

# Houdini Among The Spirits

A Complete Exposé  
 The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin  
 The Making of America's First Superhero  
 The Man from Beyond: A Novel  
 From the Salem Witch Trials to Harry Houdini  
 The Witch of Lime Street  
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*Houdini Among The Spirits*

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## HOWARD MAXIMO

*A Complete Exposé* Chicago Review Press

First Published in 1988. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

*The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin* Crown

"Ranks up there with the great rock & roll books of all time."—Time Out New York "Lurid, insolent, disorderly, funny, sometimes gross, sometimes mean and occasionally touching . . . Resounds with authenticity."—The New York Times "No volume serves juicier dish on punk's New York birth . . . Tales of sex, drugs and music that will make you wish you'd been there."—Rolling Stone A contemporary classic, *Please Kill Me* is the definitive oral history of the most nihilistic of all pop movements. Iggy Pop, Richard Hell, the Ramones, and scores of other punk figures lend their voices to this decisive account of that explosive era. This 20th anniversary edition features new photos and an afterword by the authors. "Utterly and shamelessly sensational."—Newsday

*The Making of America's First Superhero* Simon and Schuster

Magicians debunking charlatans and revealing secrets of the trade: it's not something that Penn and Teller or James "The Amazing" Randi invented. The legendary Harry Houdini was doing the same thing a century ago, to popular acclaim. In this 1920 book, the master showman—and surprisingly entertaining writer—uncovers the mysteries behind such extraordinary feats as fire-eating, sword-swallowing, snake-charmers, and strong men. More a simple expose of stage trickery, though, this is a brisk history of such oddities throughout history and around the world, from the Middle Ages to the 20th century, from the culture of the Native Americans to that of Japan. This is a fascinating work of the strange and seemingly inexplicable made plain and understandable. Hungarian-American magician and professional skeptic EHRICH WEISS (1874-1926)—aka Harry Houdini, "Handcuff King and Jail Breaker"—also wrote *Magical Rope Ties and Escapes* (1920) and *A Magician Among the Spirits* (1924).

*The Man from Beyond: A Novel* Penguin

In 1924 the wife of a 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 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*. Her supernatural gifts beguiled four of the judges. There was only one left to convince . . . the acclaimed escape artist, Harry Houdini. Jaher captures their electric public rivalry and the competition that brought them into each other's orbit.

*From the Salem Witch Trials to Harry Houdini* Cambridge University Press

Using exclusive access to newly uncovered archives, Kalush and Sloman reveal the clandestine agreements in which the British and Americans recruited Houdini to be an active secret agent. In exchange for his cooperation, the governments of these two countries facilitated his rise to the top of the world stage. The authors give thrilling accounts of his assignments, such as his participation in early aerial surveillance and his use of his own magic magazine to communicate espionage-related information. After the war, Houdini embarked upon what became his most dangerous mission when he took on the Spiritualist movement. Convinced that Spiritualist mediums were frauds, he became obsessed with exposing them. But the Spiritualists were a powerful adversary. An organized network of fanatics, led by Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle, worked relentlessly to orchestrate a campaign that would silence Houdini forever. Grounded in solid research, but as exciting and dramatic as a good thriller, *THE SECRET LIFE OF HOUDINI* traces the magician's long and circuitous route from struggling vaudevillian to worldwide legend.

*The Witch of Lime Street* Arthur Moses

On Halloween 1926, the Curtain Closed for the Final Time of the One of the Greatest Magicians in

History... Or Did it? Harry Houdini was a man obsessed with death... In his spectacular shows, he committed feats of daring that cheated death time and time again. He desperately searched for a way to contact his dead mother and some believe that Houdini actually reached out from beyond the grave to make contact from the other side - cheating death once again! In this long-awaited book from Houdini and Spiritualism buff Troy Taylor, he examines the life, death and mysterious afterlife of the famed illusionist and escape artist. Not merely a biography of Houdini, this is a revealing look at Houdini's fascination with the spirit world, starting with his own days as a fraudulent medium with a traveling circus and continuing on to his exposures of fake Spiritualists, his psychical investigations, his "death pact" with fellow magicians and the legendary Houdini Sances, which are still being held today. This is a unique book in the long list of Houdini books that have been written and a worthy addition to the library of anyone with an interest in Houdini, magic or the spirit world!

