

# Who Was Harry Houdini

## Who Was Harry Houdini?

Every kid has heard of Harry Houdini, the famous magician who could escape from handcuffs, jail cells, and locked trunks. But do they know that the ever-ambitious and adventurous Houdini was also a famous movie star and the first pilot to fly a plane in Australia? This well-told biography is full of the details of Houdini's life that kids will really want to know about and illustrated throughout with beautiful black-and-white line drawings. Illustrated by John O'Brien.

## Harry Houdini for Kids

Illusionist, escape artist, movie star, aviator, and spy—Harry Houdini was all these and an international celebrity and the world's most famous magician. This fascinating biography looks at all the facets of Houdini's amazing life and includes 21 magic tricks and illusions for a hands-on learning experience. Children will be inspired by this Jewish immigrant who grew up in poverty and, through perseverance and hard work, went on to become one of the most popular and successful entertainers of all time. Houdini was an artist who created his acts carefully, practicing them for years in some cases. He performed such seemingly impossible stunts as escaping several sets of handcuffs and ropes after jumping off a bridge into a flowing river. Kids will learn how he devised his most legendary stunts and will also learn the science and logic behind many of Houdini's acts including his famous milk can escape. Kids can amaze their family and friends with these simple, entertaining, and fun tricks and illusions: Stepping through an index card Performing an odd number trick Making a coin appear Mind reading with a secret code Making a magic box Lifting a person with one hand Making a talking board And much more

## Houdini on Magic

This early work by Walter B. Gibson and Morris N. Young was originally published in the early 20th century and we are now republishing it. 'Houdini on Magic' contains a wealth of information on Houdini's approach to magic and the various tricks he performed in front of stunned crowds.

## The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin

In "The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin," Harry Houdini meticulously dissects the mythology surrounding Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin, often hailed as the father of modern magic. Through a blend of biographical narrative and rigorous investigation, Houdini argues against the romanticized legacy of Robert-Houdin, revealing the man behind the illusions. The book melds elements of memoir and critical analysis, employing a direct and engaging prose style that invites readers to question the veracity of established narratives in magical history. With the turn of the 20th century as a backdrop, Houdini's work situates itself within the broader discourse of performance and deception, illuminating the theatricality and secrets inherent in the art of magic. Harry Houdini, born Erik Weisz, was not only a renowned magician and escape artist but also a keen historian of the magical arts. His fascination with magic began in his youth, leading him to scrutinize its historical foundations critically. Houdini's nuanced understanding of illusion and performance, coupled with his personal battles against fraudulent practitioners of magic and spiritualism, directly influenced his pursuit to unveil the truth behind Robert-Houdin's mythos. For readers intrigued by the interplay of history, art, and

illusion, \"The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin\" stands as a compelling exposition that challenges established norms and celebrates the craft of magic. Houdini's sharp insights and passionate prose make this work essential for both enthusiasts of magic and scholars seeking to understand the complexities of performance art.

## **A Magician Among the Spirits**

Harry Houdini's expose of the fraudulent spiritualist, spirit photography, spirit slate writing, ectoplasm, clairvoyance, and other quakery and cons perpetrated on desperate believers. Specific spiritualists covered in the book include Dr. Slade, the Davenport Brothers, Anne O'Delia Diss Debar, the Fox Sisters, Daniel Dunglas Home, Eusapia Palladino, and other con artists of their ilk. The whole nation was excited by Houdini's campaign against fakers. He traveled across the country, offering money for spirit activities he would be unable to duplicate by his use of skilled illusions. It was a heyday not only for Houdini, but for the spiritualists themselves -- and there was an equally famous protagonist who thought the spirits could indeed be contacted, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. A photo at the start of the book records a meeting between Houdini and Doyle, who is given his own chapter in the book. There's also a full section on Daniel Dunglas Home, the English engineer of spectacular paranormal effects. Houdini saves his sharpest arguments for spiritualists who were giving their (usually paying) clients a vision of the hereafter, and shares the methods used to practice \"fake\" and sensational spiritualism. Houdini was nothing if not unrelenting. As a taste of things to come, he ends his introduction with the words: \"Up to the present time everything that I have investigated has been the result of deluded brains,\" though Houdini attests to his own open mind on the topic of the afterlife and recounts his personal attempts to communicate with the dead.

