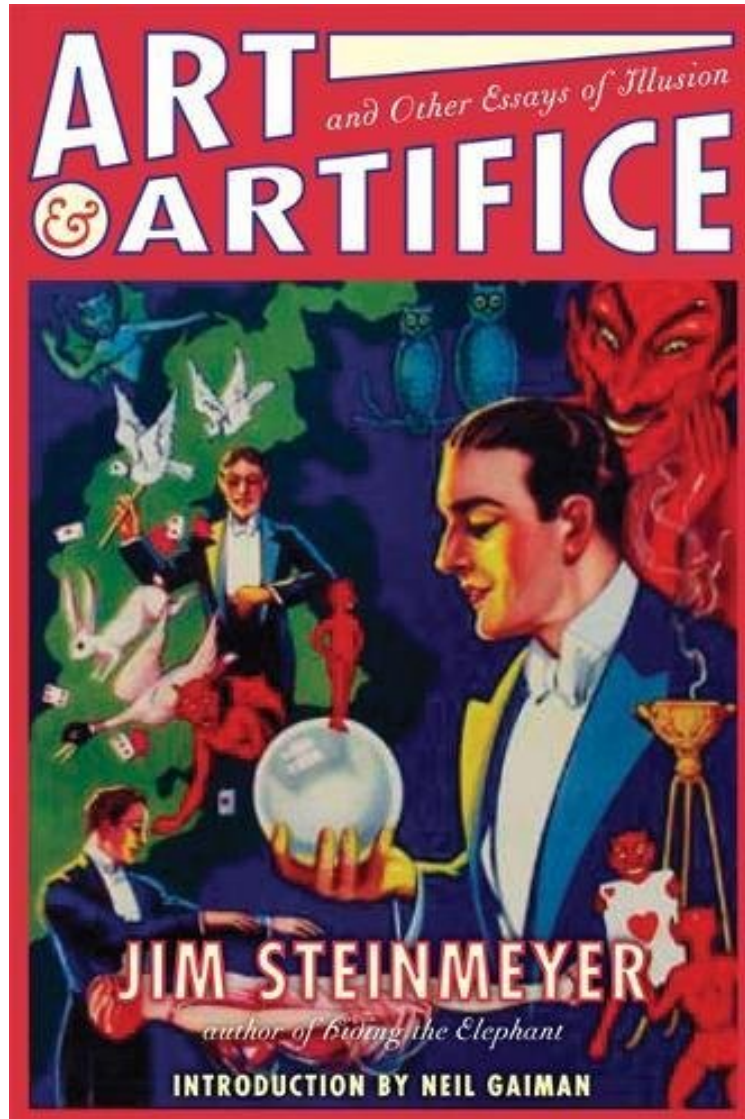


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Art and Artifice: And Other Essays of Illusion

Jim Steinmeyer

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Jim Steinmeyer : Art and Artifice: And Other Essays of Illusion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Art and Artifice: And Other Essays of Illusion:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. FascinatingBy DirectorI don't recall how I found out about Jim Steinmeyer -- it was an off-hand mention on the web somewhere crediting him with inventing David Copperfield's vanish of the Statue of Liberty. So I did a bit of reading on him, and picked up a few of his books. This was the first one I read of his. There's 5 essays in the book. The first one was a little slow going, but I am happy I stuck with it

because the last two essays are just great. Steinmeyer has a keen interest in the history of magic. He illustrates magic's relation to theatre and how it was initially woven into theatrical tableaux. I'm in the midst of reading "Hiding the Elephant" so I'm not sure if it was in this book or that one where he quoted someone as "I am not so much a magician as I am an actor who is playing a magician." That's just great. The last two essays concern Steinmeyer's quest to decipher the secret to a trick whose secret was never written down, and his attempt to recreate it. Really entertaining. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Steinmeyer always informs and delights with his magical themed writings. By Ken Johanson This book takes you behind the scenes and into the mindset of the magician's creative engineering in developing entertaining and deceptive illusions. If you enjoy magic and want an insider look at the creative process who better to inform you than former Disney Imagineer and illusion inventor to the stars of magic Jim Steinmeyer. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must for those who care about magic history. By Martin Jim Steinmeyer is an amazing man . . . a creative inventor of illusions, a careful historical researcher of magic and the theatre, and an engaging writer. But then, if you've been into magic for any length of time, you probably already know that. Bottom line: If it has Jim Steinmeyer's name on it, get it!

From the author of *Hiding the Elephant* and *The Glorious Deception* comes a collection of five essays that shows how the great stage illusions were integrally products of their time, based on the traditions and fashions of the people, and the offspring of the incredible, inventive personalities who brought them to the stage. Like no other author, Jim Steinmeyer gives us insight into the timeless appeal of magic. His human subjects include such characters as Steele MacKaye, Maskelyne, David Devant, P.T. Selbit, Horace Goldin, and Charles Morritt. Illusions he discusses include: *The Mascot Moth*, *Sawing a Lady in Halves*, and *Morritt's Disappearing Donkey*.

About the Author Jim Steinmeyer has invented many of the famous illusions used by leading magicians from Ricky Jay to Siegfried Roy. He created David Copperfield's vanish of the Statue of Liberty and has also designed magic for six Broadway shows and many other productions, including *Mary Poppins*, currently playing in London's West End. He is the author of *Hiding the Elephant*, the Los Angeles Times bestseller, which Teller hailed as a radiant celebration of the genius, glamour, and gargantuan egos of stage magic. Steinmeyer has researched and rediscovered many great illusions of the past and has written numerous technical books on magic history and the techniques of magic. He lectures on these subjects and is a contributing editor to *Magic* magazine, the leading independent magazine for magicians. In addition, Steinmeyer has served as consultant and producer for magic television specials in the United States and Great Britain, and was a writer and producer for the AE network's four-hour history of the art, *The Story of Magic*. For several years, he served as a consultant and concept designer for Walt Disney Imagineering, developing theme park attractions for The Walt Disney Company. Jim Steinmeyer lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Frankie Glass, an independent television producer.