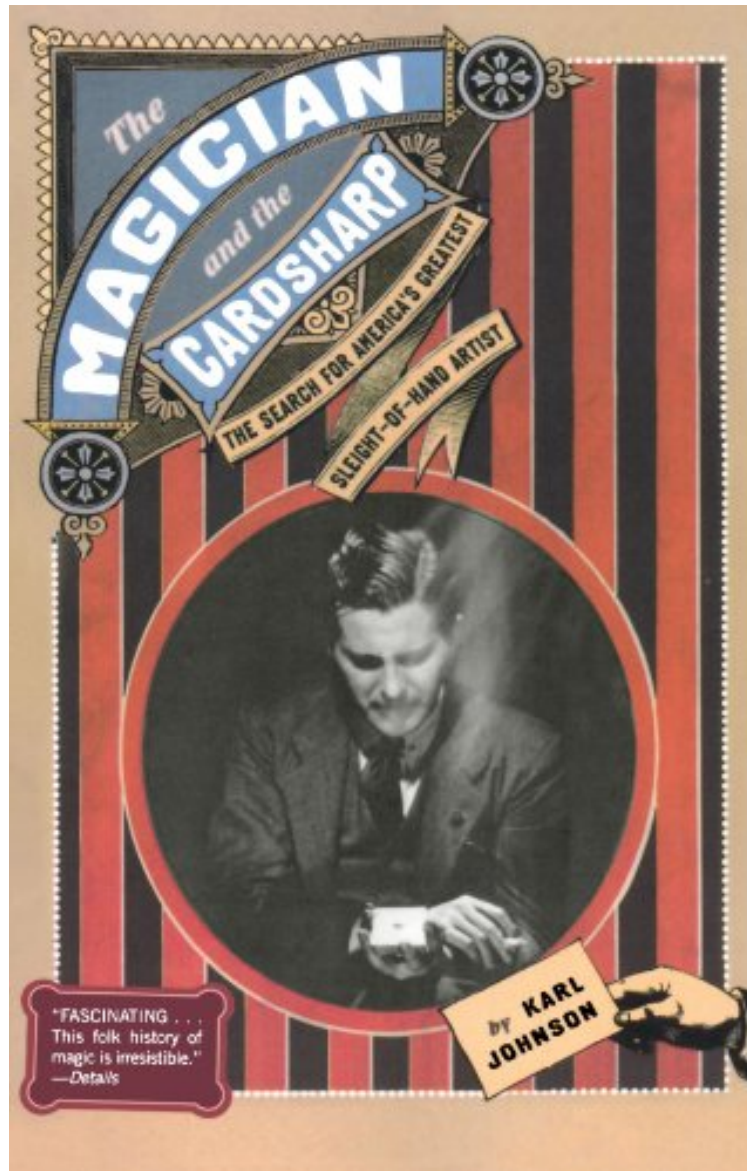


(Free pdf) The Magician and the Cardsharp: The Search for America's Greatest Sleight-of-Hand Artist

The Magician and the Cardsharp: The Search for America's Greatest Sleight-of-Hand Artist

Karl Johnson

ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#331033 in Books Holt Paperbacks 2006-07-25 2006-07-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 228.60 x 20.60 x 6.00l, .85 #File Name: 0805080597368 pages | File size: 78.Mb

Karl Johnson : The Magician and the Cardsharp: The Search for America's Greatest Sleight-of-Hand Artist before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Magician and the Cardsharp: The Search for America's Greatest Sleight-of-Hand Artist:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read and good companion for SWE "Expert at the Card

