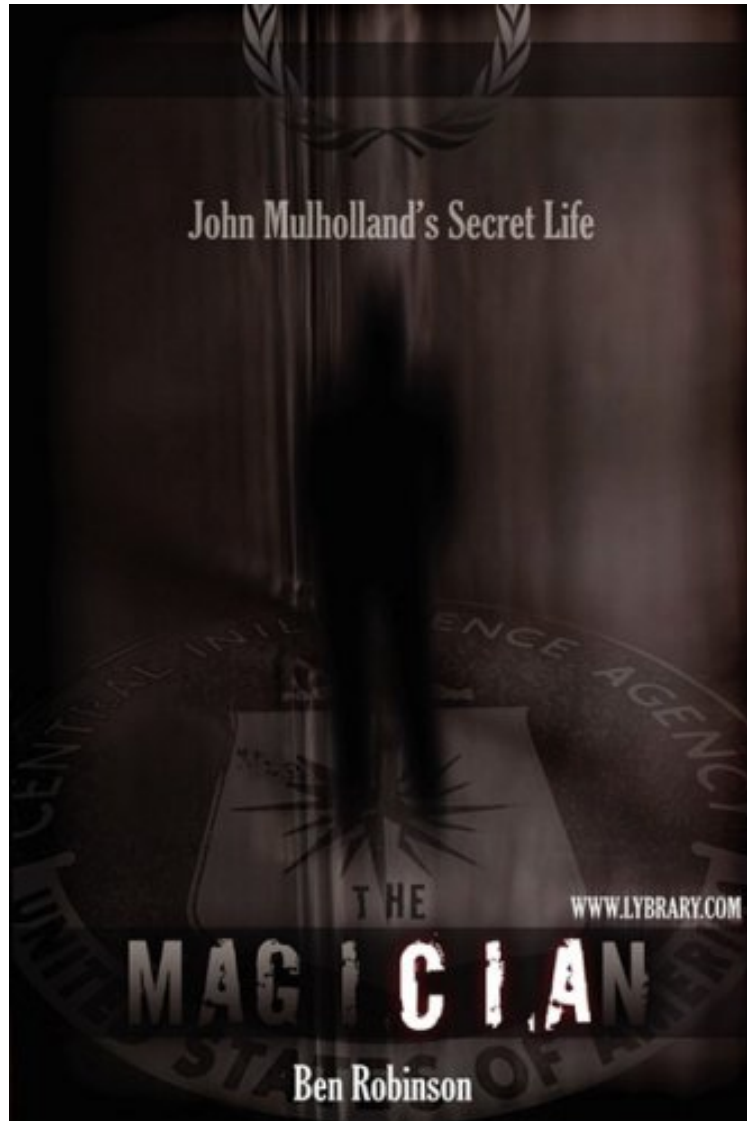


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The Magician: John Mulholland's Secret Life

Ben Robinson

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Ben Robinson : The Magician: John Mulholland's Secret Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Magician: John Mulholland's Secret Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. No Secret Here - This Book Is Fascinating!By Shep HykenBen Robinson does an excellent job of capturing one of the more interesting people from the world of entertainment. Imagine the government enlisting the services of a magician; a guy using sleight of hand and the art of illusion to help take down the enemies of our country. This is the stuff that top grossing movies are made of! Thank you Ben, for an amazing book.-- Shep Hyken, New York Times and Wall Street Journal bestselling author of "The Amazement

Revolution: Seven Customer Service Strategies to Create Amazing Customer (and Employee) Experiences"0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An important slice of historyBy N. HaimsBen Robinson has written a meticulously researched biography of one of the more important, yet little understood magicians of the last century. But beyond just unearthing his history and place within the world of magic, the book opens up Mullholland's shadowy work with the CIA in detail and after detail and incident after incident. It's an important book and an important story, well-told.1 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Truth: Less than ExpectedBy Joseph A. MillerA great book ... I think not. Compared to *The Code Breakers*, or *The Manhattan Project*, it is intellectually pale. For magicians, it has nothing new other than the biography itself.Mulholland was the son of a con man, and an opportunist. He was in the right place at the right time to 'ego-stroke' the big magicians of the day, and parlayed himself (along with a mediocre act), into a self-promoted limelight. Also, he was a collector of magic books, and magic history.Mulholland then himself was 'ego-stroked' into writing self-working,sleight-of-hand tricks for ham-handed, CIA thugs ... most likely leading to injuries, and the deaths of many unwitting bystanders.What can be learned from the book? Save your pennies, buy a few great hand-sized tricks (bird cage, etc.), keep it simple, pack small ... put your entire set of tricks in a suitcase ... play big.Stay away from the dark side.My rating for the book is 3 stars. It's OK, but it is not what was expected.

THE MAGICIAN: John Mulhollands Secret Life is drawn from never-before-seen documents and many unpublished photographs. It will appeal to readers of theatre, magic and war history. It comes with a foreword by the legendary Dr. John N. Booth, who writes: "Ben Robinson has thoughtfully and beautifully synthesized the pile of personal notes and documents which is the legacy passed from John Mulholland to Milbourne Christopher, to Maurine Christopher and finally to author Robinson. No better foundation exists for learning what made John Mulholland into magics most influential voice in the 20th century. This book tells that story." John Mulholland (1898-1970) edited the magicians magazine "The Sphinx" for 23 years, ending the publication to be consultant to the newly born CIA in 1953. His assignments included working with billionaires and inventors, cracking codes and delving into the clandestine world of ESP research, LSD use and the secret MK-ULTRA world headed by the notorious Dr. Sidney Gottlieb. During this period, CIA Dr. Frank Olson died the day after Thanksgiving, 1953. This book examines Mulhollands role during this dramatic period in the CIAs history and goes against the current trend of accusing Mulholland as having a role in Olsons fatal fall from a hotel window. John Mulholland was The Worlds Master Magician. He performed in forty-two countries, authored ten books and performed at the Roosevelt White house eight times. His 90-minute stage show was carried in two suitcases and included impersonations of authentic Hindu and Chinese mysteries. Theatre critics spoke about him as they did a great actor. John Mulholland was an intellectual patriot who provided an essential component of counter espionage during the Cold Wars Red Scare. THE MAGICIAN: John Mulhollands Secret Life is the first biography of the man Dr. John N. Booth defines in his Foreword as the most influential voice of the art of magic in the 20th century.