## **The Life and Many Deaths of Harry Houdini**

Gives an account of the life and experiences of magician Harry Houdini.

## **Harry Houdini**

Brief biography of the famous escape artist and magician.

## **The Right Way to Do Wrong**

See:

## **Escape!**

A biography of Harry Houdini, who became famous as America's most famous escape artist and magician.

## **The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin**

REVEALING THE PERSONAL SECRETS OF HARRY HOUDINI WAS HE A CLOSET PSYCHIC? CLAIRVOYANT? OR MEDIUM? HIS LIFE LONG FRIEND SIR AUTHOR CONAN DOYAL INSISTED HE HAD THE EVIDENCE THAT THE WORLD'S GREATEST ESCAPE ARTIST WAS NOT THE SKEPTIC HE MADE HIMSELF OUT TO BE THE CREATOR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES ASKED? -- WAS HOUDINI'S FANATICAL DEBUNKING OF PSYCHICS AND MEDIUMS A SUBTERFUGE TO CONCEAL HIS OWN REMARKABLE PARANORMAL ABILITIES? . . At his burial some curious and suggestive words were used by the presiding rabbi: -- \"HOUDINI POSSESSED A WONDROUS POWER THAT HE NEVER UNDERSTOOD AND WHICH HE NEVER REVEALED TO ANYONE IN LIFE! . . The creator of Sherlock Holes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and Harry Houdini were strange bedfellows. Doyle was a contemporary of the world's greatest magician and escape artist, who continually battled his friend over

the legitimacy of life after death, and the reality of spiritualism. Doyle was a "true believer," while Houdini made it his "mission" to denounce just about all things preternatural. . . -- Doyle was convinced - from what he personally witnessed and what others confided to him - that Houdini could read minds, dematerialize, possessed supernatural strength, and was guided by angelic forces which shielded him from harm even during the most dangerous of escape performances which likely would have caused death to others. . . Doyle stated that Houdini had once remarked, "There are some of my feats which my own wife does not know the secret of." And a famous Chinese conjurer who had seen Houdini perform added, "This is not a trick, it is a gift." Sadly, many of Houdini's feats died with him, even though they would have been an invaluable asset. "What can cover all these facts," states Doyle, "save that there was some element in his power which was peculiar to himself, that could only point to a psychic element -- in a word, that he was a medium." . . . -- Here is both sides of the story -- in the actual words of the famed Sherlock Holmes originator and Houdini himself, who went out of his way to create the impression that fakes and phonies were afoot everywhere in the "shady world" of table tapping, levitating trumpets, spirit photography, slate writing, as well as the materialization of ectoplasmic forms in the darkening shadows of the seance room.

## Harry Houdini

Traces the career of the celebrated magician and escape artist, revealing his achievements and interest in the occult

## Revealing the Amazing Powers of Harry Houdini Updated

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, the pretty wife of a distinguished Boston surgeon came to embody the raging national debate over Spiritualism, a movement devoted to communication with the dead. Reporters dubbed her the blonde Witch of Lime Street, but she was known to her followers simply as Margery. Her most vocal advocate was none other than Sherlock Holmes' creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who believed so thoroughly in Margery's powers that he urged her to enter a controversial contest, sponsored by Scientific American and offering a large cash prize to the first medium declared authentic by its impressive five-man investigative committee. Admired for both her exceptional charm and her dazzling effects, Margery was the best hope for the psychic practice to be empirically verified. Her supernatural gifts beguiled four of the judges. There was only one left to convince...the acclaimed escape artist, Harry Houdini. David Jafer's extraordinary debut culminates in the showdown between Houdini, a relentless unmasker of charlatans, and Margery, the nation's most credible spirit medium. The Witch of Lime Street, the first book to capture their electric public rivalry and the competition that brought them into each other's orbit, returns us to an oft-mythologized era to deepen our understanding of its history, all while igniting our imagination and engaging with the timeless question: Is there life after death?