Table"By GWGreat read about a truly gifted card legerdemain artist. I would also recommend this as a good companion for "Expert at the Card Table", i.e. Erdnase's book. It helped me to better understand and study the SWE book. If you are into card manipulation and/or magic I would recommend this as a must read. The copy that I received was in great condition although not new. Cover looks just like the picture on . It had it's original outer cover and as indicated on , apparently came from a library. Looks great in our library. This also has an interesting and educational early 1900's history of card sharps and card slights, plus the argot. Interestingly, Dai Vernon picked up a lot of his card slights from back hall gamblers and card charlatans.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. marvelousBy DiarciI knew Dai Vernon slightly during his Magic Castle years (didn't know him well, I think he tolerated me because Jay Ose liked me and I was a friend of the Larsen's) and this book captures the essence of the man as I was able to observe him. "The Professor," as Jay always referred to him, was quiet, soft-spoken, a true gentleman. An aristocrat, really in that he accepted reverence as his due but never demanded it. I didn't understand then just how much he was revered by other magicians, but I can remember night after night seeing Jay, Charlie Miller, Channing Pollack, Al Goshman, and many others hover around his table much as Pavarotti and Domingo might have hovered near Caruso.Great story, too. If I have any complaint it's that twice the book diverges without explanation for about 20 pages to talk about Pleasant Hill, Missouri. Not to worry. All Is Revealed later.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is just a great story that is well written.By Mike PierceI purchased this book to learn a little more about Dai Vernon and I ended up being drawn into a world of the 20's and 30's. It was great fun and a very interesting ride. It seems like most people would only read this if they were interested in magic or card handling and it's history but this book is really about a wonderful story and is extremely well told. (Has Karl Johnson written anything else? If he does sign me up. I wish I could write half as well as he has).The story is about Dai Vernon, a giant in the world of magic, especially with a deck of cards, who goes looking for the famous center deal. Along the way you meet a lot of very interesting people and places at a time when the colors of the world were bright, clear and strong. The author is able to take you into the time and brings it to life. If you are interested in that time period this is a great read.Anyone who is interested in magic, cards, the 20's and 30's, great characters or even just a great story needs to read this book.

"Johnson details exciting anecdotes of scams, hoaxes, and instances of conjuring . . . His stories unfold like magic." David Blaine, Entertainment WeeklyIn the 1920s, during an era when Americans were crazy for magic, Dai Vernon earned a reputation as a genius of the magical arts. When hard times descended after the crash of '29, the lights of New York faded, audiences dwindled, and Vernon headed west. Little did he realize that his life was about to change.In Wichita, Kansas, while swapping secrets with a Mexican gambler, Vernon was told a story he didn't quite believe, the tale of a legendary cardsharp who could pull off the impossible dealing perfectly from the center of the deck. Vernon set out to find the reclusive cardsharp, discovering a fascinating and dangerous kingdom of games and tricksters along the way. Did he finally get his man or did the greatest cardsharp who ever lived just vanish into thin air? A story with the nostalgic quality of an old-fashioned fable, *The Magician and the Cardsharp* is a unique and endlessly entertaining piece of history.

From Publishers WeeklyThis engrossing detective story traces the quest of Dai Vernon, n David Verner (1894-1992), to find the man who perfected the art of dealing from the center of the deck. An accomplished card cheat, sleight-of-hand magician and silhouette portraitist, Vernon was so expert at duplicitous card techniques that he once fooled Houdini with tricks he'd learned as a child from S.W. Erdnase's classic *The Expert at the Card Table*. Proficient at dealing from the top and bottom of the deck, he was astounded to learn that someone in the Midwest had the ability to win by dealing from the center. Johnson, a former editor at New York's Daily News, details Vernon's long search for Allen Kennedy (1865-1961), a cardsharp who plied his trade with loaded dice and deceitful deck handling. By recounting the shadowy careers of these two men, the author successfully evokes the picturesque world of illegal gambling during the 1920s, '30s and '40s. Johnson vividly conveys how obsessed Vernon was with magic and card tricks, and how much time, energy and practice gamblers put into learning how to cheat at cards. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistHow does a kid from Ottawa, Ontario, get to Pleasant Hill, Missouri? With a deck of playing cards and an obsession with magic, of course. Johnson's fantastical tale concerns card cheating in general and, in particular, the search by Canadian Dai Vernon (1894-1992) for a legendary card player who dealt perfectly from the center of the deck. Johnson conveys the mores of the gambling world, in which Vernon considered himself primarily an entertainer. Vernon gravitated to New York and knocked about its carnivals, but following the stock market crash in 1929, he ended up in Wichita, Kansas, where he made a living cutting silhouettes but lived for mastering sleight of hand. There in 1932 he heard the center deal had been mastered by somebody in Missouri. One county down the railroad line from Kansas City, Pleasant Hill reflected its name--if you liked vice. Johnson's well-crafted unveiling of the town's character and the identity of the cardsharp inveigles as it entertains, rewarding readers hunting for an unusual topic. Gilbert TaylorCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Fascinating . . . This folk history of magic is irresistible. DetailsA master storyteller . . . dip[s] us headlong into the vibrantly portrayed worlds . . . part biography, part portrait of an age, and part guest

narrative. The Washington Post Book World