*The Haunting of America* Whitechapel Productions

A fascinating story of spirits and conjurors, skeptics and converts in the second half of nineteenth century America viewed through the lives of Kate and Maggie Fox, the sisters whose purported communication with the dead gave rise to the Spiritualism movement – and whose recanting forty years later is still shrouded in mystery. In March of 1848, Kate and Maggie Fox – sisters aged 11 and 14 – anxiously reported to a neighbor that they had been hearing strange, unidentified sounds in their house. From a sequence of knocks and rattles translated by the young girls as a "voice from beyond," the Modern Spiritualism movement was born. Talking to the Dead follows the fascinating story of the two girls who were catapulted into an odd limelight after communicating with spirits that March night. Within a few years, tens of thousands of Americans were flocking to seances. An international movement followed. Yet thirty years after those first knocks, the sisters shocked the country by denying they had ever contacted spirits. Shortly after, the sisters once again changed their story and reaffirmed their belief in the spirit world. Weisberg traces not only the lives of the Fox sisters and their family (including their mysterious Svengali-like sister Leah) but also the social, religious, economic and political climates that provided the breeding ground for the movement. While this is a thorough, compelling overview of a potent time in US history, it is also an incredible ghost story. An entertaining read – a story of spirits and conjurors, skeptics and converts – Talking to the Dead is full of emotion and surprise. Yet it will also provoke questions that were being asked in the 19th century, and are still being asked today – how do we know what we know, and how secure are we in our knowledge?

*A Magician Among the Spirits, Etc. [With Portraits.].* W. W. Norton & Company

. . . Polidoro has written—and written well—a saga of two Titans that is also a remarkable exploration of both superstition and obsession, at the lush twilight of the Edwardian era.—Baltimore Sun This is the story of an unusual friendship between two of the most intriguing characters of the early 20th century—renowned escape artist Harry Houdini and celebrated mystery writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (creator of Sherlock Holmes). Both men were fascinated by the occult practice of spiritualism, Houdini as an ardent skeptic who often publicly exposed fraudulent mediums and Conan Doyle as a true believer who became convinced that the dead could and did communicate with the living. Despite their differing perspectives the two men not only respected each other but became friends. The correspondence between them on the subject provides a fascinating glimpse not only into the personalities of two talented and interesting celebrities but also into a psychic phenomenon that is the ancestor of today's channeling craze. Based on original correspondence, photographs, and his own extensive research, Massimo Polidoro reconstructs this unusual friendship between a believer and a skeptic, which weathered mediums, seances, an apparition of Houdini's departed mother, automatic writing by Conan Doyle's wife, public debunkings, and hurt feelings. He also discusses the final rift that ended the friendship of the two strong-willed men. Fans of Conan Doyle, Houdini, magic, and the historical roots of the New Age will be delighted by this amazing story. Massimo

Polidoro is executive director of the Italian Committee for the Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, editor of *Scienza & Paranormale* (Science and the Paranormal), and author of twelve books on the paranormal.

*The Single Finger Print Identification System* Prometheus Books

Wanting to find out if there existed a spirit world after his mother died, Houdini set out to befriend every spiritualistic medium he could find. Most of them claimed that communication with the spirit world was not only possible but that they could reunite Houdini with his departed mother. One by one they disappointed Houdini but instead of acting disappointed he used these friendships and relationships to delve deeper into the spiritualistic movement. Infiltrating the highest echelons of the spiritualistic movement, Houdini discovered the secrets of these mediums; the tricks they used in seances and how they were deceiving people. The movement was so powerful that seances were said to be taking place in the White House on a regular basis. Understanding the real world power that these mediums were deceptively and fraudulently gaining Houdini decided to step up against them and expose the frauds. This is Harry Houdini's book based on those experiences, *A Magician Among the Spirits*. In it Houdini discusses the founders of modern spiritualism and the unintentional inception of the movement by the Davenport brothers. The top spiritualists and mediums of the day are discussed in detail as well as their involvement with the movement such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Revealed are some methods that mediums use in their seances such as obtaining personal information, spirit slate writing and spirit photography. Houdini argues that what these people are doing should be investigated and discusses why magicians are the first line of defense to detect and expose these frauds. A seminal work by Harry Houdini, the greatest magician of all time. A must-read. CONTENTS (CHAPTERS ONLY): \* Introduction\* Preface\* Chapter I. The Founders of Modern Spiritualism\* Chapter II. the Davenport Brothers\* Chapter III. Daniel Dunglas Home\* Chapter IV. Palladino\* Chapter V. Ann O'Delia Diss Debar\* Chapter VI. Dr. Slade and His Spirit Slates\* Chapter VII. Slate Writing and Other Methods\* Chapter VIII. Spirit Photography\* Chapter IX. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle\* Chapter X. Why Ectoplasm?\* Chapter XI. By-Products of Spiritualism\* Chapter XII. Investigations - Wise or Otherwise\* Chapter XIII. How Mediums Obtain Information\* Chapter XIV. What You Must Believe to Be a Spiritualist\* Chapter XV. Magicians or Detectors of Fraud\* Chapter XVI. Conclusion\* Appendix\* Photos 325 Pages Complete With Photographs..