## Harry Houdini

India's association with magic goes back thousands of years – from the seals of Mohenjodaro that depicted sorcerers and yogis, to the jugglers and acrobats that dazzled spectators at the courts of Hindu maharajas and Mughal emperors. Tales were told of ropes being thrown up in the air, strong enough for a boy to climb; of fakirs being buried alive for months and brought back to life; and of sanperas charming deadly cobras with their flutes. In the early nineteenth century, touring Indian magicians mesmerized audiences abroad, prompting generations of Western illusionists to emulate them. Jadoowallahs, Jugglers and Jinns: A Magical History of India tells the story of how Indian magic descended from the domain of the gods to become part of

daily ritual and popular entertainment, and its transformation from the street to the stage culminating with the rise of the great P. C. Sorcar Sr. Drawing on ancient religious texts, colonial records, newspaper reports, journals and memoirs of Western and Indian magicians, John Zubrzycki offers us a vibrant narrative on Indian magic from ancient times to the present day.

## **The Witch of Lime Street**

\ "In graphic novel format, explores the life of Harry Houdini and describes some of his most daring escapes\" --Provided by publisher.

## **Jadoowallahs, Jugglers and Jinns**

From the back rooms of New York City's age-old magic societies to cutting-edge psychology labs, three-card monte games on Canal Street to glossy Las Vegas casinos, Fooling Houdini recounts Alex Stone's quest to join the ranks of master magicians. As he navigates this quirky and occasionally hilarious subculture populated by brilliant eccentrics, Stone pulls back the curtain on a community shrouded in secrecy, fueled by obsession and brilliance, and organized around one overriding need: to prove one's worth by deceiving others. But his journey is more than a tale of tricks, gigs, and geeks. By investing some of the lesser-known corners of psychology, neuroscience, physics, history, and even crime, all through the lens of trickery and illusion, Fooling Houdini arrives at a host of startling revelations about how the mind works--and why, sometimes, it doesn't.

## **Houdini**

After twenty years of painstaking research, Houdini's last great riddle has finally been solved. This unique book investigates the baffling intimate performance Houdini created for his friend Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The exploit made the creator of Sherlock Holmes insist that Harry had employed occult or supernatural powers to accomplish it. As bestselling author Richard Wiseman points out in this innovative book's introduction, it also describes the very fabric of magic itself, including the complex relationships between each generation of performers, the way in which tricks evolve over time, and ultimately, the surprising truth about the fundamental nature of mystery.

## **Fooling Houdini**

Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best novels of all time Published in 1975, Ragtime changed our very concept of what a novel could be. An extraordinary tapestry, Ragtime captures the spirit of America in the era between the turn of the century and the First World War. The story opens in 1906 in New Rochelle, New York, at the home of an affluent American family. One lazy Sunday afternoon, the famous escape artist Harry Houdini swerves his car into a telephone pole outside their house. And almost magically, the line between fantasy and historical fact, between real and imaginary characters, disappears. Henry Ford, Emma Goldman, J. P. Morgan, Evelyn Nesbit, Sigmund Freud, and Emiliano Zapata slip in and out of the tale, crossing paths with Doctorow's imagined family and other fictional characters, including an immigrant peddler and a ragtime musician from Harlem whose insistence on a point of justice drives him to revolutionary violence.

## **Out of the Magic Cloak**

Chronicles the life and career of the legendary Harry Houdini

## **Houdini's Final Incredible Secret**

Joe Posnanski enters the colorful world of Harry Houdini and his legions of devoted fans to explore the illusionist's impact on global culture—and why his legacy endures to this day. Nearly a century after Harry Houdini died on Halloween in 1926, he feels as modern and alive as ever. The name Houdini still leaps to mind whenever we witness a daring escape. The baby who frees herself from her crib? Houdini. The dog who vanishes and reappears in the neighbor's garden? Houdini. Every generation produces new disciples of the magician, from household names in magic like David Copperfield and David Blaine to countless other followers whose lives have been transformed by the power of Houdini. In rural Pennsylvania, a thirteen-year-old girl finds the courage to leave a violent home after learning that Houdini ran away to join the circus; she eventually becomes the first female magician to saw a man in half on television. In Australia, an eight-year-old boy with a learning impediment feels worthless until he sees an old poster of Houdini advertising “Nothing on earth can hold Houdini prisoner,” and begins his path to becoming that nation's most popular magician. In California, an actor and Vietnam War veteran finds purpose in his life by uncovering the secrets of his hero. But the unique phenomenon of Houdini was always more than his death-defying stunts or his ability to escape handcuffs and straitjackets. It is also about the power of imagination and self-invention. His incredible transformation from Ehrich Weiss, humble Hungarian immigrant and rabbi's son, into the self-named Harry Houdini has won him a slice of immortality. No one has withstood the test of time quite like Houdini. Fueled by Posnanski's personal obsession with the magician—and magic itself—*The Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini* is a poignant odyssey of discovery, blending biography, memoir, and first-person reporting to trace Houdini's metamorphosis into an iconic figure who has inspired millions.

