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## Mulholland's Book of Magic

*John Mulholland*

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**John Mulholland : Mulholland's Book of Magic** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mulholland's Book of Magic:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A must-read from magic's best writer By Eric B. Henning John Mulholland, who ghost-wrote for Houdini, edited "The Sphinx" magazine for years, and even trained early post-WWII U.S. spies in the art of deception, brings his analytical eye and knack for phrasing to the subject of performing magic.

Here you will find some of Mulholland's signature routines, which established him as one of the first to adopt a professorial "lecturer" character. Mulholland takes us on a journey around a magical world in which handkerchiefs change color by thought alone, Buddha migrates, and the Devil sends letters to magicians containing articles from the pockets of the audience! This is material that will enchant the most sophisticated, urbane and jaded audiences. The trick descriptions are fully detailed, the mechanics ingenious; but the real jewels are the scripts. Today's magic writers would do well to study the thoroughness with which Mulholland teaches this material. He really wants you to perform these pieces and perform them well. Perhaps the best testament I can give is twofold. First, Mulholland was a big influence on Henry Hay, author of "The Amateur Magician's Handbook" (another must-read). Second, one of the routines in this book went into my show when I was twelve, and is still there, some three decades later. That's how good this book is.

Mulholland provides illustrated instructions for mastering scores of magical feats: card tricks relying on an easy memory device, extemporaneous tricks such as making a coin vanish and then reappear in a bread roll, tricks for entertaining youngsters, magical thought transference, and other exploits of mystifying wizardry.