**Our American Adventure** Zondervan

Noakes' revelatory analysis of Victorian scientists' fascination with psychic phenomena connects science, the occult and religion in intriguing new ways.

*On the Unexplained* Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

This is an account of the wanderings of a spiritualist, geographical and speculative. Should the reader have no interest in psychic things-if indeed any human being can be so foolish as not to be interested in his own nature and fate, -then this is the place to put the book down. It were better also to end the matter now if you have no patience with a go-as-you-please style of narrative, which finds itself upon the conviction that thought may be as interesting as action, and which is bound by its very nature to be intensely personal. I write a record of what absorbs my mind which may be very different from that which appeals to yours. But if you are content to come with me upon these terms then let us start with my apologies in advance for the pages which may bore you, and with my hopes that some may compensate you by pleasure or by profit. I write these lines with a pad upon my knee, heaving upon the long roll of the Indian Ocean, running large and grey under a grey streaked sky, with the rain-swept hills of Ceylon, just one shade greyer, lining the Eastern skyline. So under many difficulties it will be carried on, which may explain if it does not excuse any slurring of a style, which is at its best but plain English. There was one memorable night when I walked forth with my head throbbing and my whole frame quivering from the villa of Mr. Southey at Merthyr. Behind me the brazen glare of Dowlais iron-works lit up the sky, and in front twinkled the many lights of the Welsh town. For two hours my wife and I had sat within listening to the whispering voices of the dead, voices which are so full of earnest life, and of desperate endeavours to pierce the barrier of our dull senses. They had quivered and wavered around us, giving us pet names, sweet sacred things, the intimate talk of the olden time. Graceful lights, signs of spirit power had hovered over us in the darkness. It was a different and a wonderful world

*Final Séance* Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

From the author of "Ten Days a Madwoman" comes a gripping biography of famed illusionist Houdini who, after the death of his mother, embarked on a quest to investigate spiritual phenomena and the possibility of communication with those on the other side. Illustrations.

**Talking to the Dead** Pickle Partners Publishing

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

*A Magician Among the Spirits* .by Cambridge University Press

In 1924 the wife of a 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 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. Her supernatural gifts beguiled four of the judges. There was only one left to convince ... the acclaimed escape artist, Harry Houdini. Jaher captures their electric public rivalry and the competition that brought them into each other's orbit.

*Miracle Mongers and Their Methods* Routledge

A brand new selection of Arthur Conan Doyle's writings on all things supernatural, taken from Edge

Best Sellers - Books :

- [Tomorrow, And Tomorrow, And Tomorrow: A Novel](#)
- [The Psychology Of Money: Timeless Lessons On Wealth, Greed, And Happiness By Morgan Housel](#)
- [Rich Dad Poor Dad: What The Rich Teach Their Kids About Money That The Poor And Middle Class Do Not!](#)
- [To Kill A Mockingbird By Harper Lee](#)
- [My First Learn-to-write Workbook: Practice For Kids With Pen Control, Line Tracing, Letters, And More!](#)
- [8 Rules Of Love: How To Find It, Keep It, And Let It Go](#)
- [Little Blue Truck's Springtime: An Easter And Springtime Book For Kids](#)

of the Unknown An account of séances, automatic writing, trips to haunted country houses, and in-depth philosophical analysis of the thinking behind the supernatural, this book is a must-have for the Conan Doyle enthusiast or the intrigued reader alike. Best known for the creation of Sherlock Holmes, Conan Doyle had many more strings to his bow. He was a political campaigner; he believed in the existence of fairies; and he played amateur sleuth, taking up closed cases to prove miscarriage of justice. Perhaps most intriguing of all though was the fact that, following the deaths of a number of his family, Conan Doyle began to take an interest in what was then termed "spiritualism" (trying to prove the existence of life beyond the grave), he became a member of the paranormal association The Ghost Sense Club, and he also joined the British Society of Psychical Research. Conan Doyle's famous spat with Houdini is represented here with a chapter eulogizing Houdini, apparently still not quite willing to let go the suspicion that the magician was blessed with special powers.

*Kate and Maggie Fox and the Rise of Spiritualism* Forge Books

The 1920s: a time of unprecedented belief in "spiritualism", or the practice of ostensibly communicating with the spirits of the dead. Into this milieu stepped Rose Mackenberg, a private detective trained by the great magician and escape artist, Harry Houdini. Her mission: to investigate and expose "ghost racketeers" who used magic tricks and psychological manipulation to con bereaved people out of their hard-earned cash. "Houdini's Girl Detective" is an illustrated anthology of Rose Mackenberg's original 1929 newspaper article series, detailing her sometimes hair-raising adventures exposing the chicanery of the ghost racket.

**Howard Thurston Versus Houdini & the Battles of the American Wizards** Grove/Atlantic, Inc.

From my early career as a mystical entertainer I have been interested in Spiritualism as belonging to the category of mysticism, and as a side line to my own phase of mystery shows I have associated myself with mediums, joining the rank and file and held seances as an independent medium to fathom the truth of it all. At the time I appreciated the fact that I surprised my clients, but while aware of the fact that I was deceiving them I did not see or understand the seriousness of trifling with such sacred sentimentality and the baneful result which inevitably followed. To me it was a lark. I was a mystifier and as such my ambition was being gratified and my love for a mild sensation satisfied. After delving deep I realized the seriousness of it all. As I advanced to riper years of experience I was brought to a realization of the seriousness of trifling with the hallowed reverence which the average human being bestows on the departed, and when I personally became afflicted with similar grief I was chagrined that I should ever have been guilty of such frivolity and for the first time realized that it bordered on crime. As a consequence my own mental attitude became considerably more plastic. I too would have parted gladly with a large share of my earthly possessions for the solace of one word from my loved departed-just one word that I was sure had been genuinely bestowed by them-and so I was brought to a full consciousness of the sacredness of the thought, and became deeply interested to discover if there was a possible reality to the return, by Spirit, of one who had passed over the border and ever since have devoted to this effort my heart and soul and what brain power I possess.

**The Coming of the Fairies** Broadway Books

In the tradition of their *Haunting of the Presidents*, national bestselling authors Joel Martin and William J. Birnes write *The Haunting of America: From The Salem Witch Trials to Harry Houdini*, the only book to tell the story of how paranormal events influenced and sometimes even drove political events. In a narrative retelling of American history that begins with the Salem Witch Trials of the seventeenth century, Martin and Birnes unearth the roots of America's fascination with the ghosts, goblins, and demons that possess our imaginations and nightmares. The authors examine the political history of the United States through the lens of the paranormal and investigate the spiritual events that inspired public policy: channelers and mediums who have advised presidents, UFOs that frightened the nation's military into launching nuclear bomber squadrons toward the Soviet Union, out-of-body experiencers deployed to gather sensitive intelligence on other countries, and even spirits summoned to communicate with living politicians. *The Haunting of America* is a thrilling exploration of the often unexpected influences of the paranormal on science, medicine, law, government, the military, psychology, theology, death and dying, spirituality, and pop culture. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

*A Magician Among the Spirits* Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

Harry Houdini (1874-1926), whose real name was Erik Weisz, was one of the most famous magicians and escapologists of all time. He was highly sceptical of the many claims made concerning psychic and paranormal phenomena, which were very popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He attended hundreds of séances for the purposes of his study, and never experienced one he believed genuine. In this book, published in 1924, he described the mediums and psychics whom he revealed as fraudulent, exposing the tricks which had convinced many notable scientists and academics. These included spirit writing, table rapping, spirit manifestations, and levitation. Among those he revealed as frauds was the famous medium Mina Crandon, and his exposures led to a public split with his former friend Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a firm believer. The book is a fascinating account of superstition and gullibility.

**Houdini** A Magician Among the Spirits 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.

- [A Court Of Mist And Fury \(a Court Of Thorns And Roses, 2\)](#)
- [Lessons In Chemistry: A Novel By Bonnie Garmus](#)
- [The Housemaid's Secret: A Totally Gripping Psychological Thriller With A Shocking Twist By Freida Mcfadden](#)