## **Ragtime**

This biography recounts the life of Harry Houdini from his boyhood through his years as an escape artist and master showman.

## **Houdini!**

Harry Houdini (born Erik Weisz, later Ehrich Weiss or Harry Weiss; March 24, 1874 - October 31, 1926) was an American illusionist and stunt performer, noted for his sensational escape acts. He first attracted notice in vaudeville in the US and then as “Harry Handcuff Houdini” on a tour of Europe, where he challenged police forces to keep him locked up. Soon he extended his repertoire to include chains, ropes slung from skyscrapers, straitjackets under water, and having to escape from and hold his breath inside a sealed milk can. In 1904, thousands watched as he tried to escape from special handcuffs commissioned by London's Daily Mirror, keeping them in suspense for an hour. Another stunt saw him buried alive and only just able to claw himself to the surface, emerging in a state of near-breakdown. While many suspected that these escapes were faked, Houdini presented himself as the scourge of fake spiritualists. As President of the Society of American Magicians, he was keen to uphold professional standards and expose fraudulent artists. He was also quick to sue anyone who imitated his escape stunts. Houdini made several movies, but quit acting when it failed to bring in money. He was also a keen aviator, and aimed to become the first man to fly a plane in Australia.

## **The Macquarie Book of Events**

An engaging biography about the famous magicians and escape artist Harry Houdini's personal life and public exploits. Born Ehrich Weiss, Houdini started performing at an early age and followed his ambitions as they led him around the world, performing amazing stunts and illusions that baffled the crowds. The book recounts many of his most famous tricks. Grades 5-9.

## **The Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini**

Each book in this middle-grade series is illustrated with photographs and illustrations while sidebars, a timeline, and entertaining cartoons further illuminate each subject's personality.

## Harry Houdini, Master of Magic

Joe Posnanski enters the colorful world of Harry Houdini and his legions of devoted fans to explore the illusionist's impact on global culture—and why his legacy endures to this day. Nearly a century after Harry Houdini died on Halloween in 1926, he feels as modern and alive as ever. The name Houdini still leaps to mind whenever we witness a daring escape. The baby who frees herself from her crib? Houdini. The dog who vanishes and reappears in the neighbor's garden? Houdini. Every generation produces new disciples of the magician, from household names in magic like David Copperfield and David Blaine to countless other followers whose lives have been transformed by the power of Houdini. In rural Pennsylvania, a thirteen-year-old girl finds the courage to leave a violent home after learning that Houdini ran away to join the circus; she eventually becomes the first female magician to saw a man in half on television. In Australia, an eight-year-old boy with a learning impediment feels worthless until he sees an old poster of Houdini advertising “Nothing on earth can hold Houdini prisoner,” and begins his path to becoming that nation's most popular magician. In California, an actor and Vietnam War veteran finds purpose in his life by uncovering the secrets of his hero. But the unique phenomenon of Houdini was always more than his death-defying stunts or his ability to escape handcuffs and straitjackets. It is also about the power of imagination and self-invention. His incredible transformation from Ehrich Weiss, humble Hungarian immigrant and rabbi's son, into the self-named Harry Houdini has won him a slice of immortality. No one has withstood the test of time quite like Houdini. Fueled by Posnanski's personal obsession with the magician—and magic itself—*The Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini* is a poignant odyssey of discovery, blending biography, memoir, and first-person reporting to trace Houdini's metamorphosis into an iconic figure who has inspired millions.

## A Magician Among the Spirits .by

Discover the man behind the magic and see how Houdini pulled off his most daring escapes Before Harry Houdini (1874-1926) became the greatest magician in the world, he was just little Ehrich Weisz, a Hungarian-born immigrant who moved to America with his family and performed stage tricks for a little extra cash. He started off with card tricks and then eventually began performing the escape acts that would make him famous. Known for his daring and death-defying illusions, he would do some of the greatest tricks ever: escaping from a milk can, being buried alive, and being locked inside a crate and thrown into a river. He conquered each of these seemingly impossible feats and showed the world the power of a little magic. Fun, fast-paced, and highly illustrated, *Harry Houdini* tells the story of the curious boy who became the world's greatest magician and reveals how Houdini did some of his most stunning escapes. It includes a timeline, glossary, and index.

## Spellbinder

Magician and escape artist, Harry Houdini was born as Ehrich Weisz in Budapest, Hungary on March 24, 1874. After his father took him to see Dr. Lynn, a traveling magician, Houdini's interest in performing soon consumed him. After happening upon a book entitled *The Memoirs of Robert-Houdin, Ambassador, Author, and Conjuror, Written by Himself.*, Houdini added an i to his name and assumed the name that would go down in history. Houdini was soon escaping from numerous devices, including leg irons, coffins, straitjackets, and prison cells. Unlike other magicians, Houdini began to make his escapes in full view of the audience, increasing the drama. Harry Houdini died from peritonitis on October 31 1926. File contains bibliographic and biographical notes, theatre programs, leaflets, correspondence and press cuttings.

## Harry Houdini

The name Harry Houdini is a household one and synonymous with magic and the art of disappearing. Yet, few know the real story of this entertainer and illusionist. This title will teach readers more about Erik Weisz and how he came to be known as the great Houdini. Complete with a timeline and wonderful historical

photographs.

## **The Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini**

A biography of Harry Houdini concentrating on his earlier years and the training that made him a master magician and escape artist.

### **Harry Houdini (the First Names Series)**

Description: This Book provides a quick glimpse about the life of Harry Houdini

## **Harry Houdini**

**HARRY HOUDINI:** A Harry Houdini Biography Even today, almost a hundred years after his death, Harry Houdini is known all the world over as a great magician and escapologist. However there was much more to the man. He was also a master publicist, an innovator and inventor. Born into a Jewish family in late 19th century Hungary Harry Houdini, or Ehrich Weisz to use his birth name, emigrated as a young child, with his family, to the United States of America. There they hoped to find a better life. However, like many immigrant families the Weisz family found only poverty and hardship. However through hard work and determination Harry Houdini was able to carve out a better place for himself and his family. With the help of his dear wife Bess Houdini became arguably the worlds most famous magician.

## **Houdini's paper magic**

One of the most intriguing and recognized figures of the twentieth century conducts a masterclass in subversion Originally published in 1906, *The Right Way to Do Wrong* was a masterclass in subversion conducted by the world's greatest illusionist. It collected Houdini's findings, from interviews with criminals and police officers, on the most surefire ways to commit crime and get away with it. This volume presents the best of those writings alongside little-known articles by Houdini on his own brand of deception: magic. Revealing the secrets of his signature tricks, including handcuff and rope escapes, and debunking the methods of his rivals, he proves himself to be just as clever and nimble a writer as he was a magician—and surprisingly free with trade secrets! All of which makes this unique selection of works both the ultimate anti-etiquette guide and proof that things are not always as they seem. In an exclusive introduction to this volume, Teller—magician, comedian, and silent sidekick of Penn Jillette—speaks up about the greatest magician of modern times.

## **Harry Houdini: Illusionist & Stunt Performer**

Do you love magic? Do you want to perform your own magical act? Harry Houdini is one of the most well-known illusionists and stunt performers of all time. He would perform dangerous acts in front of audiences who would pay to see his bravery and amazing magical skills. Houdini was particularly good at escape acts. He would trap himself in very risky and difficult conditions like being locked up, restrained, contained, hung upside down, put into tanks of water and even thrown overboard from a ship - situations that would seem impossible to escape from. And Harry would always manage to free himself and leave his audiences shocked and in awe. But who was Harry Houdini, the man who was so confident in his abilities he was willing to bet his life on it? In *"Who was Harry Houdini?"* you will find out about the man behind the curtain. You will discover about his early life, his family and his wife. You will also of course learn about his show stopping escape acts that had enchanted the world. Have a copy of this book and discover the life of the great Harry Houdini!

# Harry Houdini

[Must Read Personalities] A life Story of Harry Houdini

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