to know? By Paul Seriously, do you really want to know how magic tricks are done? Ponder that for a moment. If you wanted to make an elephant disappear, how would you do it? Would you hide the elephant behind something? Maybe you just want to make the elephant appear to be present, i.e. the magic part is what happens before "abracadabra". Well, if you really want to know and have it explained to you as a story encompassing the development of magic in the 19th and 20th centuries then you must read this book. I do wish the book had a few more diagrams and maybe even photographs of magic equipment but perhaps that would be giving away too much information. I'm not a magician, not even an amateur one, but I can do a few tricks (pick a card, any card) and I know what a Svengali deck is. If you are on the same level then I think you will like this book. But if always feel let down when the mechanics of a trick are revealed, that's probably what you will feel at the end of this book. But I liked it a lot.

In 1918 Harry Houdini performed a single illusion that has been hotly debated ever since: he made a live elephant disappear on stage. How did he do it? The answer lies in this dazzling tale of innovation, chicanery and keen competition that is the backstage story of the golden age of magic. Hiding the Elephant chronicles the race among history's most legendary conjurers to make things levitate and disappear. A master illusionist and captivating storyteller, Steinmeyer introduces us to the eccentric personalities behind floating ghosts, disembodied heads and vanishing ladies and takes us backstage to reveal the mechanics of their mysteries. He carries us to a time when Queen Victoria held private seances and all of England believed in magic.

"An extremely entertaining history of magic" * Sunday Telegraph * "Highly readable... fascinating... remarkable" * The Mail * "Steinmeyer's history of the golden age of stage magic was a dazzling read, and has given me a few ideas about how to keep the family entertained at Christmas" -- Matthew Sweet * Independent * "A highly entertaining study of magic's Golden Age" * The Times * "Highly readable ... fascinating ... A remarkable collection of strongly motivated egomaniacs and charlatans, all depicted in the boldest of colours" * Marcus Berkman * About the Author Jim Steinmeyer has designed illusions for David Copperfield, Ricky Jay, Siegfried Roy and Orson Welles, and for six Broadway shows including The Beauty and the Beast. A consultant for a forthcoming BBC documentary on the history of magic and producer of a Channel 4 documentary, he is currently working on Richard Eyre's Mary Poppins and is a contributing editor of Magic